Hebrews 11:13-16

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Hebrews 11:13-16.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

13 All these died

in faith,

without receiving the promises,

but having seen them

and having welcomed them from a distance,

and having confessed

that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

14  For those who say such things make it clear

that they are seeking a country of their own.

15  And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out,

they would have had opportunity to return.

16  But as it is, they desire a better *country*,

that is, a heavenly one.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God;

for He has prepared a city for them.

1. How does verse 13 relate back to the rest of chapter 11?
2. How many of the previously mentioned men and women died in faith?
3. How did they die in faith?
4. What promises were not received?
5. In Hebrews 6:15 it says Abraham received what was promised? Here in 11:13 it says he didn’t. How do we fit these two verses together?
6. What is the “them” in v. 13 referring to?
7. How did they treat the promises that were far off?
8. What does the text mean when it calls these men and women strangers and exiles? In what way were they exiles? How do you know this?

* Day 2

Read Hebrews 11:13-16 again.

1. Read 1 Peter 2:11 and Philippians 3:20-21. How do these passages inform our view of Christians being exiles?
2. In light of questions 8-9, How should Christians live if we are indeed exiles and aliens?
3. How did they welcome the promises from a distance?
4. Review Hebrews 11:1. How does Hebrews 11:13 relate to this verse?
5. What is “such things” referring to in verse 14?
6. Who is the “they” of verse 14?
7. What is the country of their own?
8. What is the better country of verse 16? How is it better?

* Day 3

Read Hebrews 11:13-16 again.

1. How does the text make clear that their desires were ultimately for a heavenly country in verse 15?
2. How does the therefore of verse 16 relate to the rest of this passage?
3. Why is God not ashamed?
4. What does a heavenly city have to do with God not being ashamed?

21. Summarize this passage in one sentence.

In preparation for Sunday, pray …

1. Praise God for always keeping his promises.
2. Confess areas in your life where you doubt/distrust his promises.
3. Ask God for help as you seek to live as a faith-filled exile in a land that is not your home.