

INTRODUCTION - (v39) “But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

“Faith” - a mind-set that changes from unbelief to belief based on evidence presented.

A conviction based on hearing: (Romans 10:14) and (v17) “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

The Word of God has provided the evidence for faith: (John 20:30-31)

(Mark 16:15-16) “ ... he who believes and is baptized will be saved ... “

In our text, the writer lists at least 6 things that support a faith that saves.

1. (v32) “ ... you endured a great struggle with sufferings”

“Endured” - to abide; to bear up courageously; lasting through.

“A great struggle” - it wasn't easy; a determined effort to reach the goal; labor and toil.

“With sufferings” - (Luke 14:27) “And whoever does not bear his cross ... “

2. (v34) “ ... knowing that you have a better and enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and 5:1) - have a spiritual focus on your life of faith.

3. (v35) “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward”

“Do not cast away” - throw it away; trash it; to discard as being useless.

“Your confidence” - (2 Timothy 1:12)

“Which has great reward” - our eternal home in heaven.

4. (v36) “For you have need of patience, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

“Patience” - to abide in the midst of trials; longsuffering; to wait.

“After you have done the will of God” - see the end of the journey; an eternal view.

“Receive the promise” - (John 14:1-3)

5. (v38) “Now the just shall live by faith” - examples listed in chapter 11.

6. (v39) “But we are not of those who draw back to perdition ... “ - don't do that!

“Those who draw back” - (2 Peter 2:22) “vomit” and “the mire”

“To perdition” - to perish; destruction; ruin; not saved.

CLOSE - we want a “finishing faith” like apostle Paul: (2 Timothy 4:6-8)