



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



A Testimony that Pleased God

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Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11 is a great chapter. We know it is about faith. We know that faith is something we must have if we are going to please God. We know that as I read to you here—and we will talk about that a little bit more here in a minute—without faith it is impossible for us to please God. We know that.

In this story that I want to talk about tonight, this one particular fellow. I probably have talked about him before. I do not remember talking about him before but the Bible tells us some things about him. We do not know a lot about this guy by the name of Enoch.

I want you to turn your Bibles—if you would please—back to the book of Genesis, chapter 5, and read along with me as we look at some things there. We will be looking between here, Hebrews 11 and Genesis 5. In Genesis 5, we are introduced to this guy. This guy by the name of Enoch. When we look at him, when we look at the time—I guess the thing that I thought about today as much as anything, this thought, this message, this fellow has been on my mind for the last several days. The thing I thought about a lot was that Enoch lived in a very wicked time. He lived prior to the flood; right before God sends the flood upon this earth is the time that Enoch is living. He is living. The Bible tells us here, when you read down in chapter 5, down in verse 18 of chapter 5; it will tell us here that Jared was Enoch's dad.

Genesis 5:21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

Think about that. He is living. He lived 65 years here. The Bible tells us that he is 65 years old here when Methuselah is born. We know who Methuselah was. We know he is going to live to be 969 years old. We know that he is going to live to be a long time.

However, the thought here tonight is this. It is about Enoch. He is a fellow living here in a very wicked place. There is no doubt in my mind when I read about Enoch. Before Methuselah was born; he was a very wicked fellow. He was a sinner. We know that he was. We know that he lived in a very wicked place and in a very wicked time. When we read about the days of Noah and the murder that went on during the time—the wholesale burner when life meant anything, when immorality was going wild, and violence was something that was very prevalent in the land. This guy Enoch lived in that society. I want you to understand that he lived in a society like our society is today; I believe. The Bible tells us that as it was in the days of Noah so shall it also be in the

days of the coming of the son of man. It talks about them eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the Ark and the floods came and took them all away. We understand it was a very wicked time in the days of Noah.

There is no doubt, that when we look around today we can understand that when we look at everything that is going on from the violent, just every few seconds...somewhere, somebody is being killed. Just every few seconds there is a violent crime that is being committed. Someone is being robbed. Someone is being abused. Someone is being violated. When we look at all the violence that is going on in our world today—we know it is a very violent place and not only that but this was the kind of world that Enoch was living in. He was living in a world like you and I are living in. He was living where sin was on every hand, every side, and everything that could go wrong was going wrong. We know that God was about to act. It was not going to be long that God was going to deal with the sinfulness of mankind. That is not the thought tonight but this is.

There was something that came along here that absolutely changed Enoch from a man here that had no reverence for God, a man that had no fear for God, a man that was living just like everybody else was living. Do you know what the Bible is going to tell us here when we read on down through here in verse 22...

Genesis 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

Get that. The Bible tells us something here that something happened. I do not know what it was. I do not know when Methuselah was born. When he looked down at this child, and he understood; "I have not been living right. I am not going to raise this child right. I do not want this child being raised like I have been raised. I don't want him to live like I have been living." I do not know what happened. I do not know what it was that got his attention, but after his son was born, there was something that got his attention. The Bible is going to tell us here for the next 300 years, this guy walked with God. Do you know what that is? That is a tremendous testimony. If there is somebody walking for 300 years, walking with the God of heaven—when you think about that, it is a tremendous testimony in itself.

Do you know what I thought about today? What was it about this man called Enoch. What was it that he did? What kind of a life did he have? What was it that recommended him unto God? Do you know what it was? It is the same thing that you and I must have today if our lives are going to be pleasing to God. Enoch had faith in the God of heaven. Something happened when he saw his son. Do you know what he had? He had a conversion. His mind changed. The way he thought changed. The way he was living; it was changed. He became someone; he changed from someone that did not know God, that did not worship God, to somebody that was walking with God. He walked with Him for the next 300 years. That is a long time. Don't you think?

Three hundred years he is going to walk with God. What do you think when you look at walking with God? We think sometimes that walking with God is whatever we want it to be. We think sometimes that walking with God is whatever we make it out to be. We think sometimes that walking with God is just whatever we decide it to be. However, it is not that way at all.

This guy had a testimony that he pleased God. Do you know what? There was something here different about him. The Bible is going to tell us some things here about him in a minute. He was walking with God. After his son was born, something happened. He was converted. His way of thinking was changed. He begins to worship God and he does this for the next 300 years. He walks with Almighty God.

When you look at the word *walk*, it means to be making forward progress.

Enoch was a guy here that God was leading him. Do you know what he was doing? He was following Almighty God. He was making some progress. He was moving forward. He was getting closer to Almighty God. When you read that and look at that word—not only does it mean forward progress, but also, it means to persevere. It means to continue to persevere. It means to go forward even when times are rough, when the clouds may be hovering; it means to continually hold onto God.

Enoch was a fellow here that in the good times and in the bad times; he walked with God. Because of that he had a testimony that he pleased and his life was pleasing to Almighty God.

The question is this tonight. Are we walking with God? Are we just walking to suit ourselves? Are we walking with God?

He was in a very wicked world, a very wicked place. People were living very loose lives. However, he was a fellow who was making progress. He was a fellow here that was going forward. He was a fellow that was making steady progress.

In the last 15 or 20 years, do you know what we have seen, in the church world? We have seen a lot of people—do you know what they have done? There may have been a time in their lives that they were making steady progress with God. They were going forward. They were getting stronger in their relationship with God. Their testimony was stronger. They had a great witness in the community. Do you know what we have seen in the last 15 or 20 years? We have seen people going the other direction. We have seen people who used to have great testimonies for God—it does not mean much to them anymore—about coming to church, worshiping God, and following God. I want you to understand something. If you are going to go to heaven, you are going to have to live a life of faith. It is not what you did 50 years ago. It is what you are doing today. I know people do not want to hear that. I know that we think we have signed the card and we have been baptized and pay a few dollars to church and everything is going to be alright.

Listen. Sin is not going to heaven. If you are living a sinful life then you are not going to go.

Do you know what Enoch was? He was a man that was walking with God. He was making some progress in his spiritual life with God. He was persevering. He was not going backwards. He had not backslid. He did not walk for a while and quit. He was not hot. He was not cold. He had a steadfast pace. He was following Almighty God.

As yourself a question. Examine your hearts. We should do that. That is something we should do. Are we following God? Are we walking with Almighty God? Are we walking with Him?

Enoch had something happen. When he saw his son born. When he saw him born, when he saw this baby, I do not know what it was but something touched his heart. Do you know what he began to do? He began to walk with Almighty God. He to walk with Him. Something changed his mind. Something happened here that changed how that he was living. Something changed his mind. He knew some things needed changed in his life. Do you know what?

The church today needs an awakening. We need something to happen in our lives. We need something. We need something to let us understand, to awaken us to the fact that God is doing some great things. If we are going to go to heaven, we need to be like Enoch in that we need to be making progress, in our relationship with Him.

This young boy was born. It touched him. It changed his life. Do you know what children are? They are a blessing. I know in our world today, to some people they are a great hinderance.

Listen. If you have children, if you have grandchildren; they are a tremendous blessing. God has given them unto us that we might teach them about Him. Do you know what I want to know? I want to know more about Him so I can teach them more about Him. We should want to be like that. Children are not what this world says they are. Children are a tremendous blessing. Could you imagine our world without children? Could you imagine how dull life would be without our children. Could you imagine that? I know I send them home sometimes. I got you. I know they are there for an hour or two and I am glad when they are gone. I got you. I understand all of that. However, it is great to have them around. It is great to have your children and grandchildren around.

It changed this fellow when his son was born. It changed him. He began to walk with God, the Bible says. He walked with God for the next 300 years. The Bible says here that he begot sons and daughters. He had more children. For the next 300 years, he is going to have more children, in verse 23.

Then in verse 24...

[Genesis 5:24](#) And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

Read that in verse 24, or chapter 5. When you go back over to the book of Hebrews in chapter 11; it says it just a little bit different. It says the same thing. It talks about him here.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Get that. Here this fellow here is walking with God. He is living a life of dedication. He is living a life of consecration for 300 years here. He has lived a life that he has been following God. He has devoted his life to God. Get this. His life to God, his relationship to God was not a hobby. It was business. The only business that Enoch really had in life was following and worshiping Almighty God. The main purpose in his life was to walk with Almighty God. He was devoted. He was dedicated. He was completely sold out to walk with the God of heaven. The Bible says this in Hebrews in chapter 11; it tells us...

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

When you look at that, when you look at the word translated; do you know what it means? It means he was transferred from this life on to heaven. He did not have to die.

I thought today, as I was thinking about that; I do not know how it all happened. I do not know what all took place on the day that Enoch left here. I do not know. I did think about this today. No doubt, in my mind as I was thinking—Enoch may have been walking up to a river, a wide river that there was no way to get across. Do you know what I thought about God and His goodness? There is this thing called death. Get this. Death separates us from heaven and earth. There was something that separates us from this life to the next life and that thing is called death.

Do you know what this guy, Enoch; he was going to be translated. He was going to be carried across this thing called death. Are you not glad today, that we are going to be carried over one day? I do not know when it is going to be but thank God we are going to be carried over this thing called death one day.

He was translated or transferred. Death separates the worlds. Death separates this world from the next world. Death does.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch was translated. He was carried across. He was transferred. He was carried over that he did not see death. The reason was—get this—the reason was that he had a testimony that he pleased God. What was it about this guy? What was it about this guy that was so important to God? What was it about this guy that he was so loved of

Almighty God that God purposed and God one day says one day, “Enoch, come home and be with me. Forget this death thing. There is going to be a flood here shortly. Disaster is coming. There is going to be a storm. Everything on earth is going to die, Enoch. Just come home with me. You are going to be able to by-pass all of that. I am going to transfer you from this life to where I am at. You are not going to have to face all the issues that are going to come.” There is a wonderful story there for you and me. There is a wonderful lesson there for you and me.

Do you know what God is going to do one day for the church? One day, I do not know when it is—there is going to be people that are going to be alive on planet earth when Jesus comes. When Jesus comes and appears in the clouds, there are going to be people alive on planet earth. They are going to be transferred and carried over and translated just like Enoch was. If that happens today, that is going to be me and you. It may happen a year from now or five years from now. We may be in the grave. Here is the thing. That does not mean we are not going. The thing called death is still yet not going to touch you and me.

Here is something I want you to get. There was something here about Enoch, something about Enoch that made him different than all these other people that were around him. When you read the book of Jude do you know what you will find out? You will find out something about this guy. Before I get there, I want to say this.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Does everybody get that. Now it is going to tell us something here about him and what gave him and made his testimony so great was this...

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Does everybody get that? He says...

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Do you know what that means? Enoch believed in the existence of Almighty God. “Is” means that he believed that He existed. He was the creator. He was the one who created the heavens and the earth. He understood and he knew that there was a God in heaven that existed. He was in control of things. He believed that. In our world today, a lot of people do not believe that. Even in our churches today, a lot of people do not believe that God really exists.

Listen. God really exists today. He is God. He is real. He is alive. Do you know what? Listen. If we are going to go to heaven, we are going to have to believe that He exists. It also says...

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Not only do we believe that but we know that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Do you know what we know today? Do you know what I have learned over the years today? My relationship with God depends a lot—my relationship with God, God speaking to me, God using me, God dealing with me, God blessing me has a lot to do with me. If you think we can never read, study, pray, seek His face, and do all that stuff; if we think we do not have to do that and yet God is going to bless us and God is going to reward us—it does not happen that way. Amen! If you are going to be blessed of God and God is going to use you and God is going to do some great things through you and in you and for you then you are going to have to have faith in Him. He exists. You know He is here. You are going to have to know that you are going to have to diligently seek Him. Not half-hearted. Not just on Sunday morning. Not just every other week. Not just when I feel like it. Not just when I want to. Seeking God is something we need to do every day.

Let me ask you a question. How many calories are we supposed to take in every day in a normal diet? I know most of us, at least me—I do about three or four times as many. How many calories is a normal day of calorie intake? You hear all kinds of numbers. 1,200 to 2,000 or whatever. It is according to what you are doing. If you are a body builder, swimmer, athlete you take in more than that. Everyday, normal people it is 1,500 to 2,000 calories a day. Do you know what they will tell you? They will tell you not to eat all of that in one meal. If you eat it all in breakfast then before breakfast comes again, you are going to get hungry. They will tell you to eat at least three times a day and take in that many calories every day. If you will do that then you will function and you will have strength to be able to work and labor and go and do.

Here is what happens. If we do not eat physically then we get weak. We do not have the ability, the strength to be able to go and work. Older people forget to eat. Older people forget to drink. You might say I have never been there. You are not old enough. You will be. You will get there. One of the biggest issues with old folk today is because they do not want to eat and drink and they dehydrate. They get sick. They get weak. It affects how they think and their minds and so many things about us. Eating physically is an absolute necessity if our bodies are going to function right.

The same principal holds true in our spiritual life. We cannot have any spiritual strength if we do not ever eat anything. Eating is this. Reading the Bible. Eating from this Word is just like eating biscuits and gravy.

Gary was talking before church about squirrel gravy and biscuits. That really does not sound appetizing to me but a lot of people loves it. My dad used to eat it all the time. Mom used to make it. Grandma used to make it. They loved it. It did not hurt them. They lived to be old aged. So, I know it did not hurt them any.

Here is the thing. Eating spiritually is something we must do. If you are going to have the strength in your Christian life to diligently follow God, to have a testimony that you please God; you are going to have to read His Word. You are going to have to feed from His Word. If you do not do that then you cannot have a testimony that you please God. You are not going to be looking for Him. You are not going to be following Him. You are going to be running hot and cold. Amen! ...when you do not feed from God's Word then nothing ever satisfies you. Everything is always wrong. Everybody is always wrong. Nothing is ever going right. So many times, in life it is just because we are not eating from God's Word. We are not taking any spiritual strength whatsoever and we get sick spiritually.

It is just like when we get sick when we do not eat physically. It affects how we think. When we do not drink and do not have water intake and food intake; it will affect your mind. It does not take long to do it. Amen!

The same thing is true in our spiritual lives. If we do not take in and eat and drink from God's Word then we cannot think right. We do not think right. Our motives change. Everything changes in life when we do not eat as we should.

Enoch was a guy that believed in God's existence. He was a guy that diligently sought-after God. He did not run hot and cold. He did not run for a while and quit. He followed the Lord for 300 years. Amen! When you read the book of Jude, you will find out one other thing about him. I am going to talk about just for a moment. You will find out here that he was a guy that believed—first of all, he was a preacher. Because the Bible tells us here in the book of Jude, in verse 14; I believe.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Jude 1:15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Do you know what that means? He preached. Do you know what he preached? He preached this.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Do you know what Enoch preached thousands and thousands of years ago? Enoch preached that the Lord is coming. He preached the Lord is coming and He is coming with 10,000 of His saints. Amen! He preached that. Do you know who he is preaching to?

Get this. He was preaching to his family. He was preaching to his aunts, uncles, cousins because they were not that far removed at that time. He was preaching to his

family. Do you know what I would say? I would say they got tired of listening to him. Do you know what Enoch did not do? He did not quit. Not only did he preach that He was coming but look what else he told them here.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Jude 1:15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Do you know what he is saying? He is coming and He is coming to execute judgment.

Get this. Jesus Christ is coming. Amen! And He is going to execute judgement upon this ungodly world.

Enoch was preaching to his family, to his uncles, aunts, cousins, to those that were around him. The Lord is coming. He is coming to judge. He is going to judge people and their sin. Do you know what? We know that a few short years after Enoch left, judgement came. The flood came and they died.

No doubt, probably a lot of the people, some of the people that Enoch preached to—I should say some of their extended family would have been around when the flood came. They would have been around. Do you know what they probably could have remembered? Maybe, about this old fellow that grandpa told us about this old guy that talked about the Lord coming and judgment. Do you know what?

There are still yet preachers that preach today that Jesus Christ is coming. They are still yet around. There are still yet preachers today that preaches that there is a hell. There is a hell that is burning with fire. There is still yet preachers that preach that. Although there are not too many of them anymore. Not near as many as we used to have. Do you know why? Because it is not politically correct anymore. People do not want to be upset. Do not scare me. Do not talk about hell. Do not tell me there is a hell.

Listen. If you live right you do not have to worry about hell. Amen! That is just straight up. You do not have to worry about that. You do not have to worry about going there.

He preached and prophesied and told people that the Lord was coming and was going to execute judgment. He had a testimony. His testimony. Not only before the Lord, but before all the people that he was around. He had a testimony that he pleased God. His life pleased God. God said one day, "Cool, you are going with me." I do not know how it worked. We can read about Elijah going in a chariot of fire, a whirlwind and so forth. I do not know how Enoch left. I do not know. But I know that God translated him. God transferred him. God carried him across this thing called death.

I do know tonight that if our lives please God there is going to come a day that God is going to transfer us from this life across this thing called death that we can be where

Enoch is at. I know that. However, there is a stipulation. Not everybody is going to go to heaven.

As I told you a few weeks ago, a few months ago; one of the major Christian TV stations made the statement that he believed that everybody was going to go to heaven. I really appreciate what David Jeremiah said. He looked at him and pointed his finger at him and said, "You are wrong!" On Television. You are wrong! Not everybody is going to heaven and that is true.

Do you know the ones that are going to heaven? Those that have a testimony that pleases God. Those that have had conversion in life. Those that have had a change in life like Enoch had. Those that had a born-again experience like Nicodemus had. Amen! Those are the ones that are going to go. Those who have a personal one on one relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is not complicated. It is not hard. It is the simplest thing you could ever do in life is ask the Lord to forgive you and cleanse you. Do you know what He will do? He will forgive you and cleanse you. You do not have to work for it. It will not cost you a dime. You cannot buy it. It is a free gift. All you have to do is say, "Lord, I want it." I want to live in a way that one day when I am facing this thing called death that you can transfer me over and I do not have to face it. Do you know what He will do? He will give you eternal life tonight.

Come and pray—