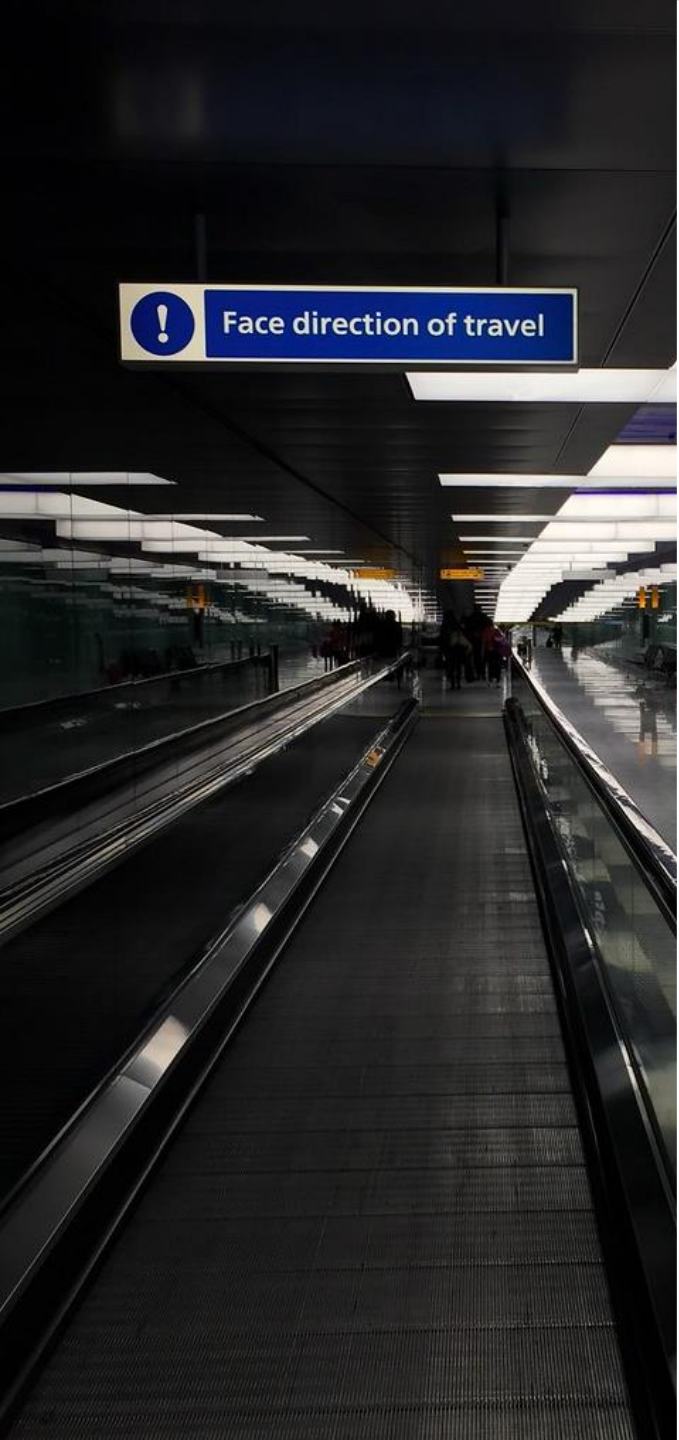




Face direction of travel

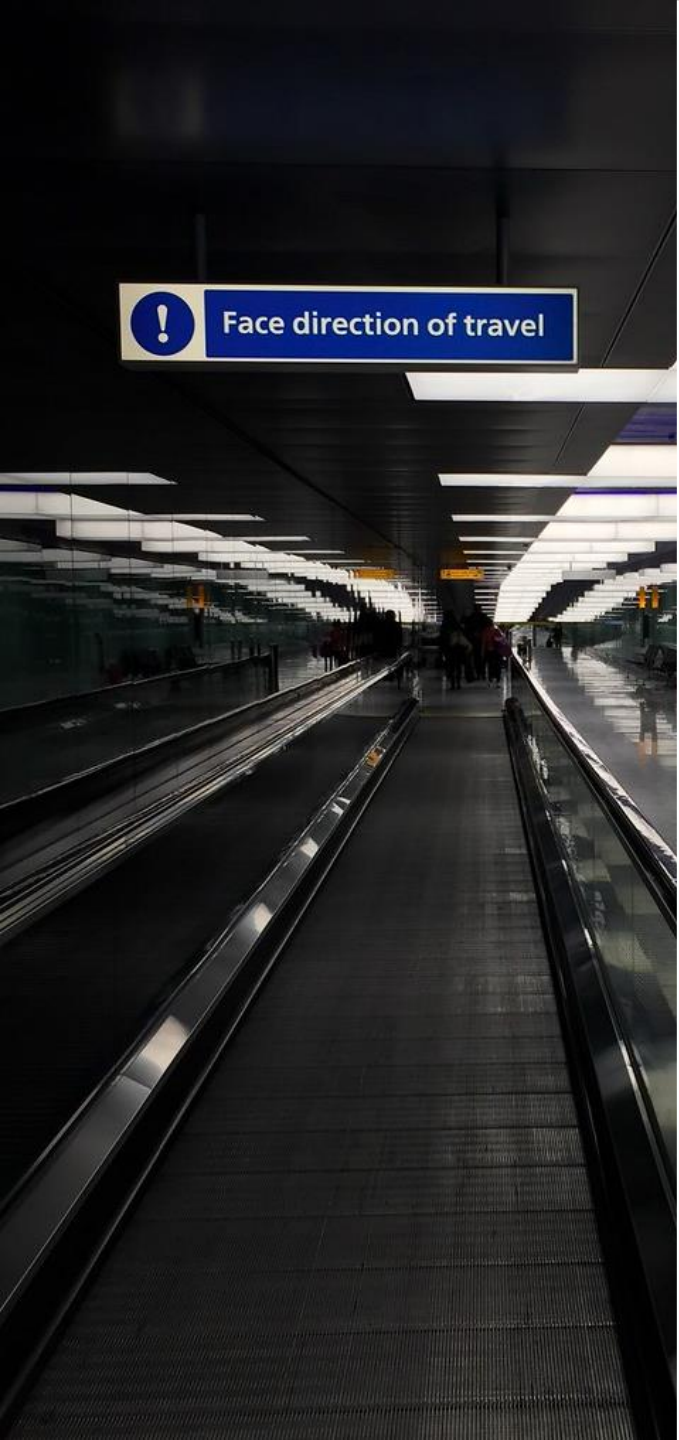
 Face direction of travel





The Faithful Face Forward

- There is a list of faithful men and women in Hebrews 11 whose examples illustrate the need to look forward, in the direction of God's will. The heart of the chapter is in vv. 13-16.



The Faithful Face Forward

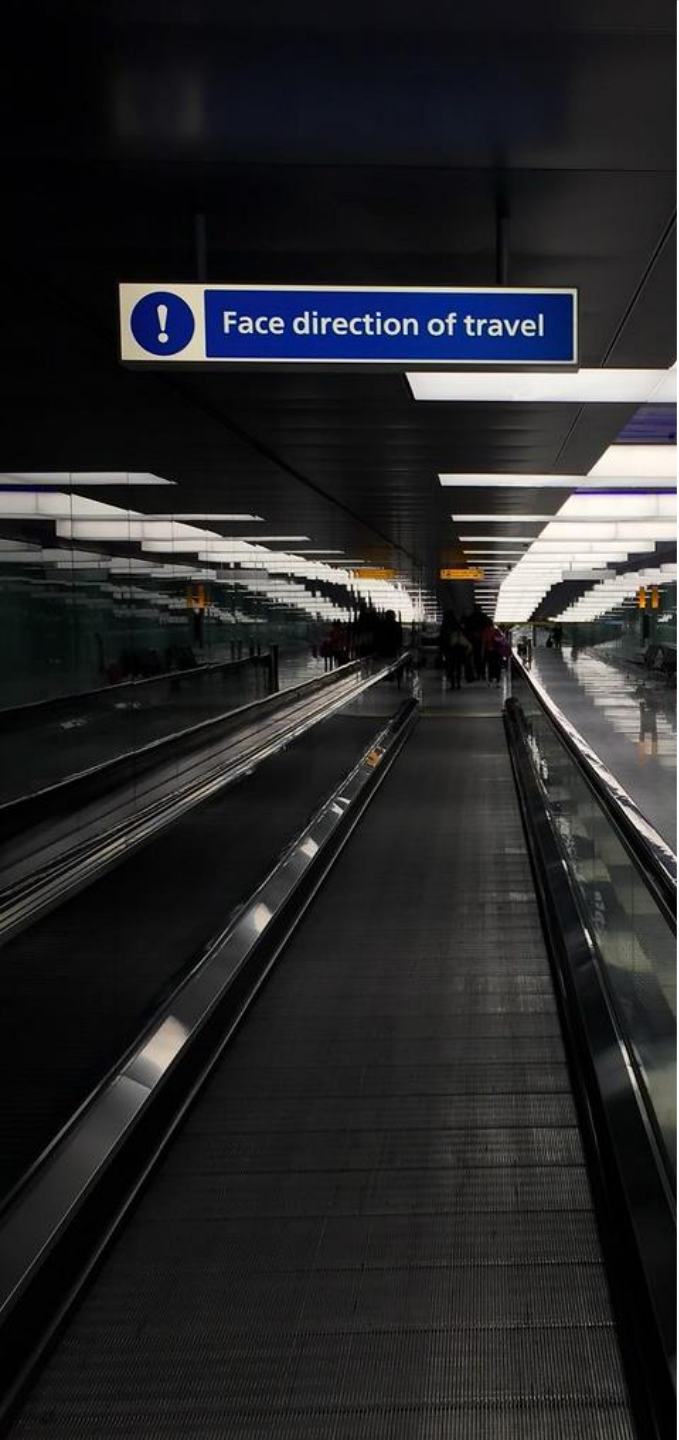
- There is a list of faithful men and women in Hebrews 11 whose examples illustrate the need to look forward, in the direction of God's will. The heart of the chapter is in vv. 13-16.
- We have an unfortunate tendency to venerate people, places, and events from the past (Ecclesiastes 7:10). So let's be careful not to do that very thing by elevating the men and women from Hebrews 11. They are not all-stars of faith. They are not superheroes. Rather, they have faults and failures, just like us – which is exactly why their examples are so valuable! Abraham and Moses would not want us venerating them...



Face direction of travel

Our “heroes” point us toward the real Hero

John 8:56, 5:46, Luke 9:30-35



Pressing On Toward The Goal

- Philippians 3:8-14
- Much can be said of Paul's old life – confident in the flesh, rising star, zealous for God, etc. He very easily could have fixated on the past and what he had lost by becoming a Christian (the very problem addressed in the Hebrew letter).



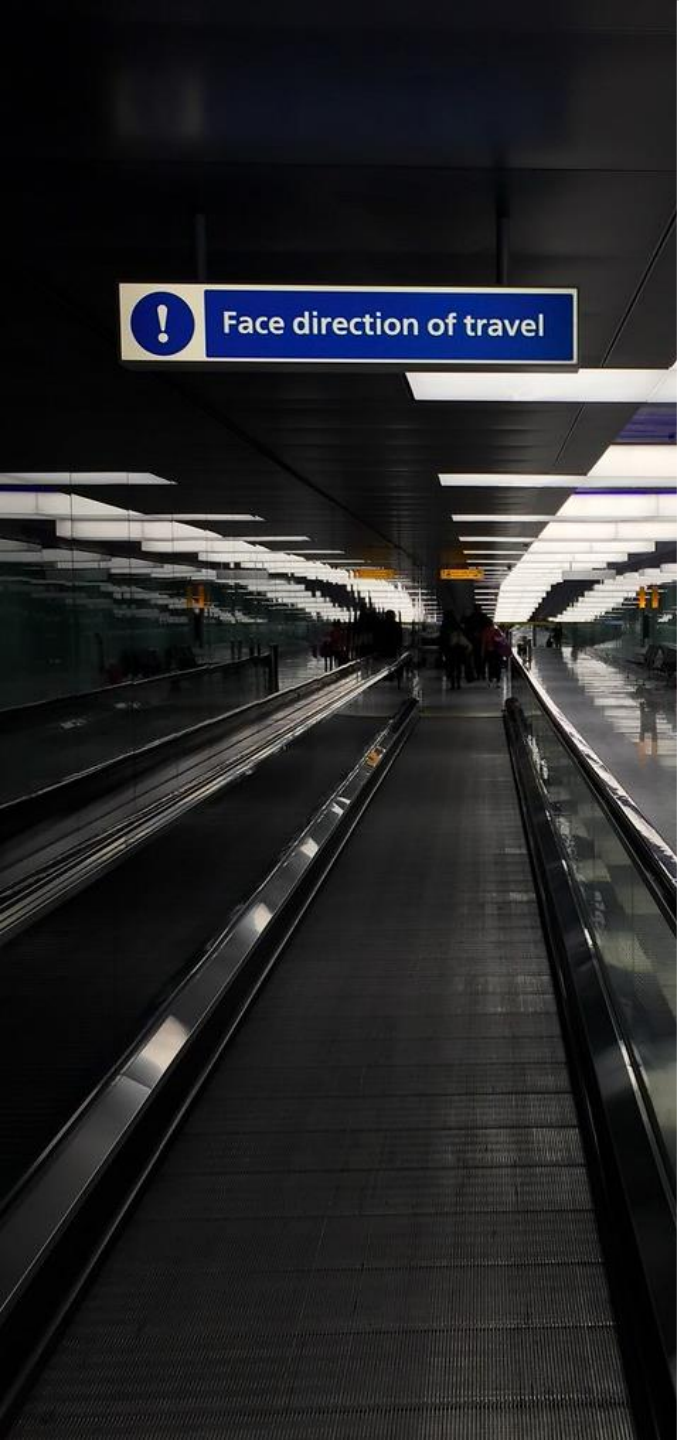
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- Instead, he has a sense of duty to a mission yet unaccomplished. He is obligated to the work set before him, not his past. Remember the past owes you nothing, but there are things that need to be done right now, and much still to come if the Lord wills!

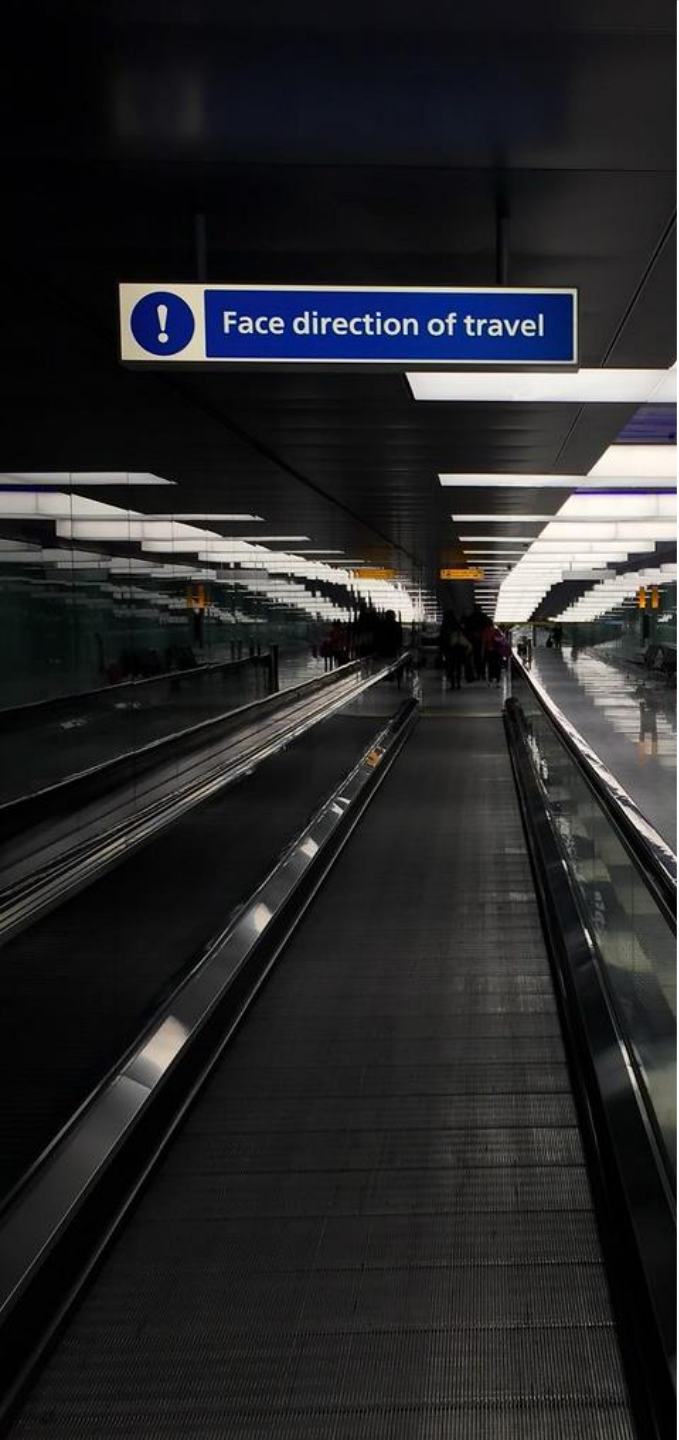


Face direction of travel

**So what happens when
we don't face the
direction of travel?**



- *I become a hazard to those around me – I slow things down, make myself an obstacle, discourage the workers (Luke 17:1-2, 11:52, Eph. 4:29). When Israel was traveling to the Land of Promise, many naysayers looked backward (Numbers 16, Exodus 16).*



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- *I do not remember the past for what it actually was – We call it “rose-colored glasses” when we inaccurately look at something. The past is rubbish. Our greatest blessings are ahead (in an eternal, spiritual sense, for sure). The past tethers us (Luke 9:59ff, Gen. 19:15-17).*



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- *I don't prepare myself for the dangers and opportunities ahead of me – Jesus warned Peter that he would face a severe “sifting” (Luke 22:31-34), yet his failure would not define him. He had work to do, when once he repented. Similarly, I must have a short memory with my regrettable decisions, and seize the mission!*



Face direction of travel

Finally, I must “face direction of travel” by actually embracing the Christian path. If I’m going to claim to be traveling toward heaven, following God’s will, then my actions need to reflect that!