

JOSHUA – A CALL TO REMEMBER

Joshua 23



(Josh 23), “And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age. {2} And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age: {3} And ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God is he that hath fought for you. {4} Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward. {5} And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you. {6} Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left; {7} That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them: {8} But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day. {9} For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day. {10} One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you. {11} Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God. {12} Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: {13} Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you. {14} And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof. {15} Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you. {16} When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.”

S THIS WEEK MARKS THE **ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF** those horrible events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. We will be **CALLED TO REMEMBER** those dark days this week.

S OUR TEXT IS **JOSHUA CALLING ISRAEL TO REMEMBER** SOME IMPORTANT THINGS.

I. THE CALL TO REMEMBER GOD’S GOODNESS

II. THE CONDITIONS FOR GOD’S CONTINUED BLESSING

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF IGNORING GOD’S WISDOM

I. THE CALL TO REMEMBER GOD’S GOODNESS

(V. 1), “And it came to pass **A LONG TIME AFTER** that the LORD had **GIVEN REST** unto Israel from all their enemies round about . . .”

S AS MANY AS **10 to 20 YEARS** had passed since Joshua had divided the land among the tribes of Israel. Joshua had “**WAXED OLD**” and was about to go “**THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH** (VV. 1, 14).

S AT THAT STAGE IN HIS LIFE, JOSHUA **DID THREE THINGS:**

#1. HE CALLED THE LEADERSHIP TOGETHER

S THE ASSEMBLY OF **JOSHUA 23** SEEMS TO FOCUS **PRIMARILY ON ISRAEL’S LEADERSHIP.**

S THE LEADERS WERE DESCRIBED USING **FOUR TITLES:** **(V. 2)**, “AND JOSHUA **CALLED** FOR ALL ISRAEL, and for their **ELDERS**, and for their **HEADS**, and for their **JUDGES**, and for their **OFFICERS**, and said unto them, I am **OLD** and stricken in age:”

1. THE **ELDERS** — **THE MEN OF AGE** who had distinguished themselves as **GOOD DECISION MAKERS** in Israel.
2. THE **HEADS** — **Leaders in their families** according to the tribes of Israel.
3. THE **JUDGES** — Those who **interpreted** and made **decisions** regarding the **law**.

4. **THE OFFICERS** — Those who **carried out** the decisions of the judges.

AT THAT ASSEMBLY

#2. HE REMINDED THEM OF GOD'S PAST BLESSING

- 1) **(V. 3) GOD FOUGHT FOR YOU.**
- 2) **(V. 3) GOD ALLOWED YOU TO SEE HIS ACTS** with your own eyes.
- 3) **(V. 4) GOD GAVE YOU THE CONQUERED LAND** as an inheritance.
- 4) **(V. 9) THE LORD DROVE OUT the mighty nations** that had possessed the land.
- 5) **(V. 9) NO MAN WAS ABLE TO STAND** before you to this day.
- 6) **(V. 14), "... YE KNOW** in all your hearts and in all your souls, that **NOT ONE THING HATH FAILED** of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; **ALL ARE COME TO PASS** unto you, and **NOT ONE THING HATH FAILED** thereof."

THE ISRAELITES WOULD HAVE READILY ADMITTED **THE LORD'S ACTS** IN ISRAEL'S BEHALF HAD BEEN **ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHING:**

- 1) GOD SENT **TEN PLAGUES** and set the Hebrew slaves free in Egypt.
- 2) The **CLOUD** guided them day and night into and through the wilderness.
- 3) God provided **FOOD** for them for **40 years** in a **wilderness** in the form of **MANNA**.
- 4) The **RED SEA** WAS DIVIDED and they walked across on dry ground.
- 5) The **JORDAN RIVER** stopped flowing so Israel could cross over during flood season.
- 6) The **WALLS OF JERICHO** fell because Israel obeyed the Lord by walking around it for seven days.
- 7) The **SUN STOOD STILL** so that a battle could be extended and completed.
- 8) **HAIL** fell from the sky and consumed more of the enemy than did the sword.

JOSHUA ALSO POINTED THEM TO GOD'S FUTURE BLESSINGS.

- 1) **(V. 5) The LORD SHALL EXPEL THEM** from before you.

S "Them" refers to the inhabitants in the land. Even though Israel had taken control of the land, **pockets of Canaanites** still remained.

- 2) **(V. 5) You SHALL POSSESS** their land as the LORD promised.
- 3) **(V. 10), "One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you."**

- #1. HE **CALLED** THE LEADERSHIP TOGETHER
- #2. HE **REMINDED** THEM OF GOD'S BLESSING

#3. HE WARNED OF THE DANGERS OF DEPARTING FROM GOD

S More will be said about those dangers **later** in this message.

I. THE CALL TO REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS

II. REMEMBER THE CONDITIONS FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSING

S **GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

C **(Psa 119:89), "FOREVER, O LORD,** thy word is settled in heaven."

C God's promises will never fail.

C **F. B. MEYER**

"If any promise of God should fail, the heavens would clothe themselves in sackcloth. The sun, moon and stars would reel from their course. The universe would rock and a hollow wind would moan through a ruined creation the awful message that God can lie"

S GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BUT it is important to realize **THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PROMISES:**

- a. SOME PROMISES ARE UNCONDITIONAL — An **unconditional promise** means God will perform something regardless of what any person might do or not do. For example, God promised He would never destroy the world again by means of a **flood** (Genesis 9:11). He will destroy it with fire someday, but not with a flood (2 Pet 3:12). Sometimes God makes a promise without setting any conditions.
- b. SOME PROMISES ARE CONDITIONAL — A **conditional promise** means God will perform something only if certain conditions are met. **Today's text** addresses a conditional promise of God. God promised **the land** of Canaan **to Israel** as a perpetual inheritance through all generations, but they would have to **MEET FOUR CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO STAY IN THE LAND.**

#1. OBEY GOD'S WORD

(V. 6), "BE YE THEREFORE VERY COURAGEOUS TO KEEP and TO DO ALL that is written in the book of the law of Moses, . . . "

- S ISN'T IT **INTERESTING** that ***courage*** and ***obedience*** are addressed in the same verse? **Israel would never obey** God's Word apart from ***courage***.
- S **COURAGE IS ESSENTIAL** IN OBEYING GOD'S WORD:
- (1) **MOSES** WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE to **Pharaoh** apart from courage. Pharaoh threatened to take Moses' life (Ex 5).
 - (2) **ELIJAH** WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE TO **MOUNT CARMEL** and opposed the prophets of Baal apart from courage. He would never have challenged Israel by saying: **(1 Ki 18:21), ". . . HOW LONG** halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. . . . "
 - (3) **THE DISCIPLES** would never have preached Jesus apart from courage. Courage was an essential element (Acts 5).

THE TRUTH IS THAT OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD **can lead** everyone of us into such **difficult places that** we will never go apart from God's courage. **MANY VERSES** in the Bible **WILL NEVER BE OBEYED APART FROM COURAGE.** **MANY PLACES** WILL NEVER HAVE A WITNESS without courageous believers willing to risk and share.

- (1) **MARTIN & GRACIA BURNHAM** would never have gone to the Philippines as missionaries apart from courageous obedience to God's Word. They were abducted and held captive for about one year by Muslim guerillas. Martin was later killed in a rescue attempt by the Philippine army.
 - (2) **THE TWO MISSIONARY LADIES** would never have been in **AFGHANISTAN** apart from God's courage.
 - (3) **WE WILL NOT OBEY GOD** IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS apart from courage.
- S **ISRAEL WAS REQUIRED TO OBEY GOD'S WORD WITH COURAGE.** They **would never remain long** in the land apart from courage.

#1. OBEY GOD'S WORD

#2. LIVE LIVES OF HOLINESS (PURITY, SEPARATION)

(V. 7), "That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:"

- S JOSHUA DELINEATED **FIVE NEGATIVES** IN VERSE 7:
- 1) Do not **associate** with them.
 - 2) Do not **invoke** the names of their gods.
 - 3) Do not **swear** by the names of their gods.
 - 4) Do not **serve** their gods.
 - 5) Do not **bow down** to their gods.
- S **Rather than associating** with the inhabitants, they were to be **removed** from off the land. **THE REASON** for such harsh judgment was that the inhabitants were **under the judgment of God** because of their iniquity.

S **MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER, GOD HAD SAID TO ABRAHAM REGARDING ISRAEL:** (Gen 15:16), “. . . In the fourth generation they {Israel} shall come hither again: **FOR THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES IS NOT YET FULL.**”

Israel had entered the land of Canaan under Joshua’s leadership **AT A TIME DESCRIBED BY GOD as *the fulness of the iniquity of the Amorites.***

S **ALBERT BARNES** explains what “**THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES IS NOT YET FULL**” MEANS in his notes on the New Testament.

- First.** The Lord foreknows the moral character of people.
- Second.** In His providence He administers the affairs of nations on the principle of moral rectitude.
- Third.** Nations are spared until their iniquity is full.
- Fourth.** They are then cut off in retributive justice.”

S **A NATION CAN REACH A POINT** in the sight of God in which their iniquity **IS “FULL.”** When iniquity **IS “FULL,”** that nation **invites** the judgment of God upon itself. **The inhabitants** in the land of Canaan in Joshua’s day had reached the level of “**iniquity**” against God that **BEGGED** GOD’S JUDGMENT.

S **ISRAEL WAS GOD’S INSTRUMENT OF JUDGMENT** upon the inhabitants in the land of Canaan. **AS SUCH, JOSHUA WARNED ISRAEL** regarding the dangers of adopting their practices. **IF ISRAEL ADOPTED THE PRACTICES OF THE CANAANITES, they WOULD INVITE** the same judgment of God upon themselves.

- #1. **OBEY GOD’S WORD**
- #2. **LIVE LIVES OF HOLINESS**

#3. CLEAVE TO THE LORD

(V. 8), “But **CLEAVE** unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.”

- S “**DAW-BAK’**” MEANS:
- C “to **cling**”
 - C “to **stick**”
 - C “to **stay close**”

THIS HEBREW WORD IS USED IN **GENESIS 2:24** to describe **A HUSBAND** leaving his father and mother and cleaving to his wife. The word means **to stick like glue**. The kind of sticking described here is not what is found on a post-it note. It is the kind of glue found on an envelope.

S **ISRAEL HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE** WHETHER TO CLING TO THE **INHABITANTS** OF THE LAND, OR TO CLEAVE TO **GOD**. Joshua commanded them to cling to God.

S **WE HAVE TO MAKE THE SAME CHOICE.** We **have to decide** whether we will cling to **God**, or whether we will cling to the “**world.**” **WE CAN’T** CLING TO BOTH GOD AND THE WORLD AT THE SAME TIME.

JESUS SAID:

- C (Mat 6:24), “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

- #1. **OBEY GOD’S WORD**
- #2. **LIVE LIVES OF HOLINESS**
- #3. **CLEAVE TO THE LORD**

#4. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

(V. 11), “**TAKE GOOD HEED** therefore unto yourselves, that ye **LOVE THE LORD** your God.”

- S “**AW-HAB’**” MEANS:
- C “to **have affection**”
 - C “to **love**”

S Joshua was talking about a relationship with God that **went beyond a legal contract**. He spoke of having a genuine **heartfelt affection** and love for God.

S **JOSHUA DEMONSTRATED THAT LOVE** (**Josh 24:15**), “. . . As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

REMEMBER

- I. **GOD’S GOODNESS**
- II. **THE CONDITIONS** FOR GOD’S CONTINUED BLESSING

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF IGNORING GOD’S WISDOM

S **IF SOMEONE** in that assembly that day concluded that Joshua was so old fashioned and narrow that he just didn’t understand, they were terribly mistaken. **IF OTHERS CONCLUDED** that they could do whatever they wanted as soon as Joshua died, they were dead wrong.

S **JOSHUA MUST HAVE KNOWN** IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS that Israel would turn from the Lord after his death and would become subject to God’s judgment.

(**V. 16**), “**WHEN** ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and **HAVE GONE** and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; . . . ”

VERSE 16 in the KJV uses the word “**WHEN**,” rather than “**IF**.” It was not “if” they would turn from the Lord, it was “when.”

S **JOSHUA WANTED ISRAEL TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE THREEFOLD CONSEQUENCES** of turning from the Lord and clinging to the inhabitants of the Lord.

#1. THEY WOULD BE DEFEATED IN BATTLE

(**V. 13a**), “**KNOW FOR A CERTAINTY** that the LORD your **GOD WILL NO MORE DRIVE OUT ANY OF THESE NATIONS**

from before you; . . . ”

S WHEN GOD FIGHTS FOR A NATION, VICTORY IS ASSURED!

(1) **VERSE 10 STATES IT CLEARLY** (**V. 10**), “One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.”

(2) **WITH GOD’S HELP GIDEON’S ARMY OF 300 MEN** defeated a **MIDIANITE ARMY** of **135,000**. THE ODDS against Israel were **450 to 1**. Each soldier was responsible for 450 Midianite soldiers. God gave Gideon’s army the victory in spite of the odds (**Judges 7**).

(3) **WITH JUST ONE ANGEL GOD DESTROYED** an Assyrian army of **185,000 soldiers** in just **one night** (**2 Ki 19:35**). Hezekiah’s army did not even have to lift a bow. God’s angel was outnumbered **185,000 to 1** and he won anyway.

S When God fights for a nation, **victory is assured**. **WHEN GOD DOES NOT FIGHT FOR A NATION, DEFEAT IS INEVITABLE**. It does not matter how big the army is.

C (**Isa 31:1**), “**WOE TO THEM** that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!”

C (**Psa 33:17**), “**AN HORSE IS A VAIN THING FOR SAFETY**: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.”

C (**Prov 21:31**), “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but **SAFETY IS OF THE LORD**.”

S **WHEN GOD WITHDRAWS HIS BLESSING AND POWER, DEFEAT IS INEVITABLE**.

#1. THEY WOULD BE **DEFEATED** IN BATTLE

#2. THEIR MISERIES WOULD BE MULTIPLIED

(V. 13b), “. . . **THEY** shall be **SNARES** and **TRAPS** unto you, and **SCOURGES** in your sides, and **THORNS** in your eyes, . . . ”

- S “**THEY**” refers to the pockets of Canaanites that remained in the land. Those occupants would become the source of Israel’s **continual sorrow. ANY PLEASURE GAINED FROM ABANDONING GOD WOULD BE SHORT LIVED.**

- C “**SNARES** and **TRAPS**” WERE DEVICES used to catch unsuspecting animals. They are effective because they are unseen by the victim. Sometimes they are **spring loaded ropes** that are triggered by an unsuspecting animal walking past. A trap may be a **cage** that has a spring loaded door. When the animal walks, or falls, into the cage, there is no escape.

- C “**SCOURGES**” WERE **WHIPS** often used to punish criminals. The inhabitants in the land would be used like whips to discipline the Israelites.

- C “**THORNS IN YOUR EYES**” — There is nothing more painful than a splinter in the eye. The eye is so sensitive. A hurting eye can affect the entire body. Israel’s sin would bring them a lot of pain.

CONSEQUENCES:

- #1. THEY WOULD BE **DEFEATED** IN BATTLE
- #2. THEIR **MISERIES** WOULD BE MULTIPLIED

#3. THEY WOULD BE REMOVED FROM OFF THE LAND

(V. 15), “Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; **so shall the LORD bring upon you ALL EVIL THINGS, UNTIL HE HAVE DESTROYED YOU FROM OFF THIS GOOD LAND** which the LORD your God hath given you.”

MOSES USED A CHOICE WORD TO DESCRIBE THEIR METHOD OF REMOVAL:

- C **(Lev 20:22 KJV)**, “Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: **that the land**, whither I bring you to dwell therein, **SPUE** you not **OUT**.”

- C **(NKJV)**, “You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not **VOMIT YOU OUT**.”

HISTORY RECORDS THAT ISRAEL SINNED AND THAT GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE. It did **not take many years** for them to experience the consequences of their disobedience. The next book to follow Joshua in historical sequence is the Book of **JUDGES**.

- C **(Judg 1:19)**, “. . . {They} could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.”
- C **(Judg 1:27)**, “Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean . . . nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land.”
- C **(Judg 1:29)**, “Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.”
- C **(Judg 1:34)**, “And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley:”

- S **IN 722 B.C.** the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell into the hands of **Assyria** and was **destroyed**. **2 KINGS 17** tells why the Northern Kingdom was destroyed:
 - C **(V. 7)**, “For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, . . . ”
 - C **(V. 8)**, “And **walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, . . .**”
 - C **(V. 9)**, “And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God,”
 - C **(V. 15)**, “. . . they . . . **went after the heathen that were round about them**, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.”

S IN **586 B.C.** the Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the **Babylonians**. Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was leveled. **2 CHRONICLES 36:14** tells why the Southern Kingdom was destroyed:

C **(V. 14)**, " Moreover all the chief of the **priests**, and the **people**, transgressed very much **after all the abominations of the heathen**; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem."

S **THE PSALMIST SUMMARIZED THEIR SIN THIS WAY:**

C **(Psa 106:34-40)**, "They **did not destroy** the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: {35} But were **mingled** among the heathen, and **learned** their works. {36} And they **served** their idols: which were a **snare** unto them. {37} Yea, they **sacrificed their sons** and their daughters unto devils, {38} And **shed innocent blood**, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto **the idols of Canaan**: and the land was polluted with blood. {39} Thus were they defiled with their own works, and **went a whoring** with their own inventions. {40} **THEREFORE** was **the wrath of the LORD kindled** against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance."

S ISRAEL'S REMOVAL FROM OFF THE LAND **SERVES AS POWERFUL TESTIMONY THAT GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES** even when those promises are **NEGATIVE**. **Israel reached** a condition of sin in which **they BEGGED the judgment of God** just like the Canaanites of the land had done before them.

ALTHOUGH THIS IS **AN O.T. PASSAGE**, IT HAS **MANY NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATIONS** FOR THE CHRISTIAN. **THE THREE THINGS** Joshua told Israel to remember are the three things we need to remember as **individuals** and as a **nation**.

REMEMBER

I. AS GOD WAS GOOD TO ISRAEL, SO HE HAS BEEN GOOD TO US

S **(James 1:17)**, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

REMEMBER

II. THE FOUR CONDITIONS FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSING ON ISRAEL HAVE PARALLEL CONDITIONS IN THE N.T.

S AS GOD **EXPECTED ISRAEL TO:**

- #1. **OBEY GOD'S WORD**
- #2. **LIVE LIVES OF HOLINESS**
- #3. **CLEAVE TO THE LORD**
- #4. **LOVE THE LORD THEIR GOD,**

SO GOD **EXPECTS US** TO DO THE SAME.

S **NEW TESTAMENT VERSES** EXIST FOR EACH ONE OF THOSE OLD TESTAMENT COMMANDS:

#1. OBEY GOD'S WORD

C **(Luke 6:46)**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

C **(John 14:23)**, "... If a man love me, he will **keep my words**: ..."

C **(James 2:17)**, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

#2. LIVE LIVES OF HOLINESS

C **(1 Pet 1:16)**, "... **BE YE HOLY**; for I am **HOLY**."

C **(Rom 12:1-2)**, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

C **(Mat 5:13)**, "**YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH**: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

C **(Mat 5:14-16)**, "**YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. {15} Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. {16} **LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE** before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

#3. CLEAVE TO THE LORD

C **(Mat 6:24)**, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

- #1. **OBEY** GOD'S WORD
- #2. LIVE LIVES OF **HOLINESS**
- #3. **CLEAVE** TO THE LORD

#4. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

C **(Mat 22:37-38)**, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. {38} This is the first and great commandment."

S **WHEN MARTHA WAS UPSET** WITH MARY because she wasn't helping her in the kitchen, Jesus said to Martha:

C **(Luke 10:41-42)**, "... Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: {42} But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

S **WHEN THE WOMAN ANOINTED JESUS**, JUDAS WAS UPSET BECAUSE THE OINTMENT WAS EXPENSIVE. **JESUS SAID**:

C **(Mat 26:13)**, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."

REMEMBER

- I. AS GOD WAS GOOD TO ISRAEL, SO HE HAS BEEN GOOD TO US
- II. THE FOUR CONDITIONS FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSING TO ISRAEL ALL HAVE A N.T. PARALLEL

REMEMBER

III. AS THERE WERE CONSEQUENCES WHEN ISRAEL IGNORED GOD'S WISDOM, SO THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES WHEN WE IGNORE GOD'S WISDOM

S **JUST SUPPOSE THAT A N.T. BELIEVER** decides to **ignore God's wisdom** like Israel had done.

& **RATHER THAN OBEY**, THEY **DISOBEY**.

& **RATHER THAN LIVE HOLY LIVES**, THEY LIVE **IMPURE LIVES**.

& **RATHER THAN CLING** TO THE LORD, THEY **DISTANCE** THEMSELVES FROM THE LORD and cling to the world.

& Rather than **LOVE** GOD, THEY ARE **INDIFFERENT** AND **APATHETIC** TOWARD GOD.

S They are **disobedient, impure, distant** and **indifferent** THINKING EVERYTHING IS **A-OKAY**. Do you know any Christians that fit that description?

REMEMBER — THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES. Our consequences may not be the exact parallel as Israel's, but there are consequences nonetheless. The Christians who were members of the churches in the Book of Revelation stand as examples:

EXAMPLES:

(1) JESUS SAID TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS:

(Rev 2:4), "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because **THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE.**"

THE CONSEQUENCE:

(Rev 2:5), "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **REPENT**, and do the first works; **OR ELSE** I will come unto thee quickly, and **WILL REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK** out of his place, except thou repent."

(2) JESUS SAID TO THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS:

(Rev 2:14), "But **I have a few things against thee**, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of **Balaam**, **who taught** Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto **idols**, and to commit **fornication.**"

THE CONSEQUENCE:

(Rev 2:16), "**REPENT**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **WILL FIGHT AGAINST THEM** with the sword of my mouth."

(3) JESUS SAID TO THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA:

(Rev 3:15), "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot."

THE CONSEQUENCE:

(Rev 3:16), "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will **SPUE THEE OUT** of my mouth."

"**Spue out**" means **VOMIT**. God told Israel the land would vomit them up if they turned to the inhabitants of the land. God tells us that we make Him want to vomit when we turn from holiness to the sins of the land.

DR. DAVID JEREMIAH

"It is interesting that God looks at apostasy and gets angry --- but He looks at indifference and becomes ill." (His book on *Revelation*,

pg. 60)

- (4) **(1 Cor 3:13-15)**, "**EVERY MAN'S WORK** shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it **SHALL BE REVEALED BY FIRE**; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. {14} If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **HE SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD**. {15} If any man's work shall be burned, **HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS**: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS:

QUESTION #1:

AS A BELIEVER, HAVE YOU **LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE** LIKE SOME AT **EPHESUS** HAD DONE? Have you stopped **obeying** God? Have you stopped **cleaving** to God? Have you **distanced** yourself from God?

QUESTION #2:

AS A BELIEVER, HAVE YOU ADOPTED THE **DOCTRINES OF BALAAM** LIKE SOME AT **PERGAMOS** HAD DONE? Balaam led Israel to commit immorality with the Moabite women and thus brought God's judgment upon them. Have you **PUT PURITY ON THE BACK BURNERS OF YOUR LIFE**? HOW ABOUT:

(1) YOUR **EYES**?

- C **(Job 31:1)**, "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"
- C YOUR **ENTERTAINMENT?** (T.V., MOVIES, INTERNET)

(2) YOUR **MOUTH**?

- C **(Eph 4:29)**, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."
- C YOUR **LANGUAGE?** (Mr. fowl mouth at a certain business was at his church on Sunday morning passing out bulletins.)

(3) YOUR **BODY**?

- C "MODEST"
- C YOUR **ATTIRE?** (Clothing)

(4) YOUR RELATIONSHIPS?

- C YOUR **SOCIAL LIFE?** (Friends, dating, business)
- C **(2 Cor 6:14)**, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

QUESTION #3:

AS A BELIEVER, HAVE YOU GROWN **LUKEWARM** LIKE SOME AT **LAODICEA** HAD DONE? Do you make God **nauseous**? Do you **YAWN** in the face of the creator?

BILL GOTHARD was once a youth director before he became a nationally known Christian speaker. He tells how on one occasion his youth group had gotten on the bus to take a youth trip. For some time he had been concerned about their lack of zeal for the matters related to the Lord. He had asked God to show him how he could get through to them so that they might see their real condition.

That day he got on the bus with them and had a little devotion using Revelation 3. But first he asked them, "How many of you love God with all your heart? You love Him so much that you fellowship with Him every day? You pray and read His word every day? Raise your hand," he said. None raised their hand. Then he asked, "Am I safe in saying that none of you are really hot for the Lord?"

Then he asked them, "How many of you hate God? You don't care what kind of trash you can heap on His people or on His name? Raise your hand." None raised their hands. Then he asked, "Am I safe in saying that none of you are really cold for the Lord?"

Then he asked, "If you are not **HOT** and if you are not **COLD**, then what are you? What is it called when you are not hot or cold? It is called **LUKEWARM**. From there he proceeded to share with them what God said about the condition known as lukewarmness:

(Rev 3:15-16), "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. {16} So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

S ARE YOU A "CANAANITE CHRISTIAN"? Are you what **PATRICK MORLEY** refers to as "**A CULTURAL CHRISTIAN?**" If you are, IT WOULD BE WISE TO **CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF REJECTING GOD'S WISDOM**. If you are, it would be wise to make a **MID COURSE CORRECTION** by following the admonition of Scripture:

C **(2 Chr 7:14)**, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

C **(James 5:16)**, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

C **(Eph 6:13-14)**, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, . . ."

S A CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR had to exhibit courage on his senior trip. The group decided to go to a movie that was dishonoring to God. When he decided not to go, the other seniors tried to pressure him by making fun of him. Because he stuck to his convictions, he was left standing all alone. As the minutes passed, one of the high school girls returned to stand with him. She told her fellow student that she, too, was a Christian and that his stand for what was right encouraged her to do what was right.

S THE GREATEST LOSS FOR A "CANAANITE CHRISTIAN" IS NOT ALWAYS SO OBVIOUS. The loss is often in the things never seen or experienced. They never experienced the things they could have had they simply obeyed.

C **JOY UNSPEAKABLE**

(Neh 8:10), ". . . The joy of the LORD is your strength."

C **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**

(John 14:21), "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and **will manifest myself to him.**"

C **SPIRIT FILLED LIFE** (Eph 5:18)