

The Danger of Half-Hearted Devotion

January 10, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 1:1-2:5

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Background

- Sounds like today Jdg 2:11-12; 3:7,12;4:1;6:1;10:6;13:1;17:6
- God's people face a choice:
 - Look to God as their Lord -OR-
 - Follow the spirit & preferences of their age
- At the end of Joshua, God's people had rest from war and were enjoying the riches God had given them in the Land Josh 23:1
- Judges BEGINS by looking backward 1:1 and ENDS by looking forward 21:35
- Israel - God's Covenant People: God choose them for His own reasons, not because they were special, they are flawed Josh 24:2, but chosen by God and God provides for His people even their righteousness. He calls us to trust Him Gen 15:6 ALONE!
- JOSHUA: God always keeps His promises, His people just need to trust Him and walk in faith boldly and obediently in the freedom God has purchased for us.
 - God promised the Land: Josh 1:3-4
 - They are to possess by obeying God's instructions: Josh 1:7-8
 - Victory and Rest comes as they are DEPENDENT people of God (walk in faith)
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-15 gives us instructions on being God's people

A Series of Victories

- People wisely sought counsel of God 1:1
- Judah & Simeon obeyed - good results: Jdg 1:19

Lack of Faith in God's Instructions "I do it my way"

- 1:19 shows us the turning point - could not drive...
- 1:21 people of Benjamin did not drive out...
- God clearly instructed to cleanse the land: Deut 7:1-6
- 1:29-33 - Empraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali... didn't comply
- What happened? They had God's Word – didn't read as told: Dt 6:1-15
- First Step of Slide: Neglecting the Word of God
- But isn't that cruel?
 - God had already been patient w/ wicked Gen 15:16 (Rm 1:18)
 - They had been warned & could repent Josh 2:9-13 (Rahab did)
- God rebukes His people: Judge 2:1-5
- Lessons:
 - Beware of pragmatism – study & obey God
 - Walk in faith in God's provision (Christ), not your own ability!
 - Study the Word so you can walk in faith & obedience

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