

Good Morning Belfield Baptist Church Family and Friends.

Sunday, April 25, 2021.

Our devotion today is an outline of the message for Belfield Baptist Church for April 25, 2021.

CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD JOSHUA 23:1-13

We come in this passage to a very old man. Here we find Joshua, being old and stricken in age, yet a very wise man. He has called all of Israel together and is telling them or at least trying to warn them of their future. Scholars think he could have been 109. He died at 110 (24:29)

V. 3 --- 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. In 4 & 5 we find that the Lord your God hath kept all the promises that he promised.

V. 6 --- We find this old but very wise man warning the children to stay true to this God by: 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;

V. 7 --- We find that he is warning them about accepting the gods of the nations that they have gone into. 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: (What about our gods today: money, recreation, work, church?)

V. 8 --- BUT CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD YOUR GOD, AS YE HAVE DONE UNTO THIS DAY

Now let us think along the line of what he meant about cleaving unto the Lord.

I. What he did not mean:

1. Not unto the church. Too many cleave to the church.

(All Denominations)
2. Not unto a doctrine. Many do, but they are lost in the end.
3. Not unto a preacher. Men cannot save us.
4. Not unto morality. Self-righteousness will condemn anybody.

If all the above is true, then what are we to hold on to?

II. HE DID MEAN TO: Verse 8

1. Cleave ---- Hold fast, struggle, hang on.

2. Cleave unto the Lord --- Take hold of God. The creator of the world. The God over all the universe. etc.

3. Cleave unto the Lord your God. A personal God. A God that you know first-hand.

III. WHAT IS IT TO CLEAVE UNTO GOD?

1. By a living faith in God as sovereign.

2. By faith in His Word as true.

3. By testing His promises as true.

Now we ask ourselves how can all of this take place, how can we put our complete trust in THE LORD OUR GOD?

V. 11 --- Gives us the answer to this question.

Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.

This love is to be the foundation of all of our faith. We all should be able to say: I WILL CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD MY GOD.

Can we? Are we faithful in all things? It is up to each of us!

Verses 12-13: A warning if they don't remain true.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.

As we think about what is going on today in the world, it is necessary that we cleave unto the Lord in all situations. We need to hold on to what God has given us.

Today, April 24, as you pray, pray for the pastors that will be cleaving to the Lord in the worship services tomorrow.

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