

Intro to Grace: *Man's Greatest Need*



Fellowship Bible Church

Intro to Grace: Man's Greatest Need

Bible Study Guide

From the leadership development ministry of

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS

Acknowledgments

The lesson outlines and notes in this booklet were prepared and edited by Tim McManigle, Director of FBC Missions.

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Revision 1

Introduction

Our emphasis for this study is on “the grace of God” for there has always been a tendency in the body of Christ to teach salvation by grace through faith, and then to attempt to live a holy and righteous life through every imaginable form of legalism. However, Legalism forces Christians into a constant striving to avoid failure, while grace on the other hand eliminates the fear of failure.

God is made known to us as “the God of all grace”, and the position in which we are placed is that of recipients of His grace... The word favor is the nearest Biblical synonym for the word grace. Grace is favor, and favor is grace, and it finds it's greatest triumph and glory in the sphere of human helplessness. Grace ceases to be grace if God is compelled to withdraw it because of human failure or sin. In fact, grace cannot be exercised where there is the slightest degree of human merit to be recognized. God cannot propose to do less in grace for one who is sinful than He would have done had that one been less sinful. The sin question has been set aside forever, and equal favor/grace is extended to all who believe. Thus, grace can not be increased, nor diminished.

Romans 5:17 states, “Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.”...This understanding of God's Grace is foundational to Christianity...Furthermore, grace alone can free us, not only from the penalty of sin, but also the power of sin...Romans 6:14 says; “For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.”...

Possibly the greatest need in the church of Jesus Christ today is a “grace awakening”, and it is our desire, as you study the following lessons that you would “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”. ...**2 Peter 3:18**

If you have further questions about what is contained in this booklet or would like more materials, contact the missions department of Fellowship Bible Church. Our phone # is 540-662-7743 and address is 3217 Middle Rd. Winchester, VA 22602.

LESSON 1

“Man’s Great Need: A True Knowledge of God”



A. Introduction:

- The Christian life is nothing more than a walk of faith. However, for faith to function there must be Spirit-given knowledge of the Word. We must first know what God has done, before we can believe in Him and count on Him to do it.

B. An Old Testament example:

- **Joshua 2:9-11** Jericho was a defeated city, but the Israelites didn’t “**know**” what God had done. They did not have a clue that the people in that city for forty years had been paralyzed with fear. The real problem was they did not **know** their God; therefore, they remained in the wilderness.

C. The Spirit’s role:

The **Spirit of truth** ministers truth to us by means of our mind, the spiritual mind that relies on Him. This head knowledge gives us the facts on which we exercise faith or reckon. In time, through deeper understanding of truth, there is both head knowledge and heart knowledge; we not only believe, but now we know experientially. **Prov. 24:3-** An interesting verse to consider – **Prov. 23:7**

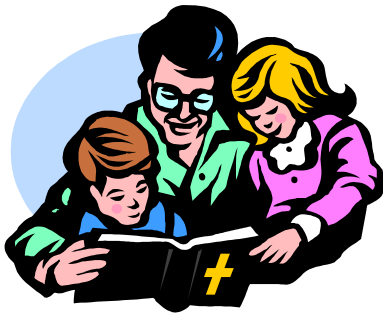
D. Our great need:

- It might be helpful to give serious thought to what is probably one of our greatest needs as Christians. There is one thing on which the foundation of the Christian faith rests. It is a most important factor in this life and walk of faith, and that is **knowledge.....** In fact, we could even be more specific and say that man has a great/tremendous need of a **TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. John 17:3** Notice that Jesus defines eternal life, not as a span of time, but rather a **knowledge of God...**
- **Eph. 1:17** This is Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian Church. Notice that he does not pray for anything new, but rather for God to reveal Himself to them. Then in **verse 18** Paul goes on praying that He would open the eyes of their understanding (heart) so that they would **KNOW....**

E. Our trust will always be in proportion to our knowledge:

- We could say this. We are unable to trust someone if we don't know them; but on the other hand, we can't help but trust someone if we really do know them. No effort is required; it just comes natural.
- Give some thought to this; ***our trust will always be in proportion to our knowledge, which means that to the degree that we don't know God, we will trust in other things.*** **Romans 10:14** "how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?"
- Let's look at several more scriptures: **Col. 1:9,10** Again Paul is praying for a "knowledge of His will, a knowledge of God." **Phil. 3:7,8**

F. Only through His Word can we know Him:



- God has given us His Word to reveal Himself, and it is only through His Word that we can **know** Him, know His wisdom, His will, His infinite love, His almighty power, His faithfulness, His holiness, His truth, His goodness, and grace and mercy. It is only through His Word that we can **KNOW** what pleases Him and what displeases Him; there's no other way. **Phil 3:10** Give some thought to this: If we were to go to a foreign country, to learn another language and culture for the purpose of explaining our God to those who have never heard. How could we explain a God we don't know? **Isaiah 1:2,3** "The ox knows his owner, but my people do not KNOW". **Hosea 4:6a**...We see the same problem today, people who are being destroyed for lack of knowledge.

G. Jesus – The world knew Him not:

- **John 1:10-11** Notice, "His own received Him not"..... Why? Because they didn't **know** Him. On the other hand, **2 Pet. 3:18; Jer. 9:23-24**

H. Random thoughts to consider:

- **2 Peter 1:2,3** makes real clear our need for a **KNOWLEDGE OF HIM.**
- The victorious Christian life is not a method or technique, nor is it man imitating Jesus Christ; It is not an imitation of Christ, but rather a participation of Christ. It is Jesus Christ living His life in and through us. But if we don't **KNOW** both what He has done, and what He is doing, we'll end up just like those people in Hosea's time, **DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE....**

I. A big caution – Some don't know, but many reject truth:

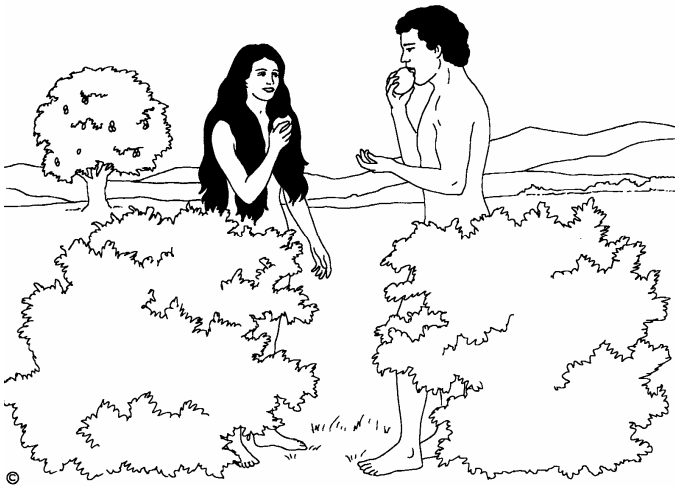
- **Romans 1:18** "men who hold/suppress the truth in unrighteousness"
- It appears rather clear from Scripture that man often times rejects



truth.

- Turn back again, to **Hos. 4:6**. **As we mentioned before**, the first part of the verse speaks of “a lack of **knowledge**”. However, in the second part of the verse it refers to rejecting **knowledge**; “*Because you have rejected **knowledge**, I will also reject you that you shall be no priest to me*”. The point being, **they had rejected knowledge**, therefore God will reject them from being a priest, a leader, a witness for Christ. The big problem here is that because they have rejected truth, they’re no longer walking by faith, therefore they have become self dependent, going there own way doing there own thing.
- This does not mean that God is not gracious. The fact is just the opposite. He is absolutely gracious, yet at the same time He’s just.

J. Some Biblical examples of those in Scripture who have rejected truth.



- **Gen. 3:6** - Adam rejected truth (or God’s instructions) and ate the fruit. God was gracious/patient with Adam and talked with him. (**vs. 8-13**) But they did not acknowledge what they had done, instead they walked in unbelief, rejecting the truth, eventually attempted to shift the blame, and the result was death/separation/destruction.
- **Gen. 4:3-10** – It is rather clear from Scripture that both Cain and Abel knew what

kind of sacrifice it was that God wanted. Abel, by faith, came God’s way, however Cain did not believe God and therefore rejected truth, and came his own way. The outcome was that Cain’s sacrifice was not acceptable to God. Notice the patience, mercy and grace of God as He reasons with him in **verses 6-7**. However, Cain’s further rejection of God and His attempts to reason with him led to his death/separation/destruction. **Gen. 4:9-16**

- Moving on now to Noah and the time of the flood in **Gen. 6-7**. The people were very wicked and were not living life as God had intended. **Gen. 6:5, 11, 12** They, like Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel had also rejected God and truth. In **verses 3, 6, 7, 13**, we see God patiently, graciously, and lovingly warning them that He will give them 120 years to change their minds and accept His truth, or suffer the consequences. Of course we know the outcome.....Only Noah and his family who believed God and rested in His truth, and were not destroyed by the flood.

- **Gen. 11:1-11** – People at Babel - God had told Noah and the people to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth in **Gen. 9:1, 7**. However, here again we see man rejecting truth, and going his own way; and the outcome, again death/separation/destruction.

K. Biblical truth centers around Jesus Christ:

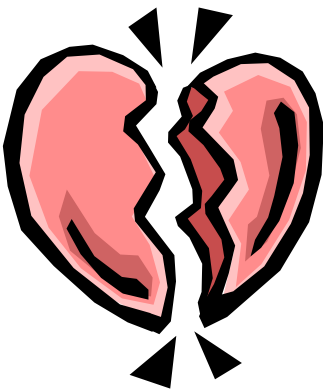
- He is “the way the **truth** and the life” - **John 14:6**. Christ came “full of grace and truth” - **John 1:14-17** If we reject truth, basically we are rejecting Jesus Christ Himself and “crucifying Him afresh and putting Him to open shame.” **Heb. 6:6**
- **Paul gives a strong warning: Gal. 1:6-9** - And again in **chapter 3:1-3**. May we not be deceived, misled or reject truth.

LESSON 2

“First Love”

A. The Church at Ephesus was a good church:

- **Rev 2:1-3** - A message to the Church at Ephesus. Notice again **vs. 2 & 3**; this was a good church, this was the church that the Apostle Paul spent more time with than any other church. They were a serving church, they were steadfast, separated and sacrificing; they were doing many good things. However, **verse 4**--they had left, not lost, but left their first love.....
- WHAT IS FIRST LOVE? First love is that initial relationship (honeymoon love) with Christ after salvation, with the result being a child-like faith.
- Notice in **verse 5**, we are told 3 things:
 1. “Remember therefore from where you have fallen.” Remember, what it was like when we first came to know Christ; we couldn’t wait to spend time in the Word learning more about Him, we couldn’t wait to pray and go to church.
 2. “Repent.” That word repent means to change one’s mind. Change the way your thinking and go back to the mind set you had in the beginning.
 3. “And do the first works.” The time that was spent in prayer, in the Word, enjoying the Savior; those were special times, we didn’t have to force it, it just came natural.
- Notice the end of **verse 5**; “or else I will come quickly and remove your lamp stand.” Christians are to be salt and light, and what I believe the Lord is saying here is that we will no longer be light to those who are around us.



B. Many Christian today have left their “first love”:

- Herein lies a picture of many Christians, many churches today, and as we look around the world, we see the same problem. Good loving Christian people who are struggling in their relationship with the Lord; struggling in their service to Him; struggling in their relationships with one another. These are good church-going folks who are beaten down by the problems of life. Many have lost their joy and zeal for the Lord, and as Rev. 2 says, have left their first love...consequently, God has put out their light.
- In many good Bible-teaching churches, there are a number of families who were at one time pillars of the church. Some were pastors, some elders, they were leading Bible studies in their homes and teaching on Sunday mornings; they were bringing people to

Christ, and bring people to church, but today, they have no interest in spiritual things. Many have separated from their spouses, their families have fallen apart, their children are struggling, and for the most part they no longer read the Bible or go to church...**they have left their first love.**

C. A sad, but true letter:

The following is a portion of a letter from a seminary student in India;
*"I'm doing fine except for having constant frustration over my defeats and failures. I struggle with sin. I know it's sin and I don't want to do it, but it has become an addiction. I feel this sudden compulsion, and there I fall. The lack of proper fellowship with believers also adds to my frustration. I feel lonely almost every day. Students here talk theology, think theology and also argue theology, but no one seems to have experienced God's love. We are all victims of intellectualism and badly need the medication of mutual love and concern. Four months from now, I will be graduating, but I have hardly learned a single thing in my practical Christian life. I've crammed my head with a lot of theology, but have declined in my social, spiritual and moral life. How on earth can I minister God's Word to others when the Word is not real to me? I was never in need of prayer as I am now. **I'm losing my faith.** It seems that Christianity is a list of do's and don't's. I've yet to taste true Christianity, so please pray for me.*

D. Racetrack Christianity:

- It appears that **Romans 10:2** points toward the problem. I heard a man describe this verse as "race track Christianity;" there is a lot of activity but no advance. We just keep going around, and around and get no where. Race track Christianity leads to one thing--burned out, beat down, faithless and fruitless Christians with no power in their lives to carry on.
- There is an often-used word in Christianity today, and that word is commitment. This word commitment carries with it the idea of serving the Lord though our own efforts, in our own power---commit your life to the Lord, we are told; re-commit your life; dedicate your life; re-dedicate your life. It's clear from Scripture, that this is not God's way to live the Christian life. (**Rom. 7:18; John 6:63**)



E. Same old problem:

- This is not a new problem, but rather a problem that has plagued the church since the beginning. **Galatians 3:1-3; Galatians 5:7** – (Similar situation as the Church in Ephesus that we saw in Rev. 2)

F. God's remedy for man's dilemma:

- What is the answer to race track Christianity? ***We're designed to run on God's power, not the power that we can crank out....*** Following are some
- Scriptures that might be a help: ***1 Cor 15:9, 10; Col 1:29; Phil 2:13.***
- Again, let's consider our earlier comment, "we're designed to run on God's power, not on the power that we can crank out." ***2 Cor 12:9, 10; Is 40:29-31.***
- There are many Christians today who are failing miserably in ministry due to the fact that they are running on their own power. Pastors, missionaries and Sunday School Teachers all over the world, are beat down, burned out, faithless and fruitless Christians. ***John 15:4-6; Acts 5:38,39.*** I WANT TO EMPHASIZE: IF IT IS A WORK OF MAN, IT WILL COME TO NOTHING. BUT IF IT IS A WORK OF GOD, YOU CAN'T STOP IT.

G. Our great need of a "Grace` Awakening"

- Possibly the greatest need in the church of Jesus Christ today is a grace awakening...***2 Peter 3:18***—"But grow in grace." Grace is the channel that God has chosen not only to save us, but also to empower our lives. Grace is a free gift from God, unmerited favor, God working for man...we do nothing for it. Everywhere we turn in our Bibles, we see God's grace. ***2 Cor. 9:8-14; John 1:14, 16-17; Titus 3:5-7***
- True Biblical Grace is much more than a mere prayer that is said at meals; ***Romans 5:17*** says, "Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will ***reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.***"...This understanding of God's Grace is foundational to Christianity...Furthermore, grace alone can free us not only from the penalty of sin, but also the power of sin...***Romans 6:14***



H. Grace defined and explained:

- God is made known to us as "the God of all grace", and the position in which we are placed is that of recipients of His grace... The word "favor" is the nearest Biblical synonym for the word "grace". Grace is favor, favor is grace, and it finds its greatest triumph and glory in the sphere of human helplessness. Grace ceases to be grace if God is compelled to withdraw it because of human failure or sin. In fact, grace cannot be exercised where there is the slightest degree of human merit to be recognized. ***Rom. 11:6***
- God cannot propose to do less in grace for one who is sinful than He would have done had that one been less sinful. The sin question has been set aside forever, and equal

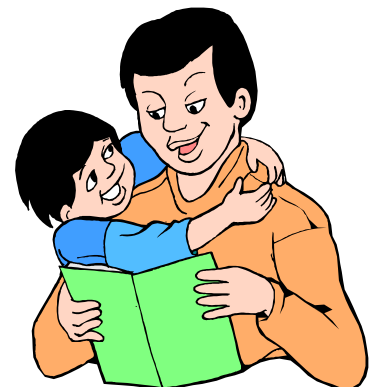
favor/grace is extended to all who believe. Thus, grace can not be increased, nor diminished.

I. Paul's emphasis on grace:

- God's grace is our greatest need. If we were to look at the 13 epistles of Paul in the New Testament, we would see that he begins each one with the same message, and ends with the same message. In each epistle, after the greeting, he makes this comment; "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." And he ends each epistle with this; "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."
- ***The first time we see this is in:***
Romans 1:7; Romans 16:24
1 Cor 1:3; 1 Cor 16:23
2 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor 13:14
Galatians 1:3; Galatians 6:18
Eph 1:2; Eph 6:24
Phil 1:2; Phil 4:23
Col 1:2; Col 4:18
1 Thess 1:1; 1 Thess 5:28
2 Thess 1:1,2; 2 Thess 3:18
1 Tim 1:2; 1 Tim 6:21
2 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 4:22
Titus 1:4; Titus 3:15
Philemon 1:3; Philemon 1:25
- Even Peter picks up on it; ***1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:2***. Finally, notice how the Lord has chosen to end the Bible. ***Rev 22:21***

J. Conclusion:

- How do we get God's grace? Child-like faith. ***Col 2:6; Rom 5:2***. I would like to leave you with this one last thought:
- ***OUR ONLY QUALIFICATION TO SERVE HIM IS GRACE, AND OUR ONLY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO BELIEVE. John 6:28, 29***

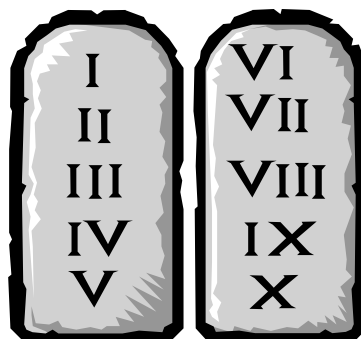


LESSON 3

“We’re not Under the Law, but Under Grace”

A. Christians are not under that “old Jewish legal system”.

- Let’s begin by looking at **Romans 6:14**. “We’re not the law, but under grace”. It might be helpful to the term “law” as used here in **Rom. 6:14**.
- Basically, the term “law” as used here, is referring to Jewish legal system, which required the people to the word, obey, and then they would receive the blessing. **Deut. 28:1-2** Basically we could say that the time of Christ, the Jews were working for God, because law begins by asking the question, “what must man do”? However, as we can see from **Rom. 6:14**, Christians are not under any “legal system” to gain acceptance or approval from God.



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B. A word of caution:

- Not being under the law, does not mean that we are free to feed our fleshly desires – **Gal. 5:13**. However, it does mean that we are free to walk with God, and live a life free from sin’s power through His strength, and not our own. **Rom. 6:14a**

C. A common error in Christianity:

- There appears to be a common error in Christianity today which is **co-mingling law and grace**. Lewis Sperry Chafer in his book “Grace the Glorious Theme” makes this comment: **“If it is not 100% grace, then it is law.”**



D. It is impossible to mix law and grace:

- No where in Scripture do we see the mixing of law and grace...it is impossible. **Romans 11:6; Matt 9:16, 17**-- Jesus didn’t come to patch up the old, He was offering something completely new. The new teaching of grace will not fit in the old teaching of the law.

E. Example – The twofold ministry of Christ:

- These two principles, **law** and **grace**, are totally separated even in the teachings of Christ. In order for us to get an understanding of this, let’s take a look at the two-fold ministry of Christ. **Romans 15:8,9** Notice **vs. 8**--to the Jews He was to fulfill the promises made to

the fathers, however **vs. 9** He was the minister of mercy to the Gentiles. Jesus had a unique relation to the nation of Israel. He was the one who fulfilled the great Messianic promises given only to the Jewish people. I find it very interesting what he said at the beginning of His ministry. **Matt 15:24**. He made a similar comment to His disciples in **Matt 10:5-7**. As a Jew, He personally acknowledged, kept, taught and enforced the law. However, as the Savior and hope of the world, He established a new way of life, which belongs to believers under grace.

- Speaking to a Jewish ruler, Jesus made this comment. **Matt. 19:17**. But when speaking to a group that would be saved by grace He said, **John 6:27-29**.
- Let's give some thought to this: Law begins by asking the question, what must man do? **Luke 10:28** Grace on the other hand begins with the question, what has God done? A good example would be **John 3:16**. "For God so loved the world that He gave." These two opposing principles law and grace, are not to be reconciled--there is a clear division between them.

F. The great debate:

- Let's turn now to a rather interesting Scripture. **Acts 15:1, 2 & 6-10**

The dispute here is over the law, and to place it on the children of grace is to test or provoke God. Notice **vs. 10** again: it is an unbearable yoke...It is unbearable!



G. Christ's yoke is an easy yoke:

- However, look at what Jesus says about walking by faith and living under grace.

Matthew 11:28-30. I want to point out a couple of things in this Scripture:

1. **Verse 29**--"take my yoke upon you." What is the only yoke that Jesus puts on us? It is a yoke of faith. Again, **Col 2:6**

In that same verse, He says "learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart." Jesus doesn't put a lot of demands on us; **2 Peter 1:3**—

NOTE: The phrase "**LEARN OF ME**" in Matt.11:29 and the "**through the knowledge of Him**" in 2 Pet 1:3.

2. **Verse 30**--His yoke is easy, as opposed to the unbearable "yoke of the law" in **Acts 15:10**.

H. Conclusion:

- Scripture is very clear, Christians are not to be entangled with the yoke of bondage (the law). I would like to end with this Scripture--**Galatians 5:1**.

LESSON 4

“As Jesus Was Sent into the World, so He Is Sending Us into the World”

A. Introduction:

- Let's begin by saying that Christianity is more than a religion, ***It's a way of life...*** And Jesus Christ is the very life content of the Christian faith.

B. Faithful is He who calls us, Who also will do it:

- ***1 Thess. 5:24*** Notice that the one who calls us, is the very one who will also carry out what He calls us to do. A good example of this is ***1 Thess. 4:7*** which says; “God has called us to holiness.” However, “faithful is He who calls us to live a holy life who will also do it.” ***2 Thess. 3:3-5***
- Another scripture that makes this real clear is ***Phil. 2:13***. We must begin to trust Jesus Christ, not only for the death that He died to redeem us, but also for the life that He lives and waits to live through us.
- ***Romans 5:10*** - Notice that we are reconciled (brought from the place of an enemy to the place of a friend) by His DEATH, however, this verse goes on to say that we are saved (the amplified version translates this word saved as daily delivered from sins dominion) by His life.

C. The same way we trusted Christ, we also must walk:

- We must become dependent upon the LIFE OF CHRIST within us. A key verse in all this is ***Colossians 2:6***. How did we come to know Him?



First step was knowing that we could not save ourselves.



Second, remember lesson #1; We had to have a KNOWLEDGE of what Jesus Christ had done for us.



Third, we believed, and received God's grace eternal life. Now the Lord is telling us here in ***Col. 2:6*** to walk the same way, **which begins** by coming to the end of our efforts to live the Christian life; **then** we must KNOW what Christ has done for us, and **believe** to receive.

- Give some thought to this, if it is indeed true that Jesus will live His life in and through us on earth today as He once lived His own life here on earth, then it is both interesting and necessary to discover how He lived then, so that we may know how He will live through us now.

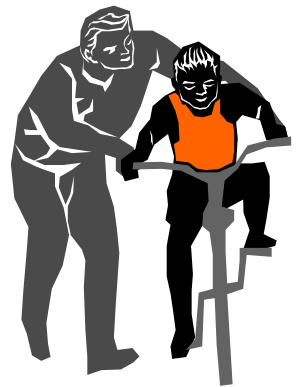
D. As Jesus was sent into the world by the Father, so is He sending us:

- Some scriptures to consider; **John 6:57; John 17:18 and John 20:21.**

All of these scriptures tell us, as Jesus was sent into this world by the Father, so He is sending us into the world.

E. Christ's example of a dependent life:

- The question now becomes, how was Jesus sent? These next 3 scriptures make it real clear that He was sent totally dependent upon the Father. **John 5:19 & 30; John 6:38; John 8:28.**
- Now I want to say this; we can do no more without Jesus, than He could do without the Father. (**John 15:5**) However, how much could the Father do through the Son?...Everything. **Jn. 14:10** How much can Jesus Christ do through you and me? Everything. **Phil. 4:13**



How was Jesus sent? Dependent upon the Father. How are we sent? **John 6:28, 29**

F. Jesus was man as God intended man to be:

- Jesus Christ is all that we need to know about God: **John 1:1**. Although He was in the beginning with God and was God and is God, when He came to earth, He became man; but He became man as God intended man to be and acted as God intended man to act--walking day by day in that relationship to the Father which God had always intended should exist between man and Himself.
- In the same way, Jesus Christ is sending us into the world to live our lives as God intended man to live, and act as God intended man to act, walking day by day in that relationship to Jesus which God had always intended would exist between man and Himself.
- Give some thought to this: all the inexhaustible grace of God is available to the man who by faith makes himself available to God. **Romans 12:1** And Jesus Christ was that man. **John 8:28, 29** Totally available to the Father--total dependence--perfect faith. **Philippians 2:6-8**

G. Conclusion:

- **Romans 11:36**--Of the Father--Through the Father--To the Father. That was the life of Christ on the earth from Bethlehem all the way to the Mount of Olives. And as the Father sent the Son, so is He sending us. Our relationship to Jesus Christ must be what His relationship to the Father was.
- God's will for our lives can only be fulfilled in the energy and power of Jesus Christ who indwells us, as He once walked in the energy and power of the Father who indwelt Him.
- It's **of Him, through Him, and to Him**...that's what Paul meant in **Philippians 1:21**.

LESSON 5

“Christ’s Example of Walking by Faith – Feeding the Five Thousand”

A. Introduction:

- Someone once said, “It is not difficult to live the Christian life, it is impossible... That is without Jesus Christ.”
- However; **Romans 8:17— Joint heirs with Jesus**--Everything that He is and everything that He has, is ours if we simply trust, and rest, and walk by faith in dependence upon Him. We must believe to receive what has already been done for us. **Hebrews 4:2 & Romans 5:2** (Access by faith into the grace in which we presently stand.)

B. Faith is all that it takes to live the Christian life:

- All that Jesus is, is available to us as we walk by faith, and faith is all that it takes to live the Christian life. **Col. 2:6,7**
- Way back in the book of Genesis, Abraham learned this, and it’s interesting what Paul had to say about him. **Rom. 4:19-21**. Again, faith is all that it takes to live the Christian life, and this was the lesson that Jesus wanted to teach His disciples in the feeding of the 5,000; but they, like us, were very slow to learn.

C. Five thousand people, and they are all hungry:

In **Mark 6** we have the story of Jesus feeding the 5000.

- **Mk. 6: 34-36** - To the disciples, this seemed like the only sensible thing to do...send them away to get something to eat.
- **Matt. 14:21** (5,000 men plus women and children) This was a very large group of people, and to the disciples, there appeared to be no alternative but to send them away...however...notice Jesus’ response in **vs. 37a**; “You give them something to eat.” But look at the disciples response in **vs. 37b**. What they were really saying was; It is impossible for us to find enough food to feed all these people... Impossible, well yes, that’s true, humanly speaking, and that is exactly why Jesus was going to do it. He was going to show them how to do the impossible.

D. If there is any human explanation for our lives, we are not living the Christian life.

- The Christian life can only be explained in terms of Jesus Christ. If there is any human explanation for our lives, if we can explain our lives in terms of human effort, or will power, or talents or money or courage, or intellect, or dedication or sacrifice, then although we may possess the Christian life, we are not living it.

- If the way we live our lives as Christians can be explained in human terms, then there is no difference between us and our unsaved neighbors or co-workers, because the way they live their lives can be humanly explained also. Therefore the only difference they see is that we are religious.

E. Philip's solution:



- Let's turn to **John 6** and another account of the feeding of the 5,000 to see how Jesus fed all these people. **John 6:5,6** Notice Philip's response in **vs 7**. There was absolutely no thought in his mind of the miraculous; his only solution was money. As far as he was concerned, Jesus didn't even factor into this. Had a materialistic atheist been consulted instead of Philip, the first question that he would have asked would have been, "How much money do you

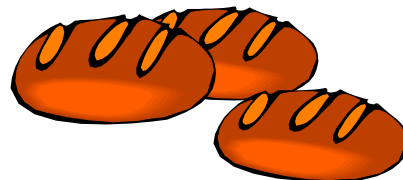
have?" **No difference between the atheist and Philip.**

- Philip had not learned to depend on Jesus. To him, their financial resources were all important...Jesus Christ was unimportant.
- It might be good to stop here and ask, "In the last 48 hours, in every situation of life, have we taken Jesus Christ into account, or have we, like Philip, considered Him unimportant?"

F. A boy and a lunch bag:

- Back in **Mark 6** and the disciples. **Vs 38a**--notice Jesus' response to the disciples, "**GO AND SEE.**" Now when they went to see, Andrew found a small boy with a lunch bag, but like Philip, notice his response.

John 6:8,9--Again there was no dependence on Christ. **John 6:10-13**, Why 12 baskets? Possibly one for each of the doubting disciples.



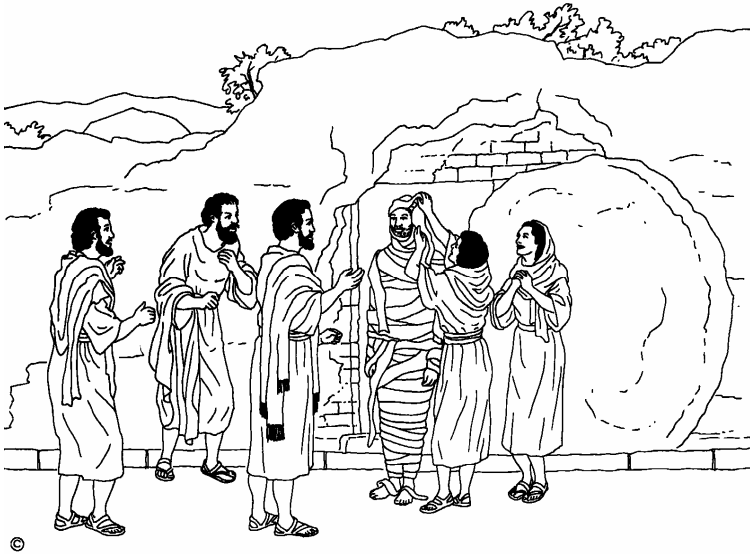
G. A miracle:

- **John 6: 14**--A MIRACLE--Absolutely no human explanation. Now there was a secret to this miracle that Jesus performed. A secret that He wanted to share with His disciples and He also wants to share with us...to miss this, is to miss the object of this whole scripture.

H. By faith:

- Let's look again at **John 6:11**. Who did Jesus thank? Who was He depending on? God, the Father. Remember **John 5:19 & 30** that we discussed in the previous lesson? In all of this, how much do you think His disciples learned? NOTHING! Not one single thing; and we'll see that shortly.

I. By faith, Jesus raises Lazarus:



- It might be helpful for us to look at one more example of how Jesus did the impossible before we move on.
- In **John 11**, Jesus is faced with another impossible situation. His friend Lazarus is dead--**John 11:38-44**. As we said, another impossible situation, however, just as Jesus fed the 5,000, here again He simply thanked His Father (**vs. 41**) and then in total dependence upon Him, He stood before that grave and cried "Lazarus come forth." An interesting thought to ponder; what if

Jesus had not said the name Lazarus? **John 5:28** gives us our answer; every grave on earth would have emptied.

J. Jesus sends the disciples away:

- Turn back again to **Mark 6:44, 45**. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples away? Well, it could be that He sent them away because they learned nothing from the feeding of the 5,000. **Mark 6:51, 52**--Their hearts had become dull and callused, and they had lost their ability to understand. **Mark 8:17-21**--Here they were, called to be apostles, the closest companions of our savior; they lived and walked and talked with Him, and yet their hearts had become callused and hard. However, oh the grace, mercy and patience of Jesus Christ. After witnessing first hand the miraculous, and learning nothing, Jesus ever so patiently gave the disciples one more opportunity to learn the same lesson; only this time in a different setting.

K. By faith Jesus, as well as Peter, walked on water:

- After having been sent away, they found themselves in the midst of a stormy sea. **Matt. 14:21-24**--With their backs bent to the oars, and every muscle aching, they battled that storm; and in the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them doing the impossible.

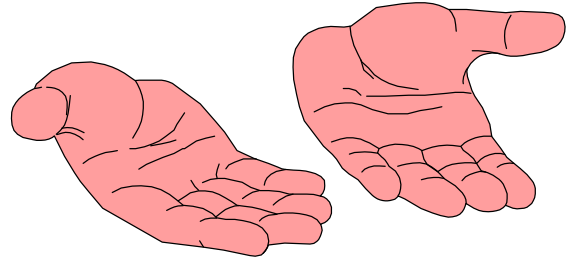
Matt. 14:25--How did He do the impossible? How did He walk on water? He did it the same way He fed the 5,000 and raised Lazarus from the dead. In faith, He depended on the Father one step at a time. **Matt. 14:26-29**--When Jesus said to Peter "Come." by faith he stepped over the side and did the impossible...by faith in Jesus Christ, the impossible becomes possible.

L. Peter's faith faded, and he sunk:

- However, **vs. 30**--suddenly becoming aware of all his uncontrollable circumstances, Peter's focus/faith faded from Christ and down he went. **Vs 31**--"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Did the disciples learn anything this time? I think so—**vs. 32, 33**.

M. A concluding question:

- A rather interesting question to ponder is; Are we trusting, and resting, and walking by faith in dependence upon Jesus, or are we, like Philip and Andrew, seeing Him as unimportant?
1 Cor. 2:1,2



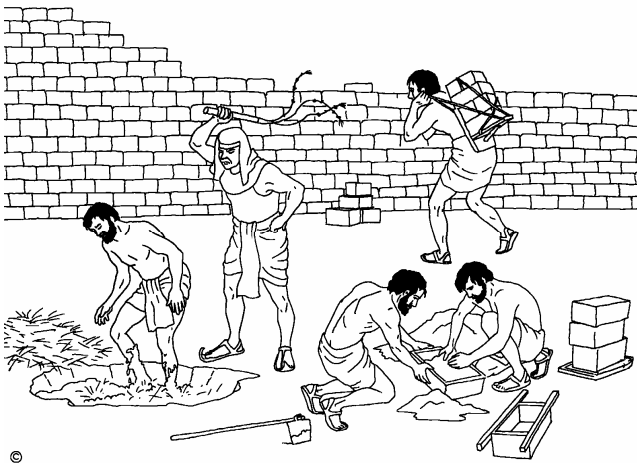
FBC BIBLE LESSON 6

“Out of Egypt, But Wandering in a Wilderness”

A. Introduction:

- One of the most remarkable stories in the Bible is the story of how God brought His people Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness and into the land of Canaan (The Promised Land). It appears that the Holy Spirit, through this episode, is giving us a key to understanding how God works in our lives today. (A physical example that teaches a spiritual truth.)
- **Romans 15:4** tells us that the Old Testament was written for our learning:
- **I Cor. 10:6 & 11** says that it was written as an example and an admonition or warning. What does it mean to be in the land of Egypt? What does it mean to be in the wilderness? What does it mean to be in Canaan?

B. A hopeless situation:



- The children of Israel were enslaved for over 400 years to the Egyptians. They suffered bitterly at the hands of cruel taskmasters, and although there were many Hebrews, they remained powerless to deliver themselves from slavery. **Ex. 1:8-16**...Truly a hopeless situation...But this is a picture of an unsaved man. **Eph. 2:11,12**.

C. Born spiritually dead/separated from God:

- At the fall, when Adam sinned, God withdrew His Holy Spirit from man's human spirit and although man retained his body and soul, he was spiritually dead; empty of God, for God had left him. As the absence of physical life means physical death, so the absence of spiritual life means spiritual death; and it is in this condition of spiritual death that we are born. We are born enemies of God, with a sin nature or inbred wickedness. **Rom. 5:6-10a**
- **Mark 7:20-23**--In this Scripture, Jesus is referring to man's sin nature/the flesh. Now in the Old Testament, the nation of Egypt represents man's natural or unsaved condition; Egypt was an enemy of God, a wicked nation. We could even go so far as to say that the Egyptian taskmasters represent the flesh and it's cruel control over our soul. **Romans**

7:19,20--It's obvious from Scripture, that God no more wants us to live in this spiritual death than He wanted the Israelites to live in Egyptian bondage. So God raised up Moses, a type of Christ, and commanded the people to take a lamb without blemish and slay it. **Ex. 12:1-13**

D. By faith, apply the blood:



- All that God wanted from His people was for them, by faith, to apply the blood to the doorpost and over the door, and then to rest in His promise. All that God asks of us is to apply the death/blood of Christ by faith, to our own hopeless situation (unable to save ourselves), and then rest in His promise of forgiveness. **John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7**

E. Out of Egypt and safely through the place of death:

- Back to the Israelites... God by the hand of Moses, led His people out of Egypt and through the Red Sea, but when the Egyptian Taskmasters tried to follow, they were drowned. The enemy was buried in that place of death, but God's people passed on through the place of death supposing to enter a new life in a new land. **1 Cor. 10:1,2**...Compare this Scripture to **Romans 6:3,4**.....
- Just as the Egyptian Taskmasters were left buried in the place of death from which the children of God were raised miraculously, so we, by faith, identify ourselves with Jesus Christ and go with Him positionally into that place of death leaving the old sin nature buried there.
- Two things happened at the cross:
 1. We were saved from sin's penalty...Christ died for us (salvation).
 2. We were saved from sin's power, **Romans 6:6, 11, 14**...our sin nature died with Him.

F. At salvation, God restores the Spirit to man:

- According to scripture, my old nature (taskmaster) that used to control my behavior (soul: mind, will, emotions) has been crucified. By faith, I am to reckon it to be so. If this is true then what is to take its place as the controlling factor of my life? **John 14:17; Col. 1:27-29; Gal. 5:16**

- At salvation, God restores the Holy Spirit to our human spirit, which was removed at the fall.
- Actually, the Holy Spirit produces the life of Christ moment by moment day by day as we, by faith, walk in dependence upon Him. We become partakers of His divine nature. **2 Peter 1:3,4** - And everything that is possible to Jesus, is now possible for me. **Phil. 4:13; Rom. 8:17.**

G. Our promise land is a place of spiritual abundance:

- An interesting thought to ponder is that the Holy Spirit, who gives us everything pertaining to life and godliness (**2 Pet. 1:3**) including the fruit of the Spirit (**Gal. 5:22-23**) as well as producing the life of Christ within each believer while we are on this earth, is our Promise Land, our land of Canaan. Canaan in the Bible for the Israelites was not heaven, but rather a physical place of abundance. Neither is our Canaan heaven, however it is a place of spiritual abundance; It is Jesus Christ, right now, living His victorious life in and through us. He gives His strength for our weakness; His wisdom for our foolishness; His joy for our sorrow; this is our Canaan...brought out of bondage to enter into a new life in a new land. This was God's purpose for His people then as it is for His people now. Out of Egypt/through the Red Sea/walking in newness of life.



H. Unbelief produces a self-inflicted wilderness under the controlling influence of a defeated foe, the flesh:

- Why then, do so many Christians fail to enter Canaan (*that place of spiritual abundance*) and instead live in the wilderness? To answer that question, we must ask this question: why did the Israelites spend 40 years in the wilderness? **Numbers 13:1-14:34—**
- The Israelites, just like many Christians today, lived in a self-inflicted wilderness. Every day they spent in the wilderness, was a day that they could have spent in Canaan, for God had given them the land. (Just as He has given to us **2 Pet. 1:3**) However, the Israelites refused to believe that the God who brought them out of bondage was the God who could bring them into the Promised Land.
- The wilderness is a picture of a Carnal Christian. He is saved. He has the Holy Spirit indwelling him; however, in spite of all this, he lives in a self imposed poverty under the controlling influence of a defeated foe (the flesh) which Christ took to the grave with Him (**Romans 6:6**). We are just like the children of Israel who lived for 40 years controlled by

an enemy whom God had buried in the depths of the Red Sea. The unbelief of the children of Israel cheated them out of a God blessed life that the Lord had prepared for them in Canaan. In the same way, there is nothing quite so pathetic as a Christian who has been given everything pertaining to life and godliness, and yet through ignorance or unbelief flounders around in this life with no direction or purpose because he will not, by faith, appropriate God's grace. (A good definition for the word "appropriate"--to take possession of what already belongs to us.)

I. Faith from start to finish:

- Forty weary years it took before God, through Joshua, was able to teach His people that to get in takes the same faith that it took to get out. This brings to mind **Col. 2:6** that we have mentioned before....
- ***In closing, let's consider the following scripture--Gal. 3:1-3.***

LESSON 7

“Moses, a Man with Half a Message”

A. Introduction:

- The book of Deuteronomy could be looked at as one of the saddest books in the Bible because it is the last will and testament of a rather disappointed man (Moses).
- It is actually the record of all that Moses had to say to the children of Israel on the first day of the 11th month of the 40th year of their wandering in the wilderness.

B. In the wilderness:

- **Deut 1:1**--Notice where they were; this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah (which is the plain over against the Red Sea). Here they were, on the wrong side of the Jordan and just barely on the right side of the Red Sea, and this was 40 years after Moses had led them out of Egypt. Of those who died in the wilderness, it is written in **Hebrews 3** that they could not enter in because of unbelief **Hebrews 3:17-19**.

C. Unbelieving believers:

- It is a sobering thought to realize that Moses also died in the wilderness numbered among the **unbelieving believers**... Those who had faith enough to get out of Egypt, but not faith enough to get into the promised land. In many respects, Moses was what many might term a spiritual giant. **Numbers 12:3; Numbers 12:6-8; Deut. 34:10**
- It would seem if ever a man deserved to get into the promised land, it was Moses. But he died in the wilderness. **Deut. 34:7**--Notice there was no physical cause of death...Moses died too young. **Deut. 34:5,6**--It is obvious that God loved Moses, and It would appear when we get to heaven, he will be numbered among the all time great saints. His name is mentioned in God's hall of fame in **Hebrews 11**. It is also obvious from **Luke 9:28-31** that God held him in high esteem, and yet in all of this, we see the severe treatment of Moses by God which clearly emphasizes the importance that God places on faith. **Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 10:38**
- **Hebrews 11:24-29**- It appears from this Scripture, that Moses could only trust God so far. “By faith Moses; by faith; by faith; by faith: all the way through his life until coming out of the Red Sea, and then scripture immediately goes to Joshua. I'm reminded of Peter in **Matthew 14** who “by faith” could walk on water until in **verse 30** when it says that “he saw the wind boisterous,” until he became aware of all his uncontrollable circumstances and down he went.

D. Moses died a disappointed man:

- A rather interesting thought to consider regarding Moses is that, here was a man who was a great leader, a great preacher, a great administrator, a man of noble character, a man with high and holy ambitions and yet in spite of all this, he died a disappointed man, sick of his ministry, sick of the people that he ministered to and they were equally sick of him. What happened?

E. From the Desert of Sin to the Desert of Zin:



- Remember when Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea and there was no water? God commanded him to strike the rock; this took place in the wilderness of sin...then 38 years later, the Israelites came to the Wilderness of Zin and again there was no water...In 38 years, all that Moses had accomplished was to lead his people from one location in the wilderness to another. From the desert of Sin to the desert of Zin, but still in the desert.

- Often times we hear people say that they need a change in their lives. They think a call to a new pastorate, or a change of mission fields, or occupations or geographical locations will fix them. However, if we are living in the wilderness, we'll be as useless, frustrated and bored in one part of the desert as another.

F. Why have you led us to this evil place:

- **Numbers 20:2-5**-- After sitting under Moses' leadership and teaching for nearly 40 years, all they could say of the place that he had led them was that it was an evil place. What about pastors, and missionaries, and Sunday school teachers, and parents today; are the people that we are leading equally as disappointed...are we leading them to an evil place?

G. Speak to the Rock:

- **Numbers 20:7-8**--Here God tells Moses to speak to the rock. **1 Cor. 10:4** What was Moses told to do 38 years before in Horeb (wilderness of Sin)? Smite the rock, which was an Old Testament picture of "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Now here, the Lord tells him to speak to the rock; by faith just ask and trust Jesus. A picture of the resurrected Jesus who ascended to the Father & intercedes for us. **Heb. 7:24-25; & 10:12** God's

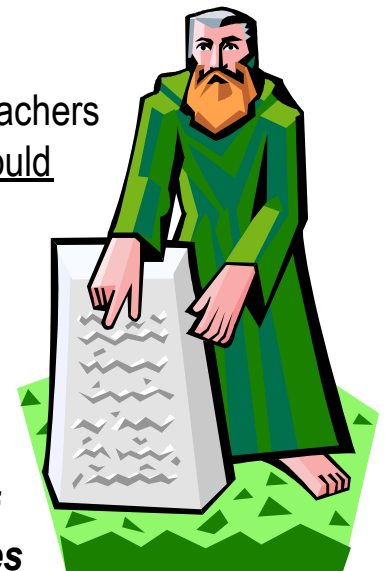
instructions were very clear...The Rock (Jesus), was never to be struck, or smitten, or crucified again. **Hebrews 10:14.**

H. "Hear now you rebels:"

- Back to Moses. **Numbers 20:10**--Is that how the Lord would have us speak to our people after nearly 40 years of ministry? Notice again what he said. "Hear now you rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" God never told Moses to fetch (Human effort) water out of the rock; God merely told him to speak to the Rock and the Rock would give all the water that they needed. **John 7:38**
- *Christ the Rock:*
 1. We are reconciled to God by the death of Jesus (The Smitten Rock). **Rom. 5:10, 11**
 2. We walk in newness of life (enter the promised land) by His life lived in and through us. (The Living Rock) **Romans 6:3,4**

I. Half a message produces half a job:

- **Numbers 20:11**--Moses was much like many preachers and teachers today. He was a man with only half a message, therefore he could only do half a job. He got them out, but he couldn't get them in. Saved, but not walking in newness of life.
- Moses preached, threatened, rebuked, encouraged them, and with tireless integrity he stood in the gap to intercede for them; but repeatedly, they murmured and grumbled and turned away from the Lord in unbelief.
- It appears that this is a solemn warning to all of us from God. **If we preach half a message, we'll do half a job and like Moses we'll be loaded with a bunch of spiritual babies spending our time filling their bottles and pushing them around in the wilderness.**



J. Heaven some day, but the wilderness now:

- **Numbers 20:12**--"Because you believed me not." An unbelieving believer...this was the sin of Moses...his gospel was never more than "come to Jesus and have your sins forgiven"...it was a message of "heaven some day, but the wilderness now". He left Christ on the cross; he knew nothing of the saving life of Christ. The Christ who died for us, rose again to live in us. **Gal. 2:20**

K. Conclusion:

- **Joshua 1:1,2**--Notice what God said..."Moses my servant is dead, therefore arise and go." In other words, because my servant is dead, now you can go. It would almost

appear that the final obstacle for entry into the Promised Land by the Israelites was Moses himself. The man who built the church in wilderness, buried it in the wilderness. Moses did his best, his very best; and that was his greatest mistake--for God was waiting to do His best and give what only can be given from the resurrected Living Rock. (A new life in a new land.)

- ***Jn. 10:10***
- What kept Moses out? ***UNBELIEF***. What got Joshua in? ***FAITH. Jn. 6:28-29***

LESSON 8

“Out of Egypt, and Finally into the Promised Land”

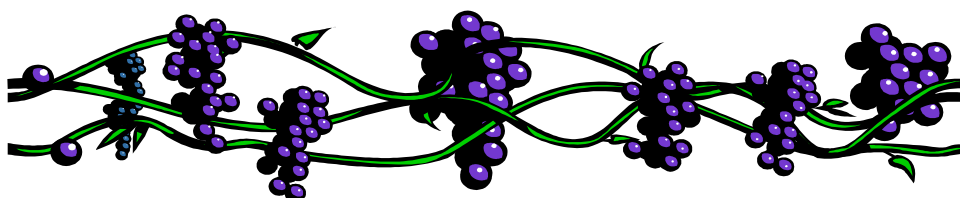
A. Introduction:

- It might be good to begin with a very familiar verse: **John 8:32**. Spiritual freedom takes place when we know and rest in the truth.
- Now let's turn back to **Joshua 1:1-3**. Forty years had passed since God had brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt, and now Moses their leader was dead; but God had not changed His mind about taking the Israelites into the Promised Land. **Numbers 23:19**

B. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you:

- **Joshua 1:5**--The principle that God used to get the Israelites out of Egypt is the same principle that He would use to get them into the promised land. “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.” **Joshua 1:9b**-- That is all we need to know. God is with me... **1 Thess. 5:24/Hebrews 13:5**

C. Promised Land:



- Incidentally, Israel's Promised Land was a physical place; a place where everything was beautiful, everything was provided and their enemies were at peace with them. **Deut. 8:7-9**--However, keep in mind that our Promised Land is not so; our Promised Land is not a physical place, but rather a place of spiritual abundance. A place where the fruit of the Spirit is produced (love, joy, peace, etc., **Galatians 5:22,23**. Our Promised Land has nothing to do with our physical circumstances, but as Paul states in **Philippians 4:11**, “I have learned to be content in whatever situation I am in.”

D. Can Joshua do in three days, what Moses couldn't in forty years?

- Back to the Israelites. **Joshua 1:10,11**--Can you imagine what some of these people must have been thinking? Is this big-headed young fellow going to try and do in 3 days what Moses couldn't do in 40 years? Of course the answer is that Joshua wasn't going to try and do anything, He was simply trusting God to do what He said He would.

E. The enemy is a defeated foe:

- So on the 3rd day, early in the morning, they were to go in. Remember what else happened on the 3rd day early in the morning. In the meantime, Joshua sent out some men to spy out the land; **Joshua 2:1,9-11** It's interesting to give thought to what the Lord appears to be telling us here? For 40 years, the inhabitants of Canaan were a defeated foe. They had given up the day they heard how the Lord dried up the Red Sea for them. They had become convinced that the God of Israel was God of heaven above and earth below...the only thing that had amazed them was that the Israelites had taken so long to possess what God had given them.
- Here in lies an example, a warning to us. A great majority of we Christians have been cheating ourselves out of a victory that Jesus Christ won over 1900 years ago when He rose from the dead to live His life in and through us. An interesting thought is that our enemies: the world, flesh and devil also know that they are defeated. **Col. 2:15; Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57**

F. Finally, they are in:

- **Joshua 3:13-17**--They were out, and now finally, they were in. Remember back to the time when they went through the Red Sea? How did they get through? They merely walked up to the water and stood still, then He divided the water and they passed through on dry land. How did they get through the Jordan? They put their feet in the water and stood still, then He divided the water and they passed through on dry land. How much more difficult was it to get into Canaan than it was to get out of Egypt? No more difficult, but it took them 40 years to figure it out.

G. As it is with the Israelites, so it is with us:

- Let's look at a very important verse that is the basis for this Christian life--**Col. 2:6** As it was with the Israelites, so it is with us...it's that simple.
- How did we get out of our Egypt (saved)/ **How** do we get in? **Col. 2:6**
- How did we get out? **Romans 5:1**--How do we get in? **Romans 5:2**

H. Joshua and the walls of Jericho:

- There is one more thought to consider regarding the Israelites before we move on. **Joshua 5:13-15**-- Joshua had gone out to survey the walled city of Jericho and to make plans for taking the city. Suddenly he became aware of the presence of a man with a sword in his hand, and in so many words, Joshua said to him; "whose side are you on? Are you on our side or their side? Notice the man's response--**Joshua 14a**--his answer was, " No, I am neither on your side nor their side; I have come as the Captain of the Host

of the Lord”. In other words, “I didn’t come to take sides, I came to take over.” **Joshua 5:14b, 15**

I. Concluding remarks:

- It’s interesting to consider that in the Promised Land, we are not to make plans, hoping that God will be on our side. Jericho is not our problem, it’s God’s; and all that we are to do is, by faith, present our bodies as living sacrifices (**Romans 12:1**) to the man with the sword in his hand. So Joshua fell down and worshipped (presented his body as a living sacrifice); and of course, we know the outcome.... **Joshua 6:1-21.**



