

Destroying Sin In Your Life

- Judges 1:1-2

- **It is an absolute joy to see each of you here this morning. We have been blessed by the worship service this morning & how God has already spoken to our hearts.**
- **But now we have come to the time where we open the Word of God & ask Him to not only speak to us, but convict our hearts & drive us to make some decisions in our lives today.**
 - If you are saved this morning, you have asked Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins, Praise God! We rejoice with you this morning. But there is still room in our lives where God needs to work & I trust that you will allow God to work this morning.
 - Perhaps there is one this morning who is not saved, what an awesome opportunity God has given to you today to not only hear the Gospel message, but He has given you an opportunity to accept Him today.
- **This morning we will be discussing the topic, Destroying Sin In Your Life.**
 - Church, one of the issues that we must always be mindful of is never harboring or making room for sin in our lives. As a Christian, I don't believe we have to live in fear of being overtaken by sin; but at the same time, it would be foolish to think we are above any sin either.
 - I am thankful this morning that no matter what sin I may be tempted with, the Bible tells me that I have an Anchor, I have a Rock, I have a Stronghold that I can place my trust in to see me through.
 - Psalm 18:2 – “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”
 - Nahum 1:7 – “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”
 - Amen? I am thankful that even when I am weak, even when I may be gripped by the vices of Satan, I can call upon the Lord who will hear me & deliver me in my time of trouble.
 - But there is another type of stronghold that we must be mindful of. There is a stronghold of sin that Satan seeks to place in your life. It is that thing that is opposed to the will of God, and everything that is opposed to the will of God, must be destroyed.
- **In our scripture this morning, the children of Israel had failed to Destroy Sin in their own land, something that many Christians & believers alike are also failing to do still today.**

1. You Must Seek God (v.1)

- Joshua is now off the scene. He has died, but he has been an example best he could to this generation as they have been led to the Promised Land. Though they have reached the Promised Land, they still have not possessed the Promised Land.
- The Book of Judges begins with a series of victories and defeats that took place after the death of Joshua.
 - The boundary lines for the twelve tribes had been determined years before and each tribe was responsible for cleaning out the remaining enemy. But the people had not fulfilled their obligation & had allowed the enemy to remain.
 - When Joshua was an old man, the Lord said to him, "Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." ([Josh. 13:1](#)).
 - The people of Israel *owned* all the land, but they didn't *possess* all of it; and therefore they couldn't *enjoy* all of it.
- The moment we are saved, we too have the privilege of abiding in the Promises that God has in store for us here on this earth.
 - We are walking in the righteousness of Christ, standing on the promises, claiming His Word.

- We march through our lives fighting and warring against the spiritual enemies, but we can't stop there. We have to continue on our conquest and drive out all the inhabitants of the land.
- "But Preacher why? Why is it important to drive even the smallest enemies out of our lives?" This is why,
 - Numbers 33:55-56 – "But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.
 - They shall be a torment to you until you give in to their ways and dwell in peace with them.
- You and I as the children of God cannot live in peace with indwelling sin. For sin always destroys.
- As a child of God if we have sin in our lives, I am pleased to tell you that there is a Remedy. We must wash in the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin.
- Some might say, the inhabitants are too many, the enemies are too strong, but the Word of God promises to deliver us,
 - Joshua 3:10 – "And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites."
- Remember church, the enemy is way too strong for you & I. It is God that will drive him out, that will cleanse, that will deliver, that will forgive and give you the victory.

2. Choose God Over Sin

- **There is a startling verse that is found in the book of Judges that is a haunting verse b/c of the truth that it displays even in our world today.**
 - Judges 21:25 – "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."
 - This was God's people. These were the ones who had been taught to do what was right. They had been taught to fear God & love Him above all others. They had a Godly example who paved the way for this generation to be in the position they were in.
 - Yet they were willing to squander all of that b/c they were more concerned about what they wanted than anything else.
 - Folks come to church, they hear the Word of God preached, they know what is right & wrong ... yet they STILL choose to live their own life, go their own way & do whatever makes them happy.
 - Now I will tell you, if you claim to be a Christian & that is the type of direction your life is heading in today, don't expect God to bless you.
 - Young people, let me be clear. You have a Pastor who loves you, a Youth Team of leaders that cares of you, parents that are trying to help guide your life according to the Word of God, if they are warning you about sin or situations that could harm you physically or spiritually & you ignore all of the warnings, don't expect God to bless your life. Destruction is imminent.
 - Church, we form relationships here at this church, we are like family in many ways. But our relationship with God cannot be guided by relationships nor what we prefer to do in our lives. In must be in accordance with God's Holy Word.
 - At Mount Sinai, the Lord had called Israel unto Him & he sought to be their Lord & in Exodus 19 Moses reaffirmed God's place of priority in their lives. Joshua stood before the people & explained to Israel their responsibilities & set an example that he & his family would serve the Lord, even if they had to do it alone.

- God had blessed them, He had continued to provide for them, God protected them, and their only responsibility was to
 - love God & obey Him.
 - teach your children God's laws
 - be thankful for God's blessings
 - and separate yourself from the worship of the pagan gods in the land of Canaan.
- But they couldn't do it, they couldn't pledge to "seek first the kingdom of God"; they would rather experiment with the idolatry of the godless nations around them. As a result, Israel plunged into moral, spiritual, and political disaster.
- Proverbs 14:34 – "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."
 - The moment we as Christians begin choosing sin over God, we are headed for destruction.
 - The moment a church begins condoning sin instead of standing firm against it, that church will see the hand of God move from it.
 - The moment a country turns against the principles of God's Word & begin seeking their own ways, the very foundation on which that country stands will crumble & it will be destroyed.
- God help us this morning to never Choose Sin Over God.

3. Don't Spare The Enemy (v.21, 27-36)

a. They Partnered With Their Enemies

- i. It wasn't just that they did not obey God that makes this situation so bad; but it was that they wound up partnering with the enemy & instead of influencing them, they became more like them.
- ii. Throughout Chapter 1 what we see is a group of tribes that failed to follow completely the commands of God & it resulted in a lack of freedom in the land.
 1. Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan all failed to overcome the enemy and had to allow these godless nations to continue living in the land that God had promised them.
 2. The enemy chased the tribe of Dan out of the plains into the mountains!
 3. The Jebusites remained in Jerusalem ([v. 21](#)), and the Canaanites who remained were finally pressed "into forced labor" when the Jews became stronger ([v. 28](#)).
- iii. Eventually Solomon agreed to enlist the Canaanite people to build the temple ([1 Kings 9:20-22](#); [2 Chron. 8:7-8](#)), but they continued to cause issues for the Jewish people.
- iv. This series of defeats was the first indication that Israel was no longer walking by faith and trusting God to give them victory.

b. They Neglected God's Word

- i. The priests possessed a copy of the Book of Deuteronomy and were commanded to read it publicly to the nation every year during the Feast of Tabernacles ([Deut. 31:9-13](#)). Had they been faithful to do their job, the spiritual leaders would have read [Deuteronomy 7](#) and warned the Israelites not to spare their pagan neighbors.
- ii. The priests also would have reminded the people of God's promises that He would help them defeat their enemies ([Deut. 31:1-8](#)).
- iii. How did Moses grow in faith? How did Joshua grow in faith? How can you & I grow in our faith? They grew in faith by reading & obeying the Word of God, and that same Word would have enabled the new generation to overcome their enemies and claim their inheritance.
 1. II Timothy 4:3-4 – "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers,

having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

- iv. I fear that too many believers today are trying to live on religion & listening to entertaining teachers who give people what they want, not what they need. Is it any wonder many churches aren't experiencing God's power at work in their ministries?

4. Repent Before God

- Judges 2:1-4 – “And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.”
- Judges 2:7 – “And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.”
- Though Israel sinned greatly against God, God is a God of forgiveness. He loved them, He cared for them, and though they failed God often, He still forgave Him if they came in repentance.
 - The same is true for you & I today.
 - God does not want you to leave this life & go to a place called Hell. God is not mad at you & seeking to punish you b/c of your sins.
 - The Bible tells us that God is a loving God; He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish.
 - But He is a just God & the issue of sin has to be dealt with, it has to be judged.
 - But this is where Jesus comes before the throne & offers His blood for our sins.
 - Jesus Christ loved this world enough that He gave of His own life, a sinless life, a perfect life, so that you & I would not have to go to a place called Hell.
 - The requirement? Just accept His death & His blood as payment for your sin.
 - Romans 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”