

JOSHUA AND CALEB BELIEVED GOD

For the LORD had said of them, they shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun - Num26:65

Caleb and Joshua were among the twelve men who went into the land of Canaan to spy out the land and its people and bring the report to Moses (Num13:17). Ten men brought an evil and unbelieving report, they said, "*We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we*" (Num13:31). God gave the nation forty years in the wilderness for their unbelief (Num14:28-35).

Caleb and Joshua believed God and said, "*Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it*" (Num13:30). None that were numbered among the men from age twenty and older entered into the promise land with exception of Caleb (the faithful dog) and Joshua (the faithful Saviour). This is another glorious picture of the gospel of Christ. None will enter into glory but the Saviour and those sinners (dogs) for whom He died (Rom5:5-9). Christ the forerunner has entered in for us and every believer will enter upon His merits alone (Heb6:18-20).

However, there is another picture of the gospel here. The scripture says of both Caleb and Joshua that they had another spirit (Num14:24;27:18). It was not the spirit and attitude of unbelief, but that spirit of faith that honours and glorifies God. It is said of Abraham, "*He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God*" (Rom4:20-21).

Something else is also said of Caleb and Joshua, "*they have wholly followed the LORD*" (Num32:12). Faith and conduct cannot be separated. One preacher of the past said, "*Faith is the mother of obedience.*" Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ puts another spirit and attitude in the sinner, that spirit of

love, obedience, devotion, hope and confidence in the Lord (Gal5:22; Phil1:6;2:13;3:3). It is right and commendable for every believer to fully and wholly follow the Lord with an undivided heart (Col3:1), unbridled spirit (John4:24), unwavering commitment (2Tim1:12), unbroken addiction (1Cor16:15) and uninterrupted dependence upon the gospel of the Lord Christ (Phil3:7-9.4:13). Our Lord said, "*Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it*" (Mark 8:34-35).
Tom Harding

KEEPING THE SABBATH

In the light of Hebrews 4 and its teaching on the sabbath rest that believers have by faith in Christ, I find it amazing the conflicts I experienced years ago in reformed baptist churches concerning the 'keeping of the Sabbath Day'. They prided themselves in being such strong upholders of correct doctrine. It was vehemently held that "Sunday is the Sabbath Day in its Christian form". Strict rules were applied concerning how it must be spent. A day of 'austerity and deprivation' was imposed with the threat of church discipline for any church member caught flouting the rules. But, John8:32 says the truth shall make you free, and the Biblical truth is that we perfectly keep the sabbath as we rest by faith in Christ and him alone. We rest from anything of the flesh that we might try to do to gain favour or approval with God. We believe that Christ alone is the Lord our Righteousness and that we can add - *must not attempt to add* - anything of our own works as filthy rags patches on the seamless garment of salvation we receive by grace from him. As they outwardly attempted to keep some of the 4th commandment (not all of it), they actually denied and missed its core truth and eternal blessings. *AJ*

Biblical Gospel Church

Preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8

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(click on LIVE)

Sunday 21st April 2024
11:00 am (GMT+1h) Service

Hebrews 4:1-13

"Gospel Sabbath Rest"

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible

Followed by Communion

Listen to sermons by sovereign grace preachers at

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13:38,39

Reading Proverbs 6:20-24

1055 to 687

J Swain

1 Come, ye souls, by sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross behold the crown!
Look to Jesus; x2
Mercy flows through him alone.

2 Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly-opened eyes,
Flowing springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the cross supplies;
All who taste it x2
Shall to rest immortal rise.

3 Blessèd are the eyes that see him;
Blest the ears that hear his voice;
Blessèd are the souls that trust him,
And in him alone rejoice;
His commandments x2
Then become their happy choice.

4 But to sing the “rest remaining”
Mortal tongues far short must fall;
Heavenly tongues are ever aiming,
But they cannot tell it all;
Faith believes it – hope expects it –
But it overwhelms them all.

Prayer

Reading Hebrews 4

Prayer

GH387

H Bonar

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast.
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad,
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live.
I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life-giving stream,
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived
And now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
I am this dark world’s light,
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright.
I looked to Jesus and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk,
Till travelling days are done.

Sermon

662 tune 485

W Gadsby

1 O the matchless love of God!
He has bought our souls with blood!
Jesus, our exalted Head,
For us sighed, and groaned, and bled.

2 He invites us to this feast;
Bids our souls his glories taste,
And with pleasure keep in view
What he once for us went through.

3 Hear him speak, ye savèd few,
For this word is sent to you;
You, the objects of his choice,
Listen to his saving voice:

4 “This my body is, and blood;
Take, receive it as your food!
But, as oft as this you do,
Keep your slaughtered Lord in view.

6 “View him, and with wonder tell,
He has vanquished death and hell;
Cancelled all your sins with blood,
And will bring you home to God.”

Communion

Believers whose trust is in Christ alone are welcome to partake of the bread and wine with us in remembrance of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord