

## WAYS TO REMAIN SAVED

The Old Testament is a wonderful book and God has preserved it so man can study it. It is true that all living today are subject to the teaching of the New Testament, but the apostle Paul admonishes all in saying, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope”* (Rom. 15:4). We can learn and benefit from the eternal principles contained in the Old Testament.

Joshua was a great and faithful servant of God. His last message to Israel contains principles that will help us in our Christian journey through this life. Joshua reminded the people, *“Ye have seen all that Jehovah your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for Jehovah your God, he it is that hath fought for you”* (Joshua 23:3).

God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. The power that held them captive had to be broken before they could claim the land flowing with milk and honey in Canaan.

So it is with folks today. Those old enough to be accountable for their sins must be delivered from the shackles of sin before they can have their hearts set on things above. The gospel is God’s power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16) and all who genuinely obey such can have all their sins remitted (Acts 2:38). *The “wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23), but Christ’s shed blood makes it possible for redemption to be a reality for all who are willing to **believe** and **obey**.

As a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), one can set his sights on the Heavenly Canaan. As the apostle Paul enjoins, *“If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek*

*the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth”* (Col. 3:1-2).

Satan uses the world and the lust of the flesh in an attempt to hinder our inheritance in Christ just as the Canaanites were used to hinder the Israelites. We must place our confidence and trust in God as did Joshua who said, *“And Jehovah your God, he will thrust them out from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as Jehovah your God spake unto you”* (Joshua 23:5).

How were the Israelites to keep the possession God gave them? After obeying the gospel, how are we today to remain in a saved state? One can fall from grace (Gal. 5:4) or turn back from his salvation. To say otherwise is to argue with the Holy Scriptures. Peter says, *“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire”* (2 Pet. 2:20-22). Let us observe three major principles that will help keep us saved.

**There must be no going back!** Joshua told his people, *“Else if ye do at all go back...know for a certainty that Jehovah your God will no more drive these nations from out of your sight...”* (Joshua 23:12-13). Israel could not return to Egypt and those today who become Christians must not return to a life of sin. If one cannot

choose to return to the ways of the world, then why all the warnings against apostasy and falling from grace (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 10:12; Heb. 3:12; Rev. 2:4-5)? The old man must be crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20) and never again resurrected.

**There must be no fellowship with the enemy!** Joshua warned his people to *“come not among these nations”* (23:7) and make no *“marriages with them”* (23:12). Fellowship with the Canaanites only caused misery and **never** benefited God’s people. When Christians join in worldly fellowship with folks today, it will always lead to their ruin! The apostle Paul warns, *“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness? ... Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord”* (2 Cor. 6:14, 17).

**There must be no division of heart!** A divided heart will never be victorious. The principle of putting God first in one’s life has always been true. *“Thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might”* (Deut. 6:5). Jesus said, *“He that is not with me is against me...”* (Matt. 12:30).

Lot’s wife continues to be a great teacher. She was unable to purge Sodom from her mind. The result was a divided heart that led her to look back and become a *“pillar of salt”* (Gen. 19:36). In seeking to remain saved, may we *“remember Lot’s wife”* (Luke 17:32), and keep our eyes firmly fixed on that which is above (Col. 3:2)!

**Marvin L. Weir from Bonham St. Beacon**

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## ANNIVERSARIES

John and Louise Dodson, 06-22;  
Ted and Julia Thrasher, 06-22.

## BIRTHDAY

Monica Nemechek, 06-20.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Jeff Nemechek (AM); Millie Robertson (PM);  
the Schleifs.

**Wednesday:** John James; Millie Robertson; the Schleifs.  
John James started chemo-therapy at Olathe Medical  
Center last Tuesday. Bill Nelson is in a rehabilitation  
center in Newton, KS.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, David Cole,  
Shauna Heck, Betty James, John James and Cleo Stone.  
Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace  
Nursing Home in Olathe. Ralph Franklin is in Room D3  
at the Evergreen Center. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn  
Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please  
remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards is in California on business. We are  
thankful that all of our families who were on vacation last  
week have returned safely.

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

Our **Family Bible Studies** will be held July 26-30, 2010.  
The theme this year is: *"Rise and Shine!"* The adult class  
will be taught by a different KC area Gospel preacher  
each night. Mark your calendar now and plan to be here!

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 31; Sunday PM, 28; Wednesday PM, 26.

*"...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a  
crown of life."*  
**Revelation 2:10b**

## Those To Serve

June 20, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

### MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson  
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas  
OPENING PRAYER ..... Joel Nelson  
PRESIDE..... Jared Nelson  
ASSIST..... Jeff Nemechek  
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif  
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

### EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER ..... Trent Thrasher  
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson  
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jared Nelson

### WEDNESDAY 23rd

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher  
INVITATION ..... George Thomas

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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