

Bible Class Notes – Studies in The Old Testament – Lesson 85

Judgement and Deliverance

This week – We continue our series on how God blesses those who exercise faith in Him.

*“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”*
Joshua 23 v6

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Joshua 23 v1-16 (Joshua says – Love and obey God)	
Monday	Judges 6 v1-10 (But Israel wilfully sinned again)	
Tuesday	Judges 6 v11-24 (God calls Gideon to lead the people)	
Wednesday	Judges 6 v25-32 (Gideon obeys the LORD)	
Thursday	Psalms 106 v34-48 (Reminder of Israel's sin in Canaan)	
Friday	Psalms 115 v1-18 (The vanity of Idols)	
Saturday	Isaiah 40 v18-31 (To whom will we liken God?)	

Important Thought for us Today: We often associate the worship of idols with pagan religions. Surprisingly there are many man-made gods in our lives today; even in churches that claim to be ‘Christian’. God asks us to trust Him in faith (Hebrews 11), to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4v23), yet we often trust by sight alone. Making visual items to worship the one true God is idolatry; this may take the form of a crucifix, or a picture or image of Christ. A false idol is also made when we worship our own made-up understanding of God; changing the truth that He has set forth in His Word about Himself. Examples are: Denying the Trinity and limiting Christ to a mere man/prophet; Relying on a Priest, Mary, or a Saint to present us to God rather than relying on Christ's righteousness alone to do this; Preaching that salvation is achieved by loving Jesus, doing good and totally omitting the need for personal repentance. **Such false idols and man-made ‘gospels’ can never make us right with the One True God.**

A hymn encouraging us to desire to worship God alone: (521)

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| 1. O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb! | 5. The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee: |
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Gideon Serves The Lord

- **Dying Joshua's charge to the Children of Israel:**
 - Continue to be obedient and faithful to The LORD God Who had so richly blessed them, and their souls, in The Promised Land.
 - Obey My Commands given through Moses. I AM Jehovah-the self-existent One
 - No idols – “No other ‘gods’ before Me, No other ‘god’ in My presence.”
 - **Sadly Joshua's charge was soon ignored by the next generation.**
 - **Forgetting Joshua's advice**, and what God had done for them, they soon began to worship the pathetic, perverted, and evil idol-gods of the Canaanites.
 - **God withdrew His protection – 7 years overpowered by the enemy.**
 - The Midianites attacked and took their harvest making them feel humiliated, poor, and separated. The people had to hide in dens and caves to keep safe.
- There are consequences for our sin. Sin steals away God's peace from our souls. We are humiliated and separated from God. We hide, growing spiritually poor and hungry.**
- They cried out to the Lord for help and deliverance. The Lord graciously answers **We too must cry out in repentant prayer to the LORD. God will answer sincere prayers.**
 - **Jehovah (The LORD God) chooses and instructs faithful Gideon.**
 - **‘The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.’** ‘Trust Me, Gideon.’
 - ‘Destroy the altar of Baal. Replace it with an altar and sacrifice to the LORD.’
- We too must turn from our past sins - giving up love of self, and this world's pleasures.**
- **Gideon at night, with ten others, destroy Baal's altar and idol statue.**
 - The Baal worshippers cry out, ‘Who has done this to our god?’ ‘They must die.’
 - Joash, Gideon's father said, ‘if Baal is a real god? Let him deal with Gideon,’
 - **Gideon, despite all the opposition, faithfully stood and was kept safe.**
 - Being strong in the LORD he took delight in obeying, and standing for his God.
- The Holy Spirit gives True Christians the confidence to know and stand for God's truth. We gain this knowledge by prayerfully reading The Bible, and proving God in our lives.**
- **Who will you trust? The LORD, OR a ‘god’ of your own making?**
 - Many today have made their own false gods. Some even mixing error with truth. The Lord warns us against adding to, or taking away from, what is in The Bible.
 - **Surely, we must only trust in The One True God, The God of The Bible.**
 - **He alone** is The Eternal God, The Creator. He has given us our life and our soul.
 - **He alone** is The One Who has infinite power over sin, death, hell, and the grave.
 - **He alone** has the power to save us from the guilt of our sin. He died to save us.

What amazing love God shows to sinners like us! He calls us to repent and believe in the sacrificial work He accomplished when Christ died on Calvary, and rose again.

The Apostle warns of the danger of not worshipping God as He reveals Himself in His word, “Because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as GodProfessing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man.” Romans 1 v 22-24