

The Faithfulness of God

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I. Introduction.

A. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible; Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible.

1. Two truths are in Psalm 117.

a. Praise the Lord all nations because God is pursuing people from all nations.

1) Sometimes God works differently in different ages, as he used Joshua to destroy the nations but now he is saving the nations.

2) Joshua did something that we cannot do and we are doing something he could not do.

b. Great is God's love toward us.

1) God is always loving and reaching out in love.

2) His faithfulness is reliable for he will do what he says.

2. Today we will study the book of Joshua and we need to view it in light of Psalm 117.

II. Joshua 23 teaches us several things.

A. Remember who you are and what God has done for you.

1. We need to remember the past.

2. We need to remember what God has promised because much remains to be appropriated.

3. If we are united in Christ's death we will also be united with him in his resurrection so we should not let sin reign in our mortal bodies. (Romans 6)

4. We are not under law but under grace.

a. Today we need to remember that we have been given victory over sin and a new life in Christ that none of us has fully appropriated.

b. Victory in Christ is our birthright, a gift from God that we need to live out.

B. Joshua also warns his people of several things. (Joshua 23:6-16)

1. Be obedient to all that God commands. (Joshua 23:6)

a. Our victory is not a foregone conclusion.

b. We need to pay attention to God's commands.

c. God is not trying to destroy the nations around us but to reach them with the Gospel of Christ.

d. If we compromise we will be taken into the world.

e. Jesus prayed for his disciples and their disciples. (John 17)

f. We are to be in the world but not of the world.

g. We must not become like soap that has lost its cleansing power.

h. God is wrestling with the nations and we need to be pure in order to be useful by God.

i. Joshua's people needed to be strong and to obey all that is written in the book of Moses.

j. We today need to obey all that is written in the word of God.

k. Today many people do not understand the Bible very well.

l. How many people today have even read the entire Bible through carefully and thoughtfully?

m. We don't need to be ignorant of God's word.

n. Joshua is telling us to be careful.

2. Joshua also warns his people to be careful to love the Lord your God. (Joshua 23:11)

a. Is anything holding your affection more than your affection for God?

b. My daily quite time of spending time with God and tell him of my love for him and receiving his love for me is the best way to love him with all my heart.

3. Joshua also warns his people to be confident of God. (Joshua 23:14)

a. God keeps his promises.

b. Our confidence is not in ourselves.

c. Our confidence is in the faithfulness of God.

d. Do you really believe that every promise of God is absolutely reliable?

e. The book of Exodus ends with the burial of Joseph who told the people to take his bones with them when God released them from Egypt.

1) Joseph believed the promise of God.

2) Though it took hundreds of years God was true to his word.

3) God is not in a hurry but he always keeps his promises.

4) Our confidence must be based in the promises of God and his faithfulness.

4. Joshua also warns his people that God will discipline them if they fail to obey his word. (Joshua 23:15-16)

a. The faithfulness of God is a double edged sword.

b. As he will bless he will also punish.

c. God is faithful to his promises and to his warnings.

d. We have a choice to believe God or to disbelieve.

e. Joshua told his people to choose who to obey.

f. If you are convinced that God is true

III. Concluding prayer:

Father, convince us that your promises never fail. Show us that your warnings are also true. Help us to choose accordingly. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.