SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

SERMON: Warning & Hope for Persevering Christians

5 April 2009

INTRODUCTION: THE PATH OF PERSEVERANCE (Josh.24:19; Judges; see Rom.7:15f; Rev.2,3)

I. <u>JESUS: THE TRUE JUDGE</u>

- A. THE TRUE SACRIFICE (Heb.9:12; 10:1f; see chps.9,10)
- **B. THE TRUE HIGH PRIEST** (Heb.4:14f; 9:11f; see chps.4-9)
- C. THE TRUE PROPHET (Heb.1:1-3; see Jn.1:1f)
- **D. THE TRUE KING** (Lk.1:32f; Acts 2:32f; Eph.1:20f; see Mt.21:5=Zech.9:9)
- **E. THE TRUE MOSES** (Heb.3:5f; Jn.1:14,17)
- F. THE TRUE JOSHUA (Heb.4:8f; see Mt.11:28)
- **G. THE TRUE JUDGE** (judges?!; Mt.12:28(Jdgs.13:1f); Col.1:13; Rev.12:1f)

II. <u>THE CHURCH: THE TRUE ISRAEL</u> (Rom.11:17f; Gal.3:29; 6:16)

- **A. THE TRUE EXODUS** (Dt.6:23; see Col.1:13)
- **B. THE TRUE CONQUEST** (Joshua; Ps.105:44; see Col.3:9,10)
- **C. THE TRUE FAILURE** (Jdgs.1:27f; 2:2; see Col.3:5f; 12f)
- **D. THE TRUE APOSTACY** (Jdgs.2:11f,etc.!; see Rom.1:20f; 2Pt.2:12f,21f)
- **E. THE TRUE OPPRESSOR** (Jdgs2:3(3:21f); 2:14,15; 3:8,etc.! /Rom.7:14f,23f; Jms.1:14f; see Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16)
- **F. THE TRUE CRY** (Jdgs.2:18b; 3:9,15,etc.!; see Lk.15:17f; 18:13; Rom.7:24)
- **G. THE TRUE DELIVERANCE** (Jdgs,2:18; 3:9,15,etc.!, see Rom.7:25f; 8:1f,11f; Col.3:10b,5f,12f)

III. WARNING & HOPE FOR THE PERSEVERING CHRISTIAN

- A. ISRAEL AS THE PRODIGAL SON (Jdgs.2:11-18,etc.!; Lk.15:11f)
- **B. JUDGES R US** (Jdgs.2:11f,etc.!; see Jonah; Rom.7:21-25)
- C. TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND!
 - 1. picture (Ex.23:30; Dt.1:21; Jdgs.1:27f; Ps.105:44f; Amos 2:10)
 - 2. person (Col.3:5f;12f; Eph.4:25f)
 - 3. culture (Mt.5:13f; Lk.13:20f; 2Cor.10:4)
 - 4. earth (Gen.1:28; see 2:5f,8f)
- **D. WAITING FOR GOOD DAY** (Jdgs.2:11f; Lk.15:11f; see Heb.12:5f; 1Cor.5:5)
- **E. THE GOODNESS OF GOD** (Dt.11:26f; 30:1f; see Josh.24:19f; see Ps.106,107,136)
- **F. REMEDY FOR NEGLECT** (Dt.30:1f; 7:12f(1f) /Jdgs.1:20; Num.13:30; Josh.14:6f; see Ps.128:1f; Gal.6:9f)
- G. REMEDY FOR PRESUMPTION (Dt.30:1f; Jdgs.2:11f; Jonah; Rom.1:20f; Heb.12:5f)
- **H. REMEDY FOR DESPAIR** (Dt.30:3-5; Jdgs.2:18,etc.!; Lk.17:3; 15:11f; 2Cor.2:6f)
- I. ALWAYS AND ONLY IN CHRIST (Jdgs.2:18 /Rom.7:25; Col.1:13a&b; 2:12a&b; 2:20&3:3; 3:9&10; 5f&12f)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

- 1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
- 2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
- 3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
- 4. What are the primary doctrinal points of this passage? Do you believe these things?
- 5. What are the primary practical points? Do you do these things?
- 6. Under "I. JESUS: THE TRUE JUDGE"
 - a. What items were new to you?
 - b. What items are especially precious to you and why?
 - c. How is Christ the true Judge and our Judge?
 - d. Why do the OT judges need a judge themselves?
- 7. How is the Church like Israel in the time of the judges? (II)
- 8. How are we as individuals like the people of God in the time of the judges? (II)
- 9. How are Judges and the parable of The Prodigal Son similar?
- 10. How are Judges and Jonah similar?
- 11. How are you to conquer the land
 - a. In your person?
 - b. In your culture? (or sphere of influence)
 - c. On the earth?
- 12. How does all this give you hope regarding rebellious children or brethren?
- 13. How does all this impact your thinking and daily life?
- 14. What is the only way we can "take possession of the land"? (see, especially, the verses in Colossians in III, I)