

ABSTAIN FROM THE ACCURSED THING, No. 1

INTRODUCTION

- I. In the book of Joshua, we have the account of Israel crossing the Jordan River to enter the land of Canaan that God had promised Abraham.
 - A. The inhabitants OF the land had become SO wicked that God wanted them replaced with HIS chosen people, the Israelites.
 1. When Israel came into the land, they were to destroy evil, and have nothing to do with their evil ways,.
 2. They were to “abstain” from the accursed things of the land. Josh.6:18
 - B. When they first spied out the land, the 12 spies were hidden by Rahab, the harlot, to prevent them from being killed.
 1. When Israel came to Jericho, they saw the large wall around the city that prevented their coming *into* the city.
 2. In the wall of the city was the house where Rahab lived and God wanted her house to be spared when the walls were broken down, because of her “faith.” Josh 2:1-4A
 3. Now, in Joshua 6, we have the account of the walls being destroyed, and the sparing of Rahab.(Give account of the victory in Josh 6:1-17) Then read verse 18, with comment).
- II. What do we learn from this great chapter??

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we learn of the GIFTS OF GOD.

- A. God said He had “given” the city into the hands of the Israelites.
 1. It was given in that it was available. Josh. 6:1-2
 - a. This gift was conditional, as Israel had to DO something to meet God’s requirements to accept the gift. vs. 3-5
 - b. When this requirement was made, the gift was completely “given” and received. v. 16
 2. Then, Israel was told to “**abstain from the accursed things**” of the city which would be a **REJECTION** of the gift. v. 18
 3. They were later defeated at Ai because Achan, an Israelite, took “some of the accursed things” of the land, and hid them. Josh 7:11,13,15; cf vs. 19-21,24
 4. We observe that Achan’s sin not only brought the Israelites to be defeated at Ai, but it also brought death upon his family, who obviously participated with him in his sin. v. 25; cf Rom. 6:23
- B. Likewise, TODAY, salvation and eternal life are GIFTS of God, and they require us to accept these gifts by meeting His conditions.
 1. The Ephesians were “given” salvation, but they had to DO something to receive it. Eph. 2:8; cf Acts 19:1-5; Acts 2:38
 2. Likewise, eternal life is a “gift” of God, but we have to DO something (live faithfully the Christian life) to receive it. Rom. 6:23

II. 2nd, we learn that God’s commands have SPECIFIC APPLICATION.

- A. God said “**you**” are to abstain from the accursed thing, meaning that ALL Israel was to abstain, **including** each individual (including Achan) was to abstain.

B. When God requires faith, repentance and baptism today, the **general** requirements involve EACH individual, specifically. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 17:30

III. 3Rd, we learn that REBELLION HURTS ALL PEOPLE.

A. Achan rebelled against God in disobedience, and was killed, and his family also died. Josh. 7:11-13, 21, 24-25

B. Likewise, sin can influence and hurt the church and all it's members when it is allowed to remain, unchecked. 1 Cor. 5:1-2, 6

1. Parents, who live in rebellion, usually influence their children to do the same.

a. "Like parents, like children."

b. It has been said that children do not always obey their parents, but they do follow their example, and do what **they** do—good or bad.

2. One bad apple in the barrel can hurt the whole barrel.

CONCLUSION

I. Finally, we learn that God's blessings are LOCATED.

A. In Noah's day, God saved only those who were IN the ark, from destruction.

B. In Jericho, God saved those who were IN the household of Rahab.

C. Today, He saves those who are IN the church, by their obedience. Acts 2:40, 47

D. When Jesus returns, He will take those who are IN the kingdom, to present them to God. 1 Cor. 15:23-24

II. Are you IN the church today?

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