

Choose Your Mountain

Joshua 8:30-35

Though the curse of the Law is gone through Christ, the Christian is still called to devoted obedience to Christ.

I. The Choice on the Mountain

- A. Deuteronomy 27-30
- B. Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15, 20, 30:19-20
- C. Heart of God is for blessing: Deuteronomy 30:1-5

II. A Mountain and a Hill

- A. Old Covenant and New Covenant parallels:
 - Promise made long ago (Genesis 12:2-3, 7, Ephesians 1:4-6)
 - In slavery, helpless (Exodus 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:1-3)
 - Rescued out of slavery (Deuteronomy 4:34, Titus 3:3-6)
 - Made a Holy Priesthood of God (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:5)
 - Exiles in the wilderness (Psalm 78:15, 1 Peter 1:17, 2:11)
 - Led into the Promised Land (1 Kings 8:51-54, Revelation 7:17)
 - Conquest complete! (N/A, Revelation 21:1-6)
- B. Mountain of Blessings/Curses, vs. the Hill where Christ was cursed
 1. Curse of the Law is removed - Galatians 3:10, 13
 2. But consequences for sin remain - Galatians 6:7-8

Examples:

 - Acts 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira killed by the Holy Spirit for lying
 - 1 Corinthians 3:11-17 - Works burned up, escaping judgment with only your life.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:4-5 - believer handed over to Satan in attempt to restore him
 - 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 - sick or dead from receiving communion unworthily
 - 1 Peter 3:7 - husbands prayers hindered because he's dishonoring his wife

III. Choose Your Mountain

- 1 John 3:6, 9 - No true Christian deliberately continues in a pattern of sin
- Galatians 5:18-24 - Works of the Flesh vs. Spirit
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - You belong to God, so honor him with your body
- Revelation 21:3-4 - Our ultimate hope of being with Him without temptation to sin!

Quotes

One of the most recorded popular songs in recent decades is “My Way,” with its recurring line “I did it my way.” So when someone is converted to Christ, a great deal of reprogramming is needed. The most fundamental Christian creed is, “Jesus Christ is Lord,” which is why he can be the Savior. Yet so much contemporary evangelism either plays down or even ignores this central reality. Thus we have many who would claim Jesus as Savior and expect to enjoy all the blessings of forgiveness and peace, but who clearly are not living their daily lives with Jesus as Lord. Biblically this is not just inconsistent but ultimately impossible, since there cannot be a rescue without coming under the rescuer’s rule.

David Jackman, Joshua: People of God’s Purpose, Preaching the Word; ed. R. Kent Hughes; Accordance electronic ed. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2014), 99-100.

The problem is that we do not think in covenant terms. We are so individualistic that we imagine Christ’s work is primarily to bless me personally, to tolerate my continuing sins, and even to be grateful for my allegiance to his cause. In this view all the benefits of the new covenant flow one way, from Christ’s work on the cross into my life, without there being any ongoing demands on me of covenant loyalty, expressed by faith and obedience. When the alternative view is presented and the glorious blessings of the new covenant are shown to be only experienced through faith that submits in loving obedience to Jesus as Lord, it is frequently labeled as legalistic.

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Obedience, then, is not the price that God demands in order to dispense blessings from his otherwise reluctant grasp. Rather it is the means by which the channels of overflowing grace are kept open, so that all the blessings of the covenant faithfulness of Yahweh can be experienced by a dependent people who trust and obey.

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