

WHEN GOING TO CHURCH WON'T HELP YOU

Joshua 5:1-12

When rituals and religion become routine, this passage reveals three ways to restore our relationship with the Lord:

Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. ²At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." ³So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth. ⁴Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt – all the men of military age – died in the desert on the way after leaving Egypt. ⁵All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the desert during the journey from Egypt had not. ⁶The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land that he had solemnly promised their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. Joshua 5:1-7 (New International Version)

➤ WE RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE RENEW HIS COVENANT.

Covenant: A promise, pact, contract, agreement between God and man, in which God promises to bless those who commit themselves to Him and live according to His plan.

The Covenant was first established in Genesis 17.

Outward signs won't save us. It must be a circumcision of the heart.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, . . . Jeremiah 4:4a (NIV)

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through

your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:11-14 (NIV)

The New Covenant: Our repentance and God's forgiveness

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:27-28 (NIV)

➤ WE RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE RECEIVE HIS HEALING AND REST IN HIM.

And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. ⁹Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. Joshua 5:8-9 (NIV)

In the quietness of their healing was truly where the victory was won!

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. Isaiah 43:25 (NIV)

➤ WE RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE REMEMBER HIS PROMISES.

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. ¹¹The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. ¹²The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan. Joshua 5:10-12 (NIV)

God's promise to us is certain!

See also Titus 3:4-7.

After the first arrow and after The Covenant was first established in Genesis 17.

Slide(s):

Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹³... My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.” Genesis 17:9-11; 13b-14 (NIV)

Slide(s):

At the end and after: God’s promise to us is certain!

See also Titus 3:4-7.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7 (NIV)