

## Perspectives that Keep Believers Close to God

Judges 2:6-3:6

This passage provides three perspectives not only on the book of Judges, but three perspectives about our lives as believers that will help us stick close to God.

- **Perspective #1: WORLDLINESS IS AN EVERYDAY THREAT TO OUR FAITH. (2:10-13)**

### Two Clues to Israel's Spiritual Slide

- Israel maintained no distinct separation from the culture around them.

*They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them,<sup>35</sup> but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs.<sup>36</sup> They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. Psalm 106:34-36 (New International Version)*

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? . . .<sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."<sup>17</sup> "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord." . . . 2 Corinthians 6:14, 16-17 (NIV)*

- Worldliness = what happens when believers adopt the godless culture around them and therefore compromise the integrity of our faith
- Any action that would cause believers to link up with the world in thought or act must be avoided.
- Separation is about having minds filled with a biblical world view so that we can expose the wrong thinking of the godless culture in which we live.

*Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect. Romans 12:2 (New Century Version)*

*"In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:37b (NIV)*

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)*

- The second generation lacked a genuine relationship with God. (See verse 10)

*Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD. 1 Samuel 2:12 (NIV)*

- **Perspective #2: GOD IS AMAZINGLY FAITHFUL TO HIS KIDS. (2:14-18)**

- God's faithful anger (See verse 14)

*Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Exodus 34:14 (NIV)*

God's holy jealousy = "The zeal that arises in God when sin threatens the covenant relationship." (Dr. Del Tackett)

*"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;<sup>38</sup> and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:37-38 (NIV)*

- God's compassion (See verse 16)

*Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. Judges 2:18 (NIV)*

- God's astonishing patience.

*But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, . . . Judges 2:19a (NIV)*

*"I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.<sup>22</sup> I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did." Judges 2:21-22 (NIV)*

- **Perspective #3: OBEDIENCE WILL RESCUE US FROM SLAVERY TO SIN. (2:19)**

*But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. Judges 2:19 (NIV)*

**MATT/MARK/ADAM: These verses are right after Perspective #1 is displayed.**

*After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup>Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup>They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger <sup>13</sup>because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. Judges 2:10-13 (NIV)*

**These verses are right after Perspective #2 is displayed.**

*In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. <sup>15</sup>Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress. <sup>16</sup>Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Judges 2:14-16 (NIV)*

**These verses are right after the verse (Judges 2:19) under Perspective #3 is displayed. This is the end section.**

*The Israelites lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>6</sup>They took their daughters in marriage and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods. Judges 3:5-6 (NIV)*

*Our sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin. Romans 6:6-7 (New Living Translation, 1996)*