

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Joshua - Lesson 10
Who will you serve?**

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Every single person who is anyway trying to do what is right will realize as you study the Bible that your greatest opponent is not Satan or even the evil in the world. You're greatest opposition will come from yourself. You will never know that opposition until you purpose in your heart to deny yourself and live for Jesus Christ.

The average person will not get saved because they are trusting in themselves to make heaven. Everyone who puts trust in themselves, as regarding salvation, will end up in hell. Because the Bible clearly says the Saviour is Jesus Christ, not you. Jesus Christ died for our sins; He was buried; He rose from the dead – if you will put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, you can and will be saved anything other than that, you are lost and going to Hell

After that, what happens is a person who does trust Jesus as their Saviour is born again – now, they are in a dilemma. I am saved but my entire thought process from birth has been to trust myself, to love myself, to do it myself. Now that I am saved, I am going to live for God but you try and fail. Now that I have a Bible, I am going to read the Bible, do what it says – you try and fail. You try to ask other Christians but their response is, "...you are not trying hard enough!" The problem is seldom an effort problem among those that are sincere.

The problem is that we have to allow God's word to completely remake our entire thought process. (Romans 12:2; Romans 7:23; 2 Corinthians 8:12; 2 Corinthians 10:5-6) You cannot do that in a week. You cannot do it in a trip to the altar. You cannot read a "how to" book then suddenly the problem is cured. Because our problem is that the entire course of our life has been self-centered.

There was a time in history when it was no challenge to get lost people to trust Jesus as their Saviour, no challenge to get those people to become active and fruitful participants in a local church, what happened? Why can't it be so today? What is the difference?

If you are fifty-five years of age or older, your generation worked their way out of a depression and sacrificed their way into victory of the Second World War. You will not believe this if you are younger. But older people whose hair is white, they voluntarily rationed their intake of sugar, flour, cornmeal and gasoline for the common good of their nation. They voluntarily

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went hungry so that the soldiers overseas could be properly equipped. Now ten years after that Second World War, twenty years after the Great depression, if you could get one of those people to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour, they fully understood the concept of denying yourself for the cause of Christ giving up their own self-interest for the good of your church and its' ministries.

Sadly, that generation made this mistake. They said sincerely, with a good heart and pure intentions, "I do not want my children or grandchildren to have it as hard as I did." From that they produced the hippies of the '60's, the fornicators, adulterers of the '70's, and they caused this phenomenon in America today where able-bodied grown men will not hold down a job and at the same time will criticize aliens for coming to the United States taking our jobs. You talk to any man that is trying to run a business in the United States of America today and his greatest problem is not making a profit, it's finding a dozen people who know how to show up for work.

Now, the fact that you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour – Praise the Lord! – but have no concept of self-denial of sacrificing your own interests for the good of others, no concept of getting up going to work whether you feel like it or not because it is the right thing to do, makes it very, very difficult for you to live the Christian life; because the Christian life is about following Jesus Christ who sacrificed Himself for you. Jesus gave up His own riches, His own comfort, His own praise, His own adoration making himself the lowest of the low so that you might be uplifted. The Christian life is following Him. This problem is compounded when you go to the Christian bookstore or you turn on the Christian TV station where you are not hearing Christianity. You are hearing self-love, self-esteem. Preachers on TV are telling you that "God is sitting up in heaven for the sole purpose of making you happy." "God lives so that you can name it and claim it that He waiting to run to meet your needs." All of that nonsense is contrary to sound doctrine and true Christianity.

The Bible says in Joshua 4:1-9 *And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the Lord spake unto Joshua saying, 2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, 3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. 4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every man a tribe: 5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of tribes of the children of Israel: 6 That*

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this may be sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? 7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. 8 And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the Lord spake unto Joshua, according to the number of tribes of the children of Israel, and carried then over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. 9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

One man of each of the twelve tribes goes down to that dry river bed and picks up a stone – bigger than what you can carry comfortably in two hands; they each had to carry a big stone upon their shoulders out of the river up onto the Promised Land side then set it down on top of the other until they had a monument of twelve stones representing all twelve tribes, the entire nation. In one monument, they are unity and that monument is to stand there as a sign, a testimony to their children that God brought us across that Jordan River – don't ever forget it. We went down into that river and God brought us across.

Then Joshua by himself picks up twelve stones from the midst of the riverbed where the priests set their feet while carrying the ark of the covenant; There Joshua sets up 12 stones as soon as everybody has passed over, then down comes the water. There, in the river where they were, is a memorial that they were there in the river and on the Promised Land side is a memorial that they crossed over. The Lord intended for the children to go back to that place to take a look at those stones reminiscing to their young about what happened at that crossing of the Jordan River.

God stopped the water and allowed them to cross by virtue of His power. You will not save yourself by your good works, good deeds, or your religion. God will stop the power of sin and death through the crucifixion of His Son upon the cross then God will raise you up then give you everlasting life by the virtue of the power of what His Son Jesus Christ did for you.

Being saved will get you to heaven. But it will not fix your marriage, clean up your life, change your children or your character. What being saved will do for you is in the life to come, it will get you to heaven. In this life, it will make it possible for God by His Holy Spirit to change you; so that you now are living a Christ-like life; that results in love, joy and peace.

Those stones were put there because people tend to forget, how often have you said? *"God's done such great things in my life – I could never forget*

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them!” I bet you can. Honestly, How long does it take one thing not going your way to get you griping? *“I could never forget...”* Really? I bet you could forget in about five minutes, when the car breaks or when the AC stops working or when the police officer pulls you over for doing something illegal, who are we kidding, only ourselves. We need to frequently call to mind past blessings. (Consider keeping a journal as we mentioned in the Basic Doctrine series lesson 6 on prayer, so when life's little challenges arise we can look back and see how good God has been to us.)

Romans 6:1-5. *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?* God's plan included more than just taking us to heaven, He intended the result of your salvation to be that you stop sinning. God forbid that I should say, *“well, I’m going to heaven... that’s all I wanted!”* That is not His sole purpose. Verse 3 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ* – not in the water; into Jesus it is a spiritual operation. God – somehow in His reckoning; God somehow in His divine intervention actually put you into Jesus Christ. You are part of Him; you are one with Him. *...were baptized into his death?* He saved you so He could teach you how to **die** to your self-interest and live unto others to finally enjoy life as He intended.

The Bible said, the first thing Jesus Christ wants to teach us is how to die to ourselves, how to die from wanting your way all the time, how to die from assuming in every quarrel the other person was wrong, how to die to ignoring the parts of the Bible you do not want agree with, how to die to only doing for God what you feel like doing. This is what He came to do.

We were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried by him baptized into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of live. As a result of salvation I am also supposed to have new life on earth. A man and wife who never knew how to love can love now by denying themselves and preferring the other first. A person who never cared about anybody else other than themselves is now preparing to be a missionary in the jungles of Africa. What is that? That is the new life. Others first, me not is the picture.

Verse 5 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:* He wants me now to be living like I will be living after I am resurrected. When are you going to live in this life as you will live on the other side of the resurrection? When you die! Not physically, but intellectually and spiritually as an act of your will. When you can get to that place, you can start enjoying life on earth equivalent to the life that you will enjoy in heaven.

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Romans 6:6-11 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.* In heaven there will be no struggle with temptation. The reason why we still struggle now is because we are giving into the old nature. *8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.* Jesus Christ does not live unto himself; He lives unto God. A Christian does not live unto himself/herself, you live unto God. You can be saved and not be Christian in your conduct. The Lord desires both

Verse 11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* God says, I am to *reckon myself already dead.*

The Bible says, *train up a child in the way he should go...* (Proverbs 22:6) What is the way? Self-denial is doing what you do not want to do without having to explain to you why it will benefit you.

Do you know what the Bible says in Romans 6? You know how to do it. Why don't you just apply it to your spiritual life? Why don't you get as serious about God as you are about money? Why don't you get as serious about spiritual things as you are about temporal things? That is what He is asking. We know what reckoning is. We know how to reckon ourselves dead. God just wants us to apply it to sin. Do you want to be a Christian? Will you *reckon yourself to be dead indeed unto sin* so you can be alive unto God? That is what is required of you. Do you want to be more than just saved? Do you want to be a Christian? You must choose between God and mammon, You cannot serve two masters. Matthew 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Notes

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Joshua - Lesson 10**Who will you serve?**

Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with answer in your own words.

1. Why is it so hard for people to get saved in the 21st. Century?
2. What does it mean to die to yourself?
3. What are TV preachers telling their followers?
4. Why is it that the average person does not get saved?
5. Who is your greatest adversary while trying to live the Christian life?
6. What mistake did the older generation make that caused future generations to ignore the teachings of God's word?
7. Why can't we live a spiritual life even though we read the Bible and do what it says?*
8. What is Jesus Christ trying to tell us by His life?
9. Why is the name it and claim it doctrine so damaging to the average believer?

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10. Why did Joshua have the leaders of each tribe take a stone from the Jordan River and stack it on the shore to form a monument?

11. Why did Joshua stack up 12 stones in the river?

12. What does getting saved do for you in this life?

13. Explain Romans 6:1-5?

14. What is the meaning of the the way in Proverbs 22:6?

True/false

- When praying to God, pray like He is waiting for your requests and sign it is Jesus name.
- You can serve God and mammon, just as long as you give a big tithe back to God's work.
- We should reckon ourselves dead to sin in order to serve God properly.
- Self-denial is doing what you do not want to do without having to explain to you why it will benefit you.



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV) 2 Corinthians 8:12; 2 Corinthians 10:5-6; Matthew 6:24.

any questions?