

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Joshua 1:5-9** .
- B. As the book of Joshua opens, Moses is dead and God wants Joshua to be the new leader of the Israelites.
- C. It is a tremendous task, considering the "in-house" troubles that Moses had to endure, and now there are Gentiles living in the promised land that must be forced out.
- D. Yet, God promises Joshua success, not once but twice! The Hebrew word for "success" literally means to act wisely. When we act correctly and wisely we are successful.

## I. ACCEPT GOD'S BLESSINGS.

- A. See **Joshua 1:2-6**.
- B. God is here stating that He will keep His promise and give the Israelites all the land that He had promised long ago to Abraham.
- C. Likewise we must learn to "receive" good things when they come our way. It is possible to be a good "giver" and not a good "receiver."
- D. Our gifts from God must be received with a thankful heart:
  - 1. God gives all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
  - 2. God will meet all our needs through Christ (Phil. 4:19).  
(We only ask: is it scriptural? and, is it needed?)
  - 3. God, who gave us Jesus, will freely give us all things (Rom. 8:32).
  - 4. Therefore, in word and in deed, all must be done receiving" in gratitude (Col. 3:17).

## II. KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.

- A. See **Joshua 1:7**.
- B. Joshua is told that to keep God's commandments insures success. We are not to be more conservative than the law (to the right) or more liberal than the law (to the left).
- C. To keep the commandments is to abide in God's love (Jn. 15:10).
- D. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (Jn. 14:15).
- E. We are to be obedient, to obey the pattern of doctrine we know to be true (Rom. 6:17).
- F. This is possible, because the commandments of X are not a burden, they are not to grieve us to the point we cannot do them (1Jn. 5:3).
- G. Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord" is acceptable, the one who does the Lord's will is acceptable (Mt. 7:21).

## III. MEDITATE ON THE LAW.

- A. See **Joshua 1:8**.
- B. To meditate means to think upon, to ponder, to contemplate, consider, or dwell on. To meditate upon the Law is to weigh it in your mind and plot as to what to do with it.
- C. The Psalmist reminds us to meditate on the Law (Psa. 1:2).
- D. It's easy! The Law is good! (Psa. 19:7-11,14).
- E. We are to "look intently" upon the law of liberty, not glance into it and forget (Jas. 1:24-25).
- F. Let the word of X dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16).

## IV. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.

- A. See **Joshua 1:6,7,9,18**.

- B. Four times, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous. And why not, look at what God is doing... He gives His promises that never fail, He gives the Word that perfectly instructs, and He comforts with His Law and love.
- C. Peter tells us that no matter the task to be done, God will give the strength to get it done (1Pet. 4:11).
- D. God has given us spiritual armor to be strong and courageous. We can defeat the evil one. Notice that in this passage God tells us to stand firm. He would not tell us to do it if we couldn't! (Eph. 6:11-14).
- E. Paul gives several directives in his close of the 1Cor. letter; one of which is to be strong. Possibly by being alert, in the faith, mature, and doing all things in love, we can be strong (1Cor. 16:13-14).

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. A formula for success:
  - 1. Accept God's blessings.
  - 2. Keep the Commandments.
  - 3. Meditate on the Law.
  - 4. Be strong and courageous.
- B. For us, it all begins with Christ. Respond to Him and you can walk wisely, you can be a success.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.