



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM

7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Joshua and the City of Jericho

God made a promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their descendants would inhabit a very profitable land. During the life of Joshua, he was in command to bring Israel into that promised territory. In order for that to happen, Joshua had to lead the Israelites on several military campaigns to get to and eventually through the land of Canaan. There are valuable lessons we can glean from the incident at Jericho.

God told Joshua, "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor" (Josh. 6:2). Israel did nothing to deserve this victory. God, through His graciousness, was giving them the land. The grace of God did not act alone. Joshua and the people had to fight in order to take the land. Grace does not work alone, nor does grace contradict any other Biblical teaching.

God gave Joshua specific commands to follow in order for them to take the land. They were to compass the city and march around it and blow trumpets (Josh. 6:3-5). This is not a conventional war tactic, but Joshua and the people had to have faith in God to obey these unconventional commands. Faith always looks forward and does not concentrate, necessarily, on what the eyes can see or ears can hear. Faith simply trusts God. Grace and faith are working together to help Israel become triumphant over Jericho.

Next, it took Joshua and the people executing the commands of God. If there are no works along with faith, it nullifies faith. If Joshua and the people believed God but did not execute His commands, the walls of Jericho would not have fallen.

God has promised a land to us as Christians. "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof

ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel"(Col. 1:5). Heaven is reserved or laid up for us, so how do we obtain it? Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus saying, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). Grace and faith are coupled together in order for salvation to occur for the Christian.

Jesus states in The Sermon on the Mount, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Jesus emphasized performing the works of God in order to be pleasing to Him. Grace, faith, and works were all involved to cause the walls of Jericho to fall so the Israelites could continue their pursuit of entering the land of Canaan. If we want to enter into heaven, grace, faith, and works of God will all be involved.

-K.A. Pugh

Auto makers, I am sure, cringe at the news of recalling cars. It has to affect attitudes and sales. They are very concerned about quality control. They want the very best vehicles with the least problems.

Quality control is something you and I should be aware of, as well. Quality control is up to us.

Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thess 5:22 ESV

Pray for wisdom and for strength today to make the right choices and live to the highest "quality." Exercise quality control in your life and glorify God.

TLM

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