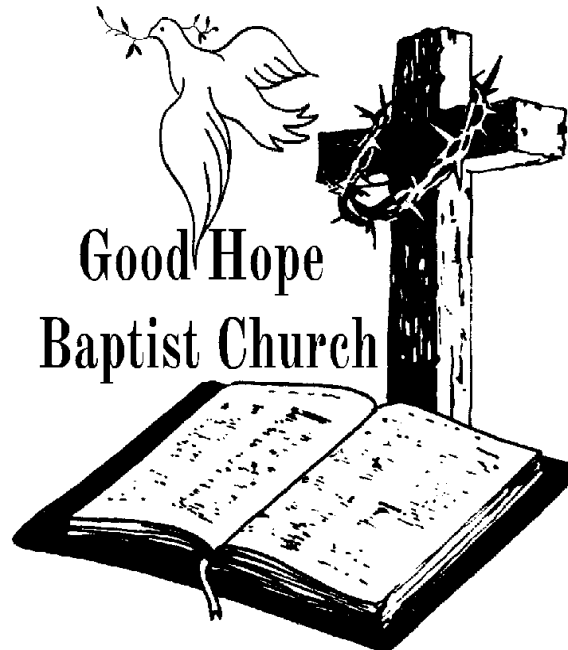


# Building His Kingdom

Influencing People Toward Jesus

Part One



Living Together In The Love Of God

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**FOCAL Read Together** Judges 1:1-2 <sup>(KJV)</sup> Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? 2 And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.

**Illustrate** A preacher came upon a farmer working in his field. He asked the farmer, “Are you laboring in the vineyard of the Lord?” Without looking up the old farmer said, “Naw, these are soybeans.” The preacher said, “You don’t understand. I’m wondering if you are Christian?” The old man came back, “No, I’m Jones. If you’re looking for Jim Christian, he lives a mile south of here”. The preacher didn’t give up. “Sir, I just want to know, are you lost?” The old man said, “No sir! I’ve lived here my whole life!” Trying one more time he said, “Are you prepared for the Coming of the King of Kings?”. This got the farmer’s attention. He asked, “When’s it gonna be?” The preacher said, “It could be today, tomorrow, or the next day. We need to be ready!” Taking a handkerchief from his back pocket and wiping his brow, the farmer remarked, “Well, don’t mention it to my wife. She don’t get out much and she’ll wanna go all three days.”

When we come together and get still, we're doing this for a purpose. You see, God loves every person here. He loves us so much that He Himself came to this earth in the form of a man. The Lord Jesus Christ was born of a Virgin named Mary. He grew up with a stepfather named Joseph the carpenter. But Jesus was much more than just another man.

Jesus Christ is an innocent Man Who willingly died a criminal's death.

The Bible says that we are **all sinners, separated from God because our forefather Adam introduced sin into the world (Romans 3:23)**, so that **"all have sinned and fall short of God's glory"**. We were all criminals in God's eyes, but the Lord stood in our place and took our punishment on Himself when He went to the Cross of Calvary. **Dr. Ray Pritchard** said:

**"When Jesus hung on the cross in great agony and great pain, he cried out to God, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" No one fully understands what those words mean, but it was something like this. In that moment all the wrath of God was poured out. It was as if the sewer pit of hell had been emptied on Jesus. He became sin for us. All of your sin and all of my sin and the sins of the whole world were poured out on Jesus, and in that moment God turned his face away from his only begotten son. In that moment, Jesus took the wrath of God for us. "**

The Bible tells us that we who have believed on Jesus, receiving Him as all He is, then we are saved. We have received Him as **"Lord"**, the **Master** of our lives. We have received Him as **"Jesus"**, the **Mediator** Who represents us to God. We have received Him as **"Christ"**, the long awaited and only **"Messiah"** from God. Paul and Silas preached:

**Acts 16:31** <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,**

**and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

A Christian is someone who has believed on **the Lord Jesus Christ**. He is **Master, Mediator, and Messiah**. We lay our lives down at His feet and say, "All that I have is Yours".

Having believed, we who are saved are given a Great Commandment from our Master, Mediator, and Messiah. He commands:

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ....**

We who believe are not to *make* Christians, we are to *make disciples* - to teach others about Christ. We are left on this earth so that we can tell others about Jesus. We don't save anybody, but we each learn the things of Christ and teach others. Jesus said **"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"**. We who are God's people live because of Christ, and teach others the things of Christ. Many will not hear, but that's not my problem. I am to teach, and you are to teach, the **things that Christ commanded us**. We are to share His Word.

What happens when the Church doesn't do what it's supposed to do? Society coarsens. In fact, if the Church will not do what God has called it to do (and by "Church" I mean every Christian) then the nation starts

to fall apart. We see this in the Book of Judges - and we see it happening in America today.

When God's people stop following the Master, Mediator, and Messiah and begin to compromise with the world, God's people start to look and act like the world - and darkness reigns.

The Bible tells us that the Old Testament is given to the Church as an example. We read:

**1 Corinthians 10:7-11 (HCSB) Don't become idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to play. 8 Let us not commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in a single day 23,000 people fell dead. 9 Let us not test Christ as some of them did and were destroyed by snakes. 10 Nor should we complain as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.**

We who are Children of God by faith in Christ are to be **people of influence and points of light**. We can't save anybody, but we can tell everybody how to be saved. We can't make everybody behave, but if we ourselves will:

**Deuteronomy 6:5 (KJV) .... love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

## **1. Those Who Love The Lord Should Be Like Joshua**

**FOCAL** Judges 1:1 (KJV) Now after the death of Joshua ....

**Word Study** Our text today starts out talking about a man named Joshua. Joshua was a man who loved the Lord. In fact, the name "**Joshua**" is the Hebrew "**YeHoshua**", which literally means "**The Lord Jehovah Saves**". Obviously Joshua's parents loved the Lord, and taught him to love the Lord.

I've heard so many parents who claimed to be Christians "**I'll let my little Johnny or my little Jennie make their own choice**". The reason America has fallen so low is because so many parents have allowed their children to make their own choices. The Lord told Israel:

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (KJV) .... these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children ...**

**Illustrate** If you love the Lord, tell your children and grandchildren about the Lord. A few years ago I was part time pastor of a small rural church when one of the families fell on hard times. The husband was a drunk, and killed himself drinking. Sherry and I opened up our house to the mother and three kids, letting them stay in a bedroom together while we helped them get back on their feet. We got up one Sunday morning to go to Church but our "borders" slept on. I thought they'd come to Church later, but they didn't. When I saw them that afternoon the mother was no where to be found, but the

children were playing on the Nintendo game system. I asked them if they were going to Church and they replied, "No, not today". When the mother showed up that night I explained that those who stay in my house go to Church when it's time to go to Church unless sickness or a job hinders. She looked at me like I cursed. Needless to say, they moved out of the house within a few days.

Joshua was a Christian, but much more than this, Joshua *followed the Lord*. Look up "Joshua" in your Bible dictionaries, and you'll see what the Lord can do with someone who trusts and follows Him.

## **1** Joshua followed the Lord by *being disciplined*.

Joshua listened to the leadership that God gave him. While all of Israel murmured and complained against Moses, Joshua listened to Moses as Moses listened to God. Listen Beloved, **you can never disciple others if you'll never be disciplined**. The Bible says:

**Hebrews 13:7** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> **Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith.**

**Hebrews 13:17** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> **Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**

Every time Moses turned around, there was Joshua. Moses didn't have to hunt Joshua - Joshua hunted him.

When the children of Amalek came out to fight with Israel in Rephidim, Moses looked around for someone to lead the troops into battle. Who do you think he chose? Joshua!

**Exodus 17:9 (KJV) ... Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.**

## **2** Joshua followed the Lord by *being consistent*.

When God called Moses to the top of Mount Sinai, who do you think went with him? Joshua! The Bible says:

**Exodus 24:13** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **... Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.**

Joshua did not run hot and cold. He kept on doing the right thing, obeying the Lord no matter what. While Moses went off by himself to talk with God for forty days, Israel lounging at the base of the mountain built a **golden calf (Exodus 32:4)** to worship. What was Joshua doing? He watched the thunder and lightening on the mountain. He waited on God to release Moses. He kept on following the Lord.

## **3** Joshua followed the Lord by *being focused and faithful, though no one else was*.

When God told Israel to go into the Promised Land, ten of the spies sent into the land brought an evil report. They said "**The people in that land are like giants, and there is no way we can occupy that land! (Numbers 13:32-33)**". Their

faithlessness caused the people to doubt God and Moses, and to rebel saying:

**Numbers 14:3 (KJV) ... wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?**

God loves His people. He does not save us to abandon us! God saves us to serve Him. He saves us from Egypt so that we can win others to His Kingdom!

It was Joshua and Caleb who spoke up and said:

**Numbers 14:8-9 (KJV) If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.**

Joshua kept his eyes on the Lord, not on the inhabitants of the land. He trusted the Lord Who saved him!

**4** Joshua persevered. He kept on trusting God regardless as to what anyone else did. For forty years Joshua had to travel with a group of whiny, immature, foolish Israelis. At one point it got on Moses' nerves so much that he himself disobeyed God, and had to die before he ever entered the Promised Land. Moses had to

be replaced before the second generation of Israel went into the Promised Land. Who would be Moses successor? Would it be **the High Priest Aaron**. No, that gutless wonder built the golden calf for Israel while Moses was in the mountain. Would it be **Hur**? No. He was a good man, but not Hur.

**Deuteronomy 31:14 (KJV) ... the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua .... that I may give him a charge. ....**

The Lord called Joshua to take over for Moses. God told Joshua:

**Joshua 1:3 (KJV) Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you ...**

What a wonderful promise! Dear friends, if we would trust God like Joshua trusted God, God would take this land through us. We are to follow like Joshua followed.

## **2. Do What You Can While You Can For The Lord**

**Context** **Judges 2:6-8 (KJV) ... when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. 7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.**

While we who believe live, we are to live for the Lord.

We are to be disciplined - but we are also to discipline.  
Every Christian should be disciplining somebody, every  
believer should be training someone on how to follow  
the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus trained disciples. He demanded that  
we make disciples, that we teach what we have  
learned. The more that know the way of Christ, the  
more stable the families and the more stable the  
nation.

The Bible tells us that "**the people served the Lord all  
the days of Joshua**". Joshua followed the Lord, and  
taught others to follow the Lord. He loved the Lord, and  
taught others to love the Lord. Look back at our focal  
text:

**FOCAL** Judges 1:1 (KJV) Now after the death of  
Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel  
asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us  
against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?

The **children of Israel** - God's Old Testament people -  
had a relationship with the Lord. These are not the same  
people who stood at the base of Mount Sinai waiting on  
Moses for forty days, the same people who eventually -  
bored - melted down their jewelry and made a golden  
calf to worship. These people loved the Lord.

You can always tell when a people love the Lord, for  
they love to pray. That's what the text says. It says "**the  
children of Israel asked the Lord**". Now think about  
that for a minute:

**The first generation murmured against God**  
**The second generation asked God**  
**The first generation made idols to worship**  
**The second generation worshiped God**  
**The first generation was rebellious**  
**The second generation was respectful**  
**The first generation feared the sons of Amalek**  
**The second generation feared the Son of God**

Joshua was disciplined, and in turn disciplined others. When  
he died the nation didn't collapse, but there were enough  
believers who turned to God in prayer. When they spoke  
to the Lord the Lord answered them. **They spoke to God  
without going through a priest.** We read:

**Judges 1:1-2 (KJV) ... the children of Israel asked the  
LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the  
Canaanites first, to fight against them? 2 And the  
LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have  
delivered the land into his hand.**

and God spoke back to them! The **Tribe of Judah** was to  
lead the way in the battle. Judah was working together as  
a team as they followed the Lord, and so the Lord said "**I  
have delivered the land into his hand**".

When God's people move together and obey the Lord  
together, the enemy will always fall. Why? Because the  
Lord is with the unified Israel, and the Lord is with the  
unified Church. The Bible tells us:

**Context** Judges 1:19 (KJV) ... **the LORD was with**

**Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain...**

While Judah focused on the Lord trusting Him and only Him nothing stood in their way. The tribe moved as one man, and defeated the enemy as one man united with God.

### **3. We Who Believe Must Not Compromise With The World**

In verse 1 of Chapter 1 we see a people who love the Lord. But by the time we get to verse 1 of Chapter 2 we read:

**Context Judges 2:1** <sup>(KJV)</sup> {The} **Angel of the LORD ... said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.**

The "**Angel of the Lord**" rebukes Israel. We don't have to read far before we see that this "**Angel of the Lord**" is actually speaking for the Lord Himself. In chapter one God speaks directly to the people, but now in chapter two He is speaking through an Angel or a Mediator. Why? Because the people by compromise have angered the Lord. What did Israel do? God says:

**Context Judges 2:2** <sup>(KJV)</sup> .... **ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?**

All across our great nation those who profess to be Christians and representatives of Christian Churches "**make league with the inhabitants of the land**". With every compromise and backward step, the enemy steps forward. God said of Israel:

**Context Judges 2:11** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD ...**

**1 Israel compromised. She compromised with sin.**

The Bible says they "**did evil in the sight of the Lord**". God calls the Christian to be a person of influence, someone who will draw or lead others to Christ. We who believe are called to be "**lights in the midst of darkness**" (**Matthew 5:14-16**). There is no darkness in God, and neither should there be darkness in God's people. God is not evil. The Scripture says:

**Psalms 5:4** <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... **Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.**

"Evil" is anything that is a departure from God's definition of right *in thought*, whereas "wickedness" is the outworking of that evil.

It is "evil" to look at a woman with lust in your heart (**Matthew 5:28**) but "wicked" to actually commit sexual sin with her. Evil is the dwelling thought, and wicked is the operating hand. Israel did both of these things. They "**did evil in the sight of the Lord**". They did that which

God told them not to do. Rather than living for Jesus they were living for themselves.

Listen Beloved: when God's people don't do right, the nation coarsens. WE are the salt. WE are the light.

This is what happened in Israel, and is happening in America today.

**Context** Judges 17:6 (KJV) .... every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

The nation was divorced from God. The general population was divorced from God. God was not in their thoughts, nor in their hearts. They did what they wanted to do regardless as to God's standard.

**2** Israel compromised. She began to serve other gods and goddesses, to promote that there were "many ways to God". We read:

**Context** Judges 2:11 (KJV) **And the children of Israel .... served Baalim: ... and provoked the LORD to anger.**

**Word Study** God's people "served Baalim". What are "Baalim"? You see, the god that the unbeliever of Canaan followed was a terrible god called "Baal". Baal required that you sacrifice your children on his altars. "Baalim" are pocket sized gods, portable idols.

The world needs Jesus. The world needs to hear that

glorious Gospel of salvation. Hear it, dear friends:

**Romans 10:11-15 (KJV) ... Whosoever believeth on {Jesus} shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**

The Apostle Paul asks:

**"How shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed?"**

The answer is - they CANNOT. They must believe on Jesus before they can call on Him. The Apostle says:

**"How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard?"**

Every believer is called to proclaim the Gospel of Christ with first - how we live our lives - and second - the words of our mouth. No one will ever be saved unless we who are Christians let Jesus live through us.

We who are the Lord's are **not to be molded by this**

**moldy world, but to love God, to be like Jesus Christ, to be people of influence and influence others to come to Christ.**

**Dr. Adrian Rogers** is now with our Lord, but several years ago he preached:

**"Today there needs to be a modern Paul Revere who tells us to wake up! The enemy is coming, and we need to sound the alarm. The sad thing is many of God's children are sound asleep when they ought to be awake—the church is asleep, snuggled up in her pews with the covers pulled up over her head, and the sanctuary is dark. God's alarm clock is going off. This is no time to push the snooze button! "**

We who are God's Children must wake up and live for the Lord. We must reject compromise with the world. We must live the Gospel, letting others see us as the hands and feet of Christ. We read that:

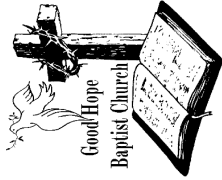
**Context Judges 2:14 <sup>(KJV)</sup> And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.**

This is where American Christianity will be if we do not return to the God of our fathers. We will be **"delivered into the hands of the spoilers that spoil them, and sold into the hands of our enemies round about"**.

We are called of the Lord to work together, to be *points*

*of light and people of influence* in this fallen world. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of **being delivered to the spoilers that spoil us**. God our Father is calling His Children to serve with Him as we build His Kingdom on the earth!

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



4038 Graham Sherron Road  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Living Together In The Love Of God

**FOCAL Read Together** Judges 1:1-2 <sup>(KJV)</sup> Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? 2 And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.

Acts 16:31; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:7-11; Deuteronomy 6:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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### 1. Those Who Love The Lord Should Be Like Joshua

Judges 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Hebrews 13:7; Hebrews 13:17; Exodus 17:9; Exodus 24:13; Exodus 32:4; Numbers 13:32-33; Numbers 14:3; Numbers 14:8-9; Deuteronomy 31:14; Joshua 1:3

**Word Study** "Joshua" is the Hebrew "YeHoshua", which literally means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Joshua followed the Lord by \_\_\_\_\_

2 Joshua followed the Lord by \_\_\_\_\_

3 Joshua followed the Lord by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 Joshua *persevered*. He kept on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Do What You Can While You Can For The Lord

Judges 2:6-8; Judges 1:1; Judges 1:1-2; Judges 1:19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. We Who Believe Must Not Compromise With The World

Judges 2:1; Judges 2:2; Judges 2:11; Matthew 5:14-16; Psalms 5:4; Judges 17:6; Judges 2:11; Romans 10:11-15; Judges 2:14

1 Israel compromised \_\_\_\_\_

2 Israel compromised \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Study** God's people "served Baalim". What are "Baalim"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Adrian Rogers "Today there needs to be a modern Paul Revere who tells us to wake up! The enemy is coming, and we need to sound the alarm. The sad thing is many of God's children are sound asleep when they ought to be awake—the church is asleep, snuggled up in her pews with the covers pulled up over her head, and the sanctuary is dark. God's alarm clock is going off. This is no time to push the snooze button! "