



PREPARE YOUR HEART

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *I Samuel 7:1-14*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

Every man, woman, and child born into this world is responsible to prepare their hearts by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ, His plan of salvation, and to confess their sins. Hence, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, died on the Cross of Calvary to open God's divine way of pardon, salvation, and victory for the sins of all mankind (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17*).

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:10).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. The heart of man is God's ark and center-piece, wherein Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit, resides to bring God and man together in spiritual oneness (*I Samuel 7:1-2; John 4:23-24; Romans 6:23*).
2. God's *Word*, the *Bible* teaches repentance unto salvation as God's only way to prepare our hearts, being baptized by immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ, and being filled with God's Holy Spirit speaking in God's unknown tongue to display the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us (*John 3:3-5; Acts 2:36-38; I Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 3:16-18*).
3. *Proverbs 4:23* issues this truth, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
4. The new birth commandment is defined in *I John 5:4*, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; John 3:6-7*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

God sent Samuel, His prophet and judge, to preach revival and repentance which moved the children of Israel to return unto God, put away idolatry and their strange gods, and to serve Him only. Paul, the Apostle, preached to the Corinthians and Galatians about Jesus Christ, His crucifixion, and a warning concerning being deceived by a false Jesus, spirit, and gospel. Today, we preach the same Gospel that Jesus Christ Himself preached; namely, Jesus saves, Jesus heals, Jesus baptizes with the Holy Ghost and with Fire, and Jesus is coming soon (*I Samuel 7:3-6; Mark 16:15-18; II Corinthians 11:3-4; Galatians 1:6-9*).

Samuel's prayer and the people's repentance moved God to defeat the Philistines and gave them a great victory. Hence, Jesus Christ is our Stone of Victory for all who repent and accept Him as their personal Savior, Master and Lord (*I Samuel 7:7-14; I Corinthians 15:57-58*).

LESSON SUMMARY:

The Ark of the Covenant was finally returned to Israel, and after twenty years, the people lamented and turned back to God, away from the strange gods of Baalim and Ashtaroth.

Every man, woman, and child has the same opportunity to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a matter between you and Jesus Christ, because no one can save you. Today, the neon sign "Jesus Coming Soon" on the rooftop above all of our Apostolic Faith Churches in Hawaii and in the Philippines, is God's promise pointing to His soon return in clouds of glory to say, "come up hither, come up hither, come up hither" (*II Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 4:1*).

Thus, Joshua's warning is still applicable, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (*Joshua 24:15*).

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