

Judges 2 - Lessons or Principles

1. We never are to make a peace treaty with our sins; instead be determined to drive them out.

This is what we can learn from the tribes of Israel allowing the Canaanites to remain in the land and live with them.

2. Christian living is not easy, it requires constant trust in Him, and frequent battles with the enemy.

God never said the conquest of the land was going to be sudden and complete, yet it would be little by little and they would have to fight for it.

3. Never compromise with sin for any reason, especially for the sake of material gain.

Putting the remaining Canaanites to forced labor was exactly this compromising with their enemies with a covetous thought in mind of gaining some free labor to get material things.

4. Spiritual surrender is unacceptable for a Christian.

There is a dangerous and seductive form of pacifism in the Christian life, which ignores the reality of the spiritual battle so clearly described in Ephesians 6:10-20 and referred to by analogy in the Book of Judges. This pacifist attitude will happily make a peace with the devil that basically says, "I will not harm your interests if you leave me mostly alone." (SLIDE 16)

5. We will never fully live up to our part of our covenant with the Lord, but we can know for certain He will never break His covenant with us.

It is God's general pattern to remind us of His great love and faithfulness to us *before* calling us to obedience or confronting our sin. We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19), and we can only really obey Him as we walk in His love and abide in His covenant with us.

6. God requires us to do our part in Christian growth and maturity.

We often wish that God would do the work of Christian maturity for us; that we would wake up one morning and a

certain besetting sin will just be gone. Sometimes God grants such a miraculous deliverance, and we praise Him for it. But more commonly He requires our partnership with Him in the process of Christian growth. Our partnership is important to God because it shows that our heart is where His heart is; that we are truly growing close to God.

7. We can be sorry about the consequences of our sin without being sorry about the sin itself.

The record of the Book of Judges shows that this initial reaction of sorrow and repentance did not mature into a real, lasting repentance. Real repentance shows itself in action, not necessarily in weeping.

8. Awareness of sin should drive us to God's appointed sacrifice.

For the Israelites it was sacrifices bulls and rams, for us it is remembering Jesus Christ on the cross and what He sacrificed for us.