

THE UNFINISHED TASK

Joshua 13:1, "There remaineth yet very much³⁶ land to be possessed."

Introduction. Joshua old and stricken in years.

What he had been able to accomplish.

Yet much of the promised land was not conquered or possessed.

In our Christian life and work there remains yet much to be possessed.

I. The unsaved have not possessed their purchased redemption.

1. Many may have a superficial sort of happiness but do not know the joy of sins forgiven or the assurance of salvation.

2. Many have been inculcated with just enough religion to keep them from taking the real thing.

3. Christ has purchased our redemption by His blood, and we are to possess it by faith.

4. Much land to be possessed in the knowledge of God. Many know about Him, but do not know Him.

II. Many Christians have not possessed the blessings of victorious living.

A. The wilderness experience of the Israelites and its parallel with many compromising Christians today. "Lay aside every weight."

B. The Christian can be conqueror through the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.

C. The power of a Spirit-filled life.

D. The possession of a holy life and character.

1. A. The pattern of Jesus Christ.

2. B. Your spirit has wings, but how short are its flights, and how often, like a fledgling eaglet, has it to seek the nest, and come back to rest on the Rock of Ages.

3. Your soul is a garden, amid whose beauties Christ delights to walk, but how many weeds are there -- ready to spring up hard to keep down.

C. Old Spain inscribed on her coins the picture of the pillars of Hercules, which stood on either side of the Straits of Gibraltar, the extreme boundary of her empire, with only an unexplored ocean beyond. On the scroll over them was written "Ne Plus Ultra"--nothing beyond. After Columbus discovered America Spain struck out the negative and left the inscription "Plus Ultra"--More Beyond.

III. The Church has not yet possessed the territory of sin and Satan which Christ has commanded us to conquer.

1. The analogy of the Israelites under Moses, Joshua, the Judges, Saul, David, Solomon.
2. The victory of the early church in carrying out the Great Commission.
3. The lapse in the intervening centuries.
4. The heathen world today.
 - A. 1,000 languages without the Bible.
 - B. Two-thirds of the globe untouched by the Gospel. 40 million heathen dying ann.
 - C. Two-thirds of the people in U.S.A. make no profession of religious faith.
 - D. In 22 states of S.B.C. more than 10 million people not enrolled in S.S.
 - E. All the churches in St. Pete can't hold one-fifth of city's population.
5. Territory our church should possess--growth we should anticipate and strive for by 1960: 700 members.
 - 1,000 enrolled in S.S.
 - Ann. budget of \$35,000
 - Ed. Bldg. paid for, and ready to start on a new sanctuary providing space for at least 1,000 at worship and 1,500 in S.S.
6. God gave the people the title deeds for the land, but they had to work and fight for it.

Conclusion. How we can, by the help and grace of God, possess the rest of this territory, in our lives, in our community, and in the world. Are you ready?

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