

Checkin' Out My Walk - #21 - Sardis  
I Brought You Out To Bring You In

Deut. 6:23 Then He brought us out from there (Egypt = type of world, bondage, sin = Pt. A), that He might bring us in (Promise Land = Abundant Life = Pt. B), to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.

What happened between Egypt (Pt. A) and the Promised Land (Pt. B) ?

1. He brought them to Kadesh-Barnea to take them into the Promise Land and give them victory. However, they wanted to send in spies to check it out.
2. The bad report shook their faith and in their unbelief, the majority refused to walk by faith and walked by sight. They rebelled against God's command and promise.
3. God's chastisement for not entering their land > Die in the wilderness > NO inheritance.
4. They "repented" (due to the punishment). NOW we will obey, enter and fight on our own.
5. Moses warned them it would be disastrous without the LORD on their side. The enemy soundly defeated them.
6. The wilderness lies ahead. The tragedy of Israel was to spend 40 years in the wilderness. A people who lived in self-imposed poverty! Every day they spent in the wilderness was a day they could have spent in Canaan - for God had already given them the land. However, they did not believe the God that brought them out could also bring them in.
7. The Israelites grew tired and weary of God's provision, the manna. Their intense cravings caused them to tempt God in the desert. Consequences followed. God gave them their request for meat. (Num. 11:31-34) They stayed up all day, night and the next day gathering the quail. They were diligent to find satisfaction and completeness in the temporal. We are commanded to fear we will fail and to be diligent to enter God's rest! (Heb. 4:11)
8. God sent leanness into their soul. (Ps. 106:14-15) Note: God will sometime permit what is not in His direct will, but the individual loses out spiritually.
9. While the meat was still between the teeth, God's wrath was aroused and He sent a plague and killed them. > Graves of Desire & Covetousness

*I Brought You Out To Bring You In - Not For You To Go Back In Bondage*

The wilderness is a picture of the carnal Christian who lives in self-imposed poverty under the subtle influence of a defeated foe - the flesh - which Christ took with Him into the grave. We, like the Israelites, do not enjoy the fleshpots of Egypt or the golden corn of Canaan. We are dumped in the desert. It is quite pathetic as a Christian to be vested with "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" in Christ, and have available all the illimitable resources of heaven, yet in ignorance or in defiance, scratch out a mere existence with our meager resources due to unbelief. We have no sense of direction or finality of our purpose because we will not take (possess) what God has already given.

He provides the way of escape through the gift of the Holy Spirit (part of my birthright) who will empower us to live the abundant life in the fullness of Jesus Christ.

When we reckon (count it to be true) that our old man died with Jesus on the cross, the Holy Spirit can manifest the resurrected life of Jesus in us.

### What else happened between Egypt (Pt. A) and the Promised Land (Pt. B) ?

1. New Point of Entrance > Cross the Jordan River > a type of reckoning our old man to be dead.
2. When they crossed the Jordan River, Joshua had them carry 12 stones from the depths of the Jordan to Gilgal. The memorial at Gilgal was to remind them of: (1) the miracle of the crossing (2) the death of the old man and (3) the new life they were to live in the Promised Land. God would lead and give the victory.
3. It is sad 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  tribes did not want to cross the Jordan. All the tribes did not have the same degree of separation from the evil around them or the same degree of surrender to God.
4. The Israelites conquered Sihon & Og on the east side of Jordan and took possession of those lands. (Deut. 1:4) It was good land with strong, walled cities and a countryside ideal for the raising their large number of cattle. "Please do not make us cross the Jordan, but let us possess these fertile lands on the east side of Jordan" (Num. 32:5) Walking by sight!
5. They were refusing to cross over the Jordan, to die to their self and selfish wants.

Rejecting God's Plan!

Note: Matt. 6:32 For after all these things (money, possessions) the Gentiles (pagans) seek.

Am I refusing to "cross the Jordan" because of selfish desires?

Do I want the benefits of the cross without the reality of the cross in my life?

6. They were eventually trapped and ensnared by their decision.

This is the danger for those who would live on the border and not get into the land.

### Consequences For Not Crossing The Jordan - Staying On The East Side

1. The wives and children they left behind were deprived of witnessing divine miracles >
  - a. the parting of the Jordan River;
  - b. the destruction of the walls of Jericho, and
  - c. the many battles fought and won.
2. Due to their great distance from the temple, these tribes came more and more under pagan influence, and were the first to go into captivity.  
'East-siders' settle for less than God's best. They may have marched the football all the way down the field, but they allow the devil's goal line stand to keep them out. With the Promised Land in sight, they give up and are shut down, just inches away from victory!

The peril is having begun in the Spirit, you might turn aside to make some compromise with Amalek, (type of the flesh) because of the hardness of the way, the greatness of the cost, by reason of the conflict and forgetting God's word - "utterly destroy Amalek" (1 Sam. 15:3). We settle for a peaceful coexistence with the flesh. God says to destroy Amalek.

Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Rom. 13:11-14 Do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Let us walk properly, ... But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts. Ponder: If I am wise, I will redeem the time I have now and allow the Holy Spirit to bring me to the fullness of Jesus Christ.  
I Thess. 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

God calls us to take up our cross and follow Him.

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

A.W. Tozer: Christ's journey to immortal triumph.

1. Remember the garden where He sweat blood.
2. Remember Pilate's hall where they put on Him the purple robe and smote Him.
3. Remember His experience with His closest disciples as they all forsook Him and fled.
4. Remember the journey up the hill to Calvary.
5. Remember how they nailed Him to a cross, 6 awful hours, the hiding of the Father's face.
6. Remember the darkness and remember the surrender of His spirit in death.

This was the path Jesus took to immortal triumph and everlasting glory.

As He is, so are we in this world. There is a dark night of our soul.

II Cor. 11:24-28 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one.<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;<sup>26</sup> *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;<sup>27</sup> *in* weariness and toil, *in* sleeplessness often, *in* hunger and thirst, *in* fastings often, *in* cold and nakedness—<sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Few Christians are willing to go into this dark night. Therefore few enter into the light. It is impossible for some to know the morning because they will not endure the night.

Matt. 10:38 He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

2 Greek words for worthy:

1. Strong's #2661 = kataxioo = To Be Counted Worthy; To Be Deemed Entirely Deserving  
We are counted worthy because of what Christ has already done for us on the Cross.  
He is the One who is really counted worthy.

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy (kataxioo) to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Belief: All born-again believers in Jesus Christ (faithful or not) are accounted worthy to escape the things to come and to stand before the Lord.

2. Strong's #514 = axios = To Be Worthy Of On The Grounds Of Being Fit, Meet, Or Prepared

Rev. 3:4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. (axios)

Belief: I believe this is referring to being prepared and qualified to rule and reign with Christ in His Kingdom and have a level of responsibility.

### Paul's Perspective Regarding The Race Of Faith & The Rewards

Note: Paul wrote 14 books of the Bible, yet listen to his concern in: I Cor. 9:27 >

He was fearful of not winning the prize (Christ-likeness with its rewards and privileges). Somehow, Paul was fearful of being a castaway!

### Running For The Prize - Run With Eternity In View

I Cor. 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.<sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes (agonizomai = striveth) *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*.<sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.<sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (castaway=disapproved)

Lest = Strong's #3381 = mepos - God forbid That I should

Castaway = Strong's #96 = adokimos = Someone who is tested for proof, but who fails the test (is not able to withstand it) and is then rejected. Castaway is one who is not worthy (axios) of inheriting because he is not fit, prepared or ready.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Know = Strong's #1492 = eido - to know intimately

They profess to know God intimately, but "in works" they deny Him.

Our works portray the truth about our lives.

What was Paul so intent about keeping, while at the same time, he acknowledged it could be lost? Paul KNEW he could never lose his justification, but he was concerned about losing the prize of the reward of inheritance. (not being found fit or worthy - deemed disqualified)

Maybe he remembered Moses, who was not permitted to enter the Promised Land because of disobedience at the end of his life (Deut. 3:25-26). He possibly was worried his own life's work could be burned in the end and he could suffer loss.

I Cor. 3:14-15- If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Loss = Forfeit one's inheritance or something that could have been in one's possession

NOTE: This is written to BELIEVERS! According to I Cor. 3, these people are saved in the end. These are believers who suffer loss. They became castaways not worthy of inheriting.

Pressing Toward the Goal - If you desire to successfully run the spiritual race to win, to obtain the prize, Paul gives us essential principles to pursue the necessary deep and abiding intimate knowledge of Christ. I want Him to know (oida) me intimately. Ruling and reigning in Christ's kingdom is not automatic. Not all believers will win the prize! It is possible to defile our garments, fail the test and not be found worthy> Disapproved!

Phil. 3:12-14 (1) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected;

Notes: (1) There must be an awareness of the need to pursue the prize.

When Paul wrote "I have not already obtained and I am not already perfect," he had been a Christian for about 30 years. For three decades he had been intensely and faithfully pursuing the knowledge of Christ. He still wasn't there, but spiritually dissatisfied. It's like running after something that keeps moving further away from you. There is a continually increasing spiritual pursuit matched by a continually increasing dissatisfaction.

Pursuit then of knowing Christ begins with an honest assessment of my imperfection.

There should be in the life of every Christian a basic discontent.

(2) but I press on, that I may lay hold of that (Christ-likeness) for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Notes: (2) I have to make the maximum effort to pursue the prize. God's purpose in saving me (to be conformed to the image of His Son) should now become my purpose and pursuit. You might become fully conformed to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

(3) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Notes: (3) Single-minded (Wise) in pursuing the prize. Focus my concentration

4. Spiritually Motivated To Pursue The Prize.

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Greek kata, it literally means I bear down and I go after the goal.

5. Realize He who has called us to maturity will do the work in us and through us as we abide in Him.

Warning: Mediocre Christians will resist the call to spiritual maturity.

He wrote: "That I may win Christ" - yet he already had Christ!

His longing: "That I may be found in Him." - yet he was already in Him!

His desire: "That I may know Him." - yet he already knew Him!

He testified: "I follow after; I press toward the mark. I have not obtained.

I am striving to lay hold of that for which Christ laid hold on me."

Note: Paul is talking about the PRESENT and expressing his desire to continue on with Christ and experience ALL for which Christ had apprehended him.

Most of us are complete strangers to the desire and spirit which drove the Apostle Paul forward day by day: "That I may win - that I may know- that I may be found in Him. Paul agonized and strained every muscle of his being as he sought to win the prize of the high calling. He exhorted all of us to "lay aside every weight and RUN THE RACE." (Heb. 12:1) AW Tozer To have found God and still pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too easily satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart.

Paul's desire was that we win.

I Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The end of the race will be victory or defeat; overcomer or overtaken. The goal of the race is that we might become "partakers of His holiness; conformed to the image of Jesus Christ" (Heb. 12:10).

### Be Watchful Of:

1. Wiles of the Devil - He is determined we should fail the test, become castaways and lose the prize of our high calling.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

### WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY?

- In Egypt, still in slavery to sin, and need to be saved.
- In the wilderness, redeemed, but not growing. Time of testing, dealing with the flesh, a time where the Holy Spirit is dealing with fleshly habits that keep you wandering. Been saved for years but you still aren't really digging into your Bible, still not really praying, still not making commitments to be faithful and to serve. Israelites did not enter into their inheritance of rest because of their disobedience.
- In Canaan, excited, growing, having the joy of the Lord. A giant conqueror! You struggle with enemies, with the flesh, but you are in the Word and abiding in Him.
- An "EASTSIDER" living on the dead side of Jordan. You are saved, but in the world, living for the flesh. Occasionally you eat some of the milk and honey from the Lord. There is sin at the door. Satan is having a heyday stealing your inheritance.

Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

Luke confirmed it was the Word that could bring you to spiritual maturity and thereby insure your inheritance in the coming kingdom.

II Tim. 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.