



FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY SERIES: "FINISHING STRONG" #2

Tuesday, 9 July 2019

Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. NKJV

Introduction

'Choice' is an inherent behaviour of man. Not making a choice is still a choice. **Deuteronomy 30:15** *See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.* KJV Cf. **Luke 10:42** *But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.* KJV. The choices you make are the chances you create. Finishing strong or weak is a choice we make - **Deuteronomy 30:19** - *...I have set before you, life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*

Not all the souls that left Egypt got to The Promised Land – many died of pestilence (Numbers 21:5-6), punishment from God (Numbers 14:28-29), slain or taken away (Dathan & Abiram's household – Numbers 16:31-34). Only Joshua and Caleb made it to the Promised Land (Numbers 14:30) – they finished strong and died empty.

Today, we shall discuss one of the 'types of finishing' according to the Scriptures. That is the type of finishing that men have devised for themselves. In the end, we shall make a better choice for the race that is set ahead of us. You shall finish strong in Jesus' name, Amen.

B. Devised Purpose

Deuteronomy 30:19 - *...I have set before you, life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*

1. Saltless Finishers

Luke 9:62 - *But Jesus told him, "Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God."* TLB. They escaped the destruction in Sodom and Gomorrah but died outside the city without getting to the safe zone! Genesis 19:15-26. Lot's wife became a useless salt – salt without saltiness.

Mark 9:50 *Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavour, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.* These are grace wasters. Generation of squanders and careless starters of faith. See some of their characteristics:



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- a. **Short-sighted** with concerns for immediate and filthy gains – Gehazi, 2 Kings 5. Being overtaken by greed to feed; glutton and filthy lucre by nature Hebrews 12:16 - for one morsel of meat, Esau sold his birthright.
- b. **Do-what-I-say-and-not-what-I-do** fellows; hearers they are but not doers – Mr. & Mrs Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5
- c. **Achievement-centred** men, just like Uzziah – 2 Chronicles 26
- d. **Proud and haughty** – Esther 1:10-12. Such men do not end well - **Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*
- e. **Weather fellows** – Demas – 2 Timothy 4:10. **Hebrews 13:9** - *Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.* NIV They look for new doctrines (2 Timothy 3:7) and end up being carried away by them.
- f. **Suppressed by surrounding pressure** – King Saul in 1 Samuel 10:7-8; 13:7-14.

Conclusion

Patience and obedience are vital virtues for a successful ending. **Hebrews 10:38** – *"Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."* NKJV Query your daily conversation in the sincerest order – Romans 2:21-24 - ²¹*Yes, you teach others-then why don't you teach yourselves? You tell others not to steal-do you steal?* ²²*You say it is wrong to commit adultery-do you do it? You say "Don't pray to idols" and then make money your god instead.* ²³*You are so proud of knowing God's laws, but you dishonour him by breaking them.* ²⁴*No wonder the Scriptures say that the world speaks evil of God because of you.* TLB

Make a better choice to finish strong. The faithfulness of God to take you to the Land is sure but will require your will. Therefore, we need the ever-growing grace of God - **2 Peter 3:18** *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Next Week

We shall consider the second class of Finishers. Pray along and expect the trumpet to sound at any moment. Maranatha!