

Monday, MAY 24, 2010

In 1857 America experienced a dramatic move of God. Unusual prosperity suddenly crumbled in a great recession which left thousands unemployed, banks failing and a national economy in shambles. In the months preceding, one man had begun noon time prayer meetings in New York, and when the crisis hit, businesses began closing at noon, nationwide, so people could seek God's help. Nearly 2 million people found Jesus Christ to be their Savior over the next two years, and churches from coast to coast were filled to overflowing with passionate people seeking God! It was a Great Awakening!

What might God be planning for summer 2010 in our nation, and specifically Walworth County? I believe it may be significant and I intend to do all I can to help you, my friends of Calvary, be ready for a mighty move of God! Last week, I urged you to PREPARE and I gave you three focuses:

The WORD of God...when applied by the Holy Spirit in your life, miracles happen! I urged you to focus on Psalm 119 and Colossians to prepare yourself for 'Summer 2010' with God.

The WISDOM of God...is life transforming as God's Spirit guides you in God honoring decision making. I gave you multiple Scriptures and even a formula for learning how to gain wisdom, remember? Consider Proverbs 1-4.

The PRESENCE of God...is the awesome reality of the Holy Spirit resident with you, in you and going before you (John 14:17). Like great men and women of old, God invites you to live your life with a constant awareness of God near you, day and night, empowering you for victorious living. Remember the Presence formula I gave you last week? Consider Deut. 31:8.

Now...what have you done with your week in PREPARING for summer 2010? Friends every great move of God in history, has happened among a people who prepared themselves. Don't minimize what God wants to do in your life!

Tuesday, MAY 25, 2010

When Moses finished his great challenge to PREPARE the people for their leaving the desert behind and move into the new land (Deuteronomy), God POSITIONED them for the great transition. This week, let's dig deeply and ask ourselves if it is a pattern for us as we move into 'Summer 2010', a 'new land' for us, with great expectations.

Listen and Learn...was challenge number one! Read Deut. 31 and note especially vs. 9-13. In that time of history, Moses had written the "Torah", the first five books of the Bible. The Torah Scroll was to be placed next to the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle holy place. It was to be read from time to time, so the people could teach their children. Note Psalm 78:1-7 and Deut. 6:4-9. Do you see the pattern of parenting responsibility? God's priority for parenting has not changed friends. Regardless of what else parents and grandparents teach their children, God's Truth is priority!

Notice please the dismal prediction of what God foresaw in His people (31:16-30). Does this give you yet another example of God's unconditional love? Does it sound like Romans 5:8? Do you see why it is so important that we prioritize God's truth known, honored, and protected in every generation? All through Israel's history, God sent prophets to call them back from spiritual drift and rebellion...back to God with repentance. Over and over they refused to listen (Jeremiah 2). Consider Romans 1:16, 10:17 as key truths for us today and ask yourself...do I actively LISTEN, do I hunger to hear God's truth, do I LEARN as God speaks to me? If you can't say enthusiastically YES...then look closely to discern why not. Too busy, distracted, indifferent? Friends, disregard of God's call to Listen and Learn His truth will have fatal results! Remember, "you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32) "He who follows Me will not walk in darkness" (John 8:12). You can only position yourself for a great work of God in you IF you prioritize LISTEN and LEARN from Him!

Wednesday, MAY 26, 2010

Have you considered what we are doing when we sing worship in our church services? Deuteronomy 32 is actually a great song of worship, but notice God dictated it to Moses so as they sang this song it would be a "witness against them" (Deut. 31:9-22)! I challenge us to consider carefully what we sing to God. Could it be we are singing a "witness against us" when we neither believe nor live some of what we sing?

Moses is one of three men I find in the Bible who did not die a normal death. Enoch (Gen. 5:24); Moses (Deut. 32:48-52; 34:1-8); Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). You notice God gave Moses the opportunity to look over into the Promised Land. Did you notice WHY God did not allow Moses to lead the people into the new land (Deut. 32:50-52)? Does that seem harsh? It's yet another "wake up call" to us regarding how seriously God takes His holiness and His expectation of His people. Remember I Peter 1:14,15 and I John 1:5,6?

Do you notice how forthrightly God seems to challenge Joshua in his new role of leader? "*Moses My servant is dead, now then, you and these people get ready to cross the Jordan...*" (Joshua 1:1,2). Part of positioning ourselves for Summer 2010 is leaving behind anything that might hold us back from what God wants to do among us going forward!! Now, look closely into your life...anything need to "die on the mountain" this week, before you cross into Summer 2010 with God?

Joshua 1 is God's promise that He will go before Joshua, and His challenge that Joshua hold firmly to God's Word. Next, God tells Joshua to send spies to "look over" Jericho and the land. I urge us each to do that this week...take out your calendar and 'look over' the 100 days of Summer 2010. What's awaiting you? Now lay those 100 days down before God and with your hands upon the weeks, pray over them, asking God to apply our 2010 theme verse to your life EVERY day of Summer 2010. Ask God to plant Psalm 119 deeply into your life this summer!

Thursday, MAY 27, 2010

You may know Joshua chapter 3 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible. Note especially 3:1-4. What do you see? First, they moved to their final “positioning place” before leaving the desert and crossing into the new land. It was their “launching pad”...that’s what these next few days are for us! Use them well as you make final preparations for Summer 2010.

Is “Shittim” just one of those Bible names that you skim over in Joshua 3:1? Oh no my friends...look at Numbers 25...so sad! Shittim was a final place of desert failure! That’s why it was so important to move to a new ‘launching pad’ before consecrating themselves and moving into the new land.

Do you notice Joshua’s orders to the people regarding how they were to move into the new land? “*When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God...move out and follow it, for you have never been this way before.*” (Joshua 3:2,3)! The cloud which had been the visible symbol of God’s presence since their departure from Egypt, was evidently NOT crossing the river with them. The Ark was now going before them. What is the evidence of God’s Presence with you? When you have important forward steps to take, especially steps of change, how do you know God is leading you and is with you? Would you consider Philippians 3:7-14 and Ephesians 3:10-21 as words from God for His people of our day as we “camp before crossing over” into the summer before us? Take some time to pray as you read...ask God to show you very clearly, how does HE see your summer? What does He want to accomplish IN you this summer? How does Jesus, as Head of His Church, want to unite you and me and all of Calvary for His great glory as we accomplish what He has been planning for us this summer?

Where is God planning to lead you as you “follow Him” this summer? May I urge you as a family or with a prayer partner or two...walk carefully, praying earnestly for each other! Track carefully your journey of following Jesus this summer.

Friday, MAY 28, 2010

It’s only one little verse, but it’s one of the most powerful in the whole Bible...“*Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’*” (Joshua 3:5)!

What do you think? Is it fair to apply it to yourself on the threshold of your summer 2010? “Consecrate” is a term used often in the Bible...it means to set apart to God for specific, holy and honorable use. Consider 2 Chronicles 29:1-11. Hezekiah has just become king following his wicked father Ahaz. Notice his challenge to the spiritual leaders to “consecrate yourselves” for the sacred work of leading Israel from their wicked rebellion back to God. Also, they were to consecrate the Temple which his father King Ahaz had actually closed and consecrate all the artifacts which had been fabricated to be used in the worship of Jehovah God. If you have the time, I urge you to read the entire chapter and also chapter 30! A great revival of God came upon Jerusalem, unlike anything that had been seen in 300 years! What would it look like in Walworth County my friends? How might it affect you and your family...and your legacy?

Friends, there is one major ingredient in EVERY mighty move of God anywhere in the world...REPENTANCE! Consecrate is all about holiness which is total repulsion of sin. Consider Ezekiel 36:16-32, look closely to see God’s assessment of the sins of His people. “*You will loath yourselves for your sins:*” (36:31). That’s what happens when a person really “consecrates” themselves to God for His holiness to be poured out upon them!! Oh I’d give anything for us to be a consecrated people, and for God to pour out His Holy Spirit upon us as His people and do a transforming work in us, what about you? What would it mean in your life and mine...in all of Calvary and in Walworth County? Preparing for this weekend and our launch into Summer 2010, read the rest of Joshua 3, then all of 4 and 5! Here we go...you’ve had two weeks to PREPARE and POSITION, are you ready for God?



Pastor Doug Anderson

MAY 24 - 28, 2010



THE CALL

HIS PASSION FOR ALL

POSITIONED

How well are you positioned
for what God knows
your Summer 2010
will entail?



A Disciplemaking Tool
DIGGING
DEEPER

Calvary
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