

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Theme: "WITH ALL YOUR HEART-COMING TOGETHER"

### (CIRCUMCISION)

Circumcision was a sign of the Abrahamic covenant...

\*We should note that as Moses circumcised his son's before the first Passover and led a circumcised people OUT OF Egypt...

\*So did Joshua who lead a circumcised army INTO Canaan...

Apparently there were challenges to continue this religious ceremony during the years in the wilderness, and so they did not do it...

Therefore, the inability of the army for fighting would demand their total faith and reliance upon God...

The proper observance of the Passover held before the campaign for Jericho demanded that it be observed by those who were actually circumcised...

With the renewal of circumcision and the Passover, a sanctified people were ready for God to lead them into the holy warfare that lay ahead...

### (GILGAL)

(Joshua 5:9)

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have ROLLED AWAY the reproach of Egypt from you..."

The word "Gilgal," means "ROLLING AWAY..."

So, Gilgal marks the place where God rolled away the reproach of Egypt...

Israel's period of shameful captivity had now come officially to an end...

The long expected blessings of Canaan were found on the other side of the dangerous River Jordan, but they would have to cross over...

Friends, in order to fulfill God's will for our lives sometimes it will require us to pass through dangerous or difficult experiences...

At times we will have to exercise faith and simply "step in the water..."

At times it is only when we "step in the water" that we are able to move forward...

### (GOLGOTHA)

This root-world, Gilgal, marks the New Testament site of Golgotha, the place where humanity's captivity by sin was ended...

It was on the hill of Golgotha where our sins were rolled away and rolled into the person of Jesus Christ...

At Golgotha, not only were our sins rolled away...

Not only are we saved FROM sin...

But we were/are saved FOR Christ...

We are saved so that we might enter into God's spiritual inheritance through Jesus Christ...

### (NEW CREATION)

So, when we come into union with the risen and glorified Lord, we are a new creation....

We therefore become aware of Christ in a new way...

Therefore Paul writes, from now on we are required to live as "a new creation..."

\*Why! Because a crossing over experience has taken place in our life.

\*All things, including the old self, have passed away; meaning, we must depart from the old life at the moment of salvation...

\*Behold, all things have become new; this stresses the idea of the abiding results of our union with Christ...

Paul emphasizes Jesus' continuous action in our life in three ways...

(IMPUTES/ATTRIBUTES - V. 19)

1. \*God imputes (attributes) not iniquity to humanity, but blessings...

(Psalm 32:2) Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit...

2. \*God imputes (attributes) sin to Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb of God...

(John 1:29) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world..."

3. \*God imputes the righteousness of Jesus to the sinner's account...

\*Oh we all had an account...

\*An account void of God's signature...

\*An account that was over-drafted...

\*Now we have a new account...

\*An account that is signed by God...

\*An account that is sealed by the blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God...

\*An account that is continuously delivered by the Holy Spirit...

\*This is Mr. Wesley's idea of Justification...

\*The sinner is declared righteous based on the merits of Jesus Christ...

(Romans 3:24-25) [24] being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

[25] whom God set forth as a sacrifice by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His patient self-control, restraint and tolerance, God had passed over the sins that were previously committed...

We could also view from the perspective of Mr. Wesley's idea of sanctification...

The righteousness of Jesus Christ is daily applied...

(REPAIR WORK)

Friends, as we journey towards an empty tomb on Easter Sunday morning, we have some REPAIR WORK to do...

Now is the time; there is an urgency alert that has been issued..

All things are of God, who has reconciled us to God through Jesus Christ...

We have the ministry of reconciliation.

God has wiped everything clean...

We are ambassador for Christ...

Let us take a good look at our family, church, community, nation, and world...

Which part of each institution needs repair work...

I pray that we will expand our vision so that we can expand the reign of God's kingdom on earth through FUMC...

Coming Together will enable us to break down barriers and boundaries...

Coming Together will enable us to restore brokenness and hopelessness...

Coming Together will strengthen our bond and help us to realize that we are God's vision wherever we are...

Therefore, relent, reconcile, repair any broken relationship, be renewed as a resurrected and restored people...

Why! Because you are a new creation; you have crossed over from darkness into God's marvelous light...

Of course, all of these things are gifts from God...

Amen!