

What Remains

Joshua 13:1

PROPOSITION: Many challenges are before us as we strive to do greater things for the Lord.

INTRODUCTION:

1. God challenged Joshua to complete the tasks.
2. As we look back, we might become complacent or discouraged, but there is still a challenge before us: "There remains yet very much land to possess."

DISCUSSION:

I. "Lands" have been conquered.

- A. Joshua and Israel might have looked with pride at what they had done.
 1. With an army of untrained men, Joshua had faced a country filled with war-like people.
 2. Much of the land had been settled.
- B. In the past year, progress has been made by the Ninth Avenue church.
 1. In evangelism (cf. Matt. 28:18-20)
 2. In teaching (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2)
 3. In worship (cf. Heb. 10:25)
 4. In stewardship (cf. 1 Cor. 16:2)
 5. In "every good work" (cf. Tit. 3:1)
- C. We may have planted and watered, "but God gave the growth" (1 Cor. 3:6).

II. There remains yet very much land to possess.

- A. As great as the conquests had been, Israel had not done all it should have done.
- B. We cannot be satisfied with what we did last year.
 1. How many souls did you teach?
 2. What would our attendance have been had you attended every Bible class and worship service?
 3. What would our contribution have been had you given sacrificially?
 4. Were our accomplishments because of you or in spite of you?
- C. Our gains were small, because we were "thinking small."

III. Look to the future.

- A. "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead," let us "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14).
- B. Knowing exactly what needed to be done, the Israelites could make plans to meet the challenge.
- C. The key to our needs is in the word "growth."
 1. Let us grow in soul winning.
 2. Let us grow in attendance.
 3. Let us grow in giving.
 4. Let us grow in involvement.
 5. Let us grow in love and concern.
 6. Let us grow in dedication, consecration, and personal responsibility.
 7. Let us grow in an active, loving faith.

CONCLUSION:

1. Hats off to the past and coats off to the future!
2. Resolve in your heart to do your part.