

EMBRACING CHANGE

"More Memorials"

Joshua 8:30-35

INTRODUCTION:

1. Ephesians 6:10-13

2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

a) Vs 4

1) "**strongholds**" - are fortresses that are built in our minds that hide us from right thinking.

b) Vs 5

1) "**We destroy arguments and every lofty (high minded, arrogant) opinion**"

a. These are ungodly demonic thoughts and opinions, philosophies, viewpoints, and religions that contradict what God has said in His Word.

b. **1 Peter 3:15**

2) "**raised against the knowledge (His Word) of God**"

a. **WOW!!!** Spiritual warfare is not a battle against demons...it is the battle for the mind.

3) "**and take every thought captive to obey Christ**"

a. Using God's truth, believers smash enemy fortresses to the ground, march the prisoners out, and bring them (thoughts) into obedience to Christ.

c) Vs 6

1) "**being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.**"

a. The wrong kind of thinking can mess up your life as well as others.

4. **2 Timothy 2:3**

5. The book of Joshua is full of Memorials.

a) **Remember:** *A memorial is something designed to keep **REMEMBRANCE** alive.*

1) **Pearl Harbor Memorial (Image)** -

The USS Arizona Memorial, located at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii, marks the resting place of 1,102 of the 1,177 sailors and marines killed on the USS Arizona (BB-39)

during the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 by Japanese imperial forces and commemorates the events of that day. The attack on Pearl Harbor and the island of O'ahu was the action that led to the United States' direct involvement in World War II.

2) Holocaust Museum - "We Are the Shoes, We Are the Last Witnesses"

Moses Schulstein

*"We are the shoes. We are the last witnesses.
We are shoes from grandchildren and grandfathers
From Prague, Paris and Amsterdam.
And because we are only made of fabric and leather
And not of blood and flesh,
Each one of us avoided the Hellfire".*

Inscribed on the wall in the United States National Holocaust Museum above a room-sized plastic box filled with shoes taken from those sent to die.

I. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE MEMORIALS

1. The nation of Israel has already established memorials in their Conquest of Canaan.
 - a) In **Joshua 4:4-7**
 - 1) A memorial @ Gilgal
 - b) In **Joshua 7:25-26**
 - 1) Then after the death of Achan because of his sin, the people heaped a pile of stones on his grave.
 - c) In **Joshua 8:27-29**
 - 1) After Israel's defeat of Ai, the people built a memorial over the king of Ai's grave @ the gate of the city, as a memorial to that battle.
2. But the greatest of all these memorials took place in **Joshua 8:30-35** when the people come to Mount Ebal and Gerizim.
3. **Deut 11:29, 31-32**
4. **No matter what, it is always best to obey God!!**

II. THE PLACE OF OBEDIENCE

1. **Joshua 8:30-34**
2. In **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

3. **God gives man a choice!!!!** The choice of obeying or disobeying God.
4. The nation of Israel is being called together in a memorial to be reminded once again of their PURPOSE.
5. Deuteronomy 27:12-14
6. Deuteronomy 27:15-26
7. They knew that disobedience to God brought His wrath upon them, and they confirmed their devotion to Him by endorsing the curses of God.
8. Deuteronomy 28:1-10
9. Whenever the people see **Mounts Ebal and Gerizim**, they will be reminded that they have a choice to make, and the consequences of each choice.
10. **LISTEN UP:** The same is true of us today!!!
 - a) **Joshua 24:15**

III. A TIME TO WORSHIP

1. Joshua 8:30-31
2. *Long before this celebration of obedience*, the Lord had given instructions to Joshua about making an altar on Mount Ebal to offer sacrifices and peace offerings.
3. **QUESTION:** *What is the function of an altar?*
 - a) **ANSWER:** *The function of an altar is to sacrifice.*
4. **QUESTION:** *And why do we need a sacrifice?*
 - a) **ANSWER:** Because of sin. *Sin is the act of disobedience.*
5. *God went to all the trouble of setting up this reminder to obey, but God knew man would fail.*
6. THE ALTAR PROVIDES US WITH THREE VITAL LESSONS:
 - a) Salvation is impossible without sacrifice.

- 1) When God gave Moses the "**law-giver**" He also made Aaron the priest!
 - a. As if God were saying, "**Thou shalt not....but I know you will.**"

2) When *God's* law is broken, there is a way of escape.

3) The lamb was to suffer a penalty it did not deserve so that the guilty might go free.

4) **Isaiah 53:3-10a**

b) Salvation demands a sinner

1) Those on Mount *Gerizim* don't need an altar, because they are obedient and live with the blessings of *God*.

2) Those on Mount *Ebal* an altar is set up for those who are sinners.

3) ***Romans 3:19-20***

c) Salvation demands a Savior

1) **Joshua 8:31**

2) **Luke 2:11-14**