

# Stay the Course...Liberty!

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Hebrews 12:1-3** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

## The Time of Joshua:

Victory & Freedom

Faith & Obedience

Progress, Joy, Strength

Heavenly vision & Unity

**Deuteronomy 6:23** He brought us out of Egypt so he could give us this land he had sworn to give our ancestors.

## The Testimony of the time of Joshua:

**Galatians 5:22-26** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

## The Time of the Judges:

Slavery & Defeat

Unbelief & disobedience

Decline, Sorrow, Weakness

Earthly emphasis & Disunity

**Compromise – not doing “all” that God told you to do.**

**Judges 2:1-2** The angel of the LORD went up... and said to the Israelites, “I brought you out of Egypt into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said I would never break my covenant with you... But you disobeyed my command. Why did you do this?”

**Galatians 6:7** Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

**Apostasy – doing what God told you not to do.**

**Judges 2:11-12** The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight and served the images of Baal. They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD.

**Hosea 8:7a** "They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind.

## **The Testimony of the Time of the Judges:**

**Galatians 5:19-21** When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

## **Which Way?**

**Lamentations 3:40** Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

**Joel 2:12-13** That is why the LORD says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning...Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.