



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

*Walking in the Footsteps of righteousness ... by Billy*

*READ GENESIS 13: 1-18*

- As we retrace the steps of Abram after his troubled journey to Egypt, it appears as if he is a different man. Instead of fear, deception and reliance on earthly resources we see humility, kindness and goodness.
- In many ways Abram's contrasting behaviour mirrors the human dilemma we all face as we strive to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Some days we are up and other days we are down. Some days there is victory over sin and other days we are overtaken by various temptations.
- What we desire is a steady, onward walk of faith and victory that is according to God's promises. It is often the assumption that wealth will solve most problems but here we can see that it actually gave rise to the contentious issue.
- Abram approached the problem with a godly point of view. He had returned to the former altar and called upon the Name of the Lord. Notice how Abram deals with the strife. *Prov.15:18...* "A hot-tempered man stirs up strife but he who is slow to anger quiets contention."
- The benefits of calling upon the Name of the Lord are many and one of them is to receive the peace that surpasses understanding.
- When everyone else is fighting for what belongs to them, the man or woman of God is content to give way because the Spirit of God has dissolved all anger and contention within their heart. In the life of Lot we are seeing something different – the lure of the luscious pastureland became his guiding light.
- What Lot failed to see was the wickedness of the people who lived in Sodom. When Lot departed from Abram the Lord spoke once again with a word of promise.
- It is significant that after a step of righteous obedience God reveals Himself again to His people. God promised so much more that a well-watered garden. He promised an expansive territory that would become the inheritance of his descendants forever.
- The life of Abram presents us with a picture of how a believer should live in this world. We are living in the world but not belonging to its system of values. Like Abram we are looking for a city whose builder and maker is God. (*Heb. 11:10*). We look for this city by faith in God's promise.
- In summary let's remember some key points:
- There are times when we have to go back before we can go forward, times when we need to return to our first love of the Lord.

We do well to be reminded that our prosperous nation is full of wickedness and we must not let the benefits of prosperity blind us to shameful practices of a nation that has chosen to worship Mammon.

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## WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

- Such is the choice that is set before us each day. Will we desire the treasures and the pleasures of this temporal existence or will we look for greater territory according to God's promise (*Heb.11:810*).

### Events /Notices

- ▶ **Shop will be open 1.30-2.00pm** for church this *Sunday*
- ▶ **Tiglin praise meeting** this *Wednesday @ 7.30pm* (See Gareth/Billy if you would like a lift). There will be no prayer meeting in 110.
- ▶ **Carol service** will take place next *Sunday 16th December @ 7.00pm*. If you would like to participate in any way please see Jorge or Johnes as they will be arranging program this Sunday.
- ▶ **There is also an evangelistic carol service** at the Helix on *Saturday night 15th December*. Please contact Jeanne if you would like to attend.
- ▶ **There are hampers** available to those in need of help so please contact Billy if you know anyone who could benefit.
- ▶ **Compassion outreach Christmas party** will take place on *Wed/Thurs 19th/20th of December @ 6.00pm*.
- ▶ **Children's Christmas program** will follow the main meeting on *Sunday 23rd December*. (No regular Sunday School until *January 6th*).

### Extra Services

*If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:*

#### ▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

#### ▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

*Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (Psalm 34:11)*

#### ▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).