



Life In Christ – Moving Forward

Deuteronomy 2:1-7

Introduction:

- As pilgrims and strangers on the earth. There are two dangers to which we are ever exposed, That of sitting at ease in our present comfortable condition, or of rushing impatiently into new spheres and circumstances.
- Have you ever heard the phrase, “running in circles?”
- Sometimes we find ourselves running in circles here on earth trying to make sense of everyday life.

1. The Charge (v.3)

- Move Forward - God desires his people to move away from the day-to-day, “skirting around the earth,” and enjoy the possessions, and the promise that is awaiting them.
 - We skirt around the earth, trying to take possession of it.
 - We pay too much attention to this world and what it has to offer.
- It is a blessed thing to be saved from the wrath to come, but it is a miserable thing never to get beyond that.
- There may be some who need to hear from a spiritual perspective, “You have been running in circles long enough.”
- Philippians 3:14 - Press on toward the mark of your high calling in Jesus Christ.

2. The Command (v.3)

- Turn Northward!
- The good land of promise lay stretched away northward.
- They were to set their faces toward all that had been given to them freely by God.
- In Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, you may recall the description of the Man with the Muck Rake, the man who could look no way but downward, with the muck rake in his hand; who was offered a celestial crown for his muck rake, but who would neither look up nor regard the crown he was offered, but continued to rake to himself the filth of the floor. The Man with the Muck Rake is set forth as the example of him whose vision is fixed on carnal instead of spiritual things.

3. The Caution (v. 4-7)

- Be careful and cautious not to get caught up in the things of this world.
- Yes, we have to pass through, yes, we have to buy and sell. Yes, we have to deal with this world, and yes, we will at times have to persevere.
- We are reminded of His: favor, wisdom, presence, and sufficiency.
- Luke 22:35; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:5

“May we get up, look up, move forward, and live in this world like we belong to heaven” – WA Pratt