

Caleb: Lessons From A Dog's Life **4393**

Proclamation: Psalm 92:12–15

I. The Early And Latter Rain—Hos. 6:1–3 (1 Cor. 15:4)

- A. Three facts of Scripture with reference to Jesus:
 - 1. Jesus died
 - 2. Was buried
 - 3. Rose again
- And us:
 - 1. He made us alive
 - 2. Resurrected us
 - 3. Enthroned us (Eph. 2:4)
- B. He will come to us like the morning (resurrection)
- C. He will come to us like the rain (a picture of Pentecost)

II. Caleb's Life Experience

- A. Son of Jephunneh
- B. Definition: “Dog” (Num. 13:6)
- C. One of the twelve spies (Num. 13:6ff)
- D. Spies report back (Num. 13:27–33)
 - 1. Two different responses (Num. 14:1–10)
 - a. We are well able
 - b. We are not able
 - 2. The Lord's response (Num. 14:26–38)
 - a. “Just as you have spoken in My ears, so I will do to you”
 - b. Death or life are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21)
 - c. “By your words you will be justified” and “every idle word shall be judged” – Jesus (Matt. 12:36–37)
 - d. This severe punishment did not come as a result of worshiping the golden calf, but through despising God's grace (to enter the land)

III. The Essence Of Caleb—A Different Spirit

- A. Five times: “He wholly (fully) followed the Lord”
 - 1. A different spirit (Num. 14:24)
 - 2. Num. 32:11–12
 - 3. Deut. 1:36
 - 4. Josh. 14:8–9
 - 5. Josh. 14:14
- B. Essence of Christianity: Following Jesus
 - 1. Relationship primary; doctrine secondary
 - 2. I know *whom* I have believed – Paul
 - 3. Primarily, faith is *loyalty*
- C. New Testament examples:
 - 1. Matt. 9:9—“follow Me”
 - 2. John 21:19, 22—twice “follow Me”
- D. The dog: a pattern for us:

1. To be near
 2. Willing to go wherever you go
 3. Walk by “scent” (faith) rather than sight (2 Cor. 5:7)
- E. “Dogged”: Definition:
1. *Collins*: Obstinate determined, willful or tenacious
 2. *Webster*: marked by stubborn determination
 3. Courage, faith, hangs on
- F. Faith *and* patience (Heb. 6:12)
1. It takes *time* to develop *character*
 2. Harder to train a dog to *wait* than to follow
 3. A lost dog will search for its master

IV. Caleb’s Reward (Josh. 14:6–13)

- A. The land his inheritance
- B. Kept alive 45 years—to age 85
- C. Still has the same strength
 1. For peace *and* for war
 2. For going out *and* for coming in
- D. “Give me this mountain”
 1. Not presumptuous or arrogant
 2. Ambition: to know the Lord (Hos. 6:3)

V. Application: Goals Of A Christian

- A. Christ in you (Col. 1:25–27)
- B. Christ is all (Col. 3:11)