

By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. **1John 2:5-6**

## Store In My Heart Psalms 103:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

One of the common themes among the Psalms is the offering of praise to God.

How often do you offer praise to the Creator? We often talk of the need to thank God, but do we consider the offering of praise as something we ought to do? Many of our songs are songs of praise and adoration. Singing a song of praise in worship is certainly something we should do but we should also offer such praise as we go about our daily activities. We ought to honor and praise God continually.

Every day we enjoy the blessings of a loving, merciful God. He has provided all we need for life and eternity. Joyful exaltation is one way in which we can show God our love and devotion. Give God praise each day for what He has done. He certainly deserves it.



# Taking the Gifts of God

Robert F. Turner

*"And Jehovah said unto Joshua, See I have given into thy hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor" Joshua 6:2*

According to some theories of Gift and Grace, this promise says "(1) you already have the city and can't lose it; and (2) no condition could possibly be asked of you, for then this would not be a gift." Evidently God had not read that particular theory, or did not subscribe to it, for in the next three verses He instructs Joshua concerning specific conditions that must be met in order to obtain the city of Jericho.

Using a specific marching order, the people were to march about the city once a day for six days. Then, on the seventh day, they were to circle the city seven times; then some special sounding of the trumpets was to be made, and the people were to shout with a great shout.

## Faithful Obedience

When God specifies, the faithful obey specifically. This is the kind of evidence of faith that God has always required; nor may His promises be enjoyed until we show such faith.

God promised--but the city stood. Joshua and the people marched--but the city stood. They marched, again and again--but the city stood. On the seventh day they marched seven times--but the city stood. Then the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said, *"Shout; for Jehovah hath given you the city."* **"Hath given"** mind you, yet the city stood.

## Then It Was "All Over But The Shouting"

"...the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, the people went up into the city every man straight before him, and---" WHAT'S THIS???

**Joshua 6:20** says, "they took the city." Took it?? I thought this was a gift of God? Yet that's what the Bible says; and there goes man's Gift and Grace theory.

### Did God Give The City?

Yes indeed! The marching, blowing, and shouting did not produce the collapsed wall. This was brought about by the power of God. He could and did cause those walls to fall without the assistance of any man. By His power Jericho could be put at the mercy of any to whom He saw fit to give it. And He saw fit to give it to those who would trust Him explicitly--do exactly what He said for them to do. Joshua and the Israelites had this kind of faith, and so obtained the gift of God--Jericho.

### Simple Application

Salvation is a gift of God. It is made possible by His power, love, and plan--centered in the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Sins are not erased by the waters of baptism--any more than the walls fell because of the marching. But to whom does God give this gift? He says He will give it to the believing, who repent and are baptized (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**). The gift is ready--for those who will take it according to the specific instructions of God.

(God's Gifts – salvation, grace, deliverance, land, people, nation – have always been conditional. They are freely offered to those who submit their lives unto Him. We must be loyal to Jesus, if we want to receive what He offers. This has always been the case with God and man. Jericho illustrates this well. DLH)

#### Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

##### Church of Christ

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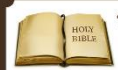
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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

#### For Our Information

**Paula Laubach** is still in physical therapy and has an ENT appointment this month.

**Marvin Butler** is doing ok. His pain is more than he expected but he is more active than the doctor suggested.

**Vickie McNeas** has been dealing with a swollen foot.

**Lawson Beasley** (4 or 5 year old grandson of a nurse friend of Gloria Hurst) is being worked on for possible lymphoma.

**Deana Leshner** will have another surgery soon.

**Dan & JoBeth** plan to visit Henderson, TX the end of the week.

Sunday Evening - **Ezra 10, Nehemiah** Wednesday - **John 3**