

"...COME THOU WITH US, AND WE WILL DO THEE GOOD..."

These are the words of Moses to Hobab, the son of Jethro (Num. 10:29). Jethro was called Ragucl and was the priest of Midian (Ex. 3:1). Moses had fled from Egypt forty years before (Acts 7:30), and had married Jethro's daughter. (Ex. 2: 15, 21). Now Moses is leading God's people, Israel, to the Promised Land and invites Hobab to come with them, giving two reasons why he should come. He said, "We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it to you:"; and secondly, "...come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel" (Num. 10:29).

In the words of Moses, we extend the same invitation to men of the world. The church is the "spiritual Israel" in the midst of the world today (Gal. 6:15). We are an "holy nation" and a "royal priesthood" (I Pet. 2:9). We are journeying to the place of which the Lord said I will give you--Heaven (John 14: 1- 6). We are strangers and pilgrims as we journey in this world toward the heavenly country (Heb. 11: 6; I Pet. 2:11), and we say, "Come thou with us and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good" concerning spiritual Israel (Rom. 2:7).

WHY WE INVITE YOU TO "COME THOU WITH US"

We are journeying to the promised land, Heaven (John 4: 1 - 5). We are going to a better country (Heb. 11:16), and to a city "whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). In that heavenly city we will have a right to the tree of life (Rev. 22: 14), and there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev. 21: 4). As we journey here upon the earth we are strangers and pilgrims just passing through because this earth is not our home.

This journey to Heaven begins on the day of our conversion. In that day old things are passed away and all things are become new (II Cor. 5:17). We have put on the "new man" (Col. 3:10). The journey is continued daily by denying ourselves and taking up our cross and following Jesus (Luke 9:23). This journey ends at death when we will rest from our labours (Rev. 14: 13). After the Judgment we will enter into that rest -- Heaven (Heb. 4:11).

"COME THOU WITH US, AND WE WILL DO THEE GOOD"

We will help you bear your burdens (Gal. 6:2). We will rejoice with you (Rom. 12: 15). We will weep with you (Rom. 12:15). We will provoke you unto love and to good works (Heb. 10: 24). We will pray with you when you sin (James 5: 16). We will rebuke you when you do wrong (Luke 17: 3). We will encourage you when you are fainthearted (I Thess. 5:14). We will minister to you when you are in need (Matt. 25: 34 - 40).

SOME REASONS NOT TO COME WITH US

You should not come with us to be associated with a popular group. We want the good will and friendship of our neighbors and friends, and sometimes we have it -- sometimes we don't because our first and foremost loyalty is to God (Gal. 1: 10). Popularity is no reason to come with us. You need to come with us to be right and to please God.

You should not come with us for social reasons. Man is a social being who has social needs, and one will have association with the best people on earth in the church, but it is not the work of the church to fulfill and

supply the social needs of the members (I Cor. 11:22). One is to have his social needs fulfilled in individual relationships and in the home (Acts 2:46; I Pet. 4:9; Heb. 13: 1 - 2; I Tim. 5:10).

You should not come with us because of friendship or kinship. We know that a friend or a kinsman may have introduced you to the gospel and this is wonderful, but you should come with us to save your soul.

"COME THOU WITH US" BECAUSE OF THE GOOD YOU CAN DO

Moses told Hobab, "And thou mayest be to us instead of eyes" (Num. 10:31). Come with us because you can be useful to others in the service of God. A worldly life is a wasted life, a righteous life is a life of usefulness to others. You have ability you need to be using in the service of God.

Friend, won't you come today? You must hear the gospel (Rom. 10: 17); believe that Christ is the Son of God (Act 8: 37); repent of your sins (Acts 2: 38); confess Christ before men (Rom. 10:10); and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38). "COME THOU WITH US AND WE WILL DO THEE GOOD".

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