 **CHRIST COMPANION BIBLE CHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date: 05/03/2024***

 **TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE (PART 2) STUDY 8.**

**Text**: Genesis 29:1-20.

**Memory Verse***: 2 Corinthians 4:17; For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

 No doubt, Jacob's encounter with God as seen in our last study prepared him with three fundamental factors for success:

*i. Deep assurance of God's presence.*

*ii. Hope for a better tomorrow.*

*iii. Winning character and positive attitude in relationship with others.*

 We can see these qualities manifesting in his life as he arrived in Laban (his mother's brother's) neigbourhood. God has provided everyone regenerated in Christ with winning power for dominion, not only to cope and survive, but to triumph gloriously in the end, no matter the hassles and puzzles of life.

**JACOB PAID A PRICE FOR SURVIVAL AND DOMINION GENESIS 29:15-20.**

 God in view of greatness he planned for you, will do everything possible to take you from your comfort zone to the founder's anvil, to pommel and make a sharpened instrument out of your raw life! That was the very experience of Jacob. A supplanter, who later became Israel, a blessing to all generations! We shall consider the secret of such desirable feat in Jacob's life, so as to translate such lessons to workable experience in our lives today:

I. ***Jacob took personal initiative, based on past learning, training and relational experience to pave way for purposeful and prosperous stay in his new location.*** Genesis 29:1-8. Sometimes, life comes as with one arriving in an unknown destination, since every day and year comes with new challenges! Jacob put his relational skill to locate space and navigate a future for himself. Note the following:

*i. He located a feasible point of contact (a well where cattle are watered), for needed information for his settlement Verse 2.*

*ii. He was skillful in approaching and treating others politely with courtesy. "People’ skill" is a game you must personally learn,* ***the ability to connect will bring help to impact your life profitably in every sense.*** *(See Verses 2-7)*

*iii. He saw a need and created opportunity to meet it (cattle to be watered and stone to roll from the well's mouth). Thus, that created enduring impressions about his personality and ability (See verses 8-10).* As believers, you must learn to influence people for mutual advantage. Why did people throng upon Jesus in his earthly ministry? Of course, he mastered the art of empathising and adding value to others! This is a price to pay.

II. ***Jacob chose to start small, though he knew that he carried the seed of greatness within!*** Genesis 29:14,15.

 The starting time for Jacob was very difficult. His wages were changed severally, his right was denied! Yet he was rugged to face life at whatever cost without bowing to frustrations: He chose servitude, hard work and discipline as against becoming a liability to Laban. He knew he must bear the yoke at a youthful age like Christ. John 9:4 ***"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"***.

 Jacob's experience is similar to many of us today:

 *i. As a Pastor of a small or new branch Church, things may look bleak sometimes, never give up.*

*ii. As a student pursuing a demanding course of study,choose to meet up.*

*iii. As parents with new and challenging family demand, trust for God's provision.*

 ***Hope, courage, determination to face the situation calmly is very important.*** As with Jacob, the precious seed sown with tears will yield harvest of joy days ahead.

***III. Jacob met disappointment in the course of working for Laban. But as event turned later, it became clear that his faithful service was not just to man, but God who rewarded him abundantly!***

Note:

*i. Rachel was shortchanged for Leah. Genesis 29:24,25.*

*ii. Seven years of service for Rachel turned fourteen years!*

*iii. Rachel whom Jacob served so hardly was lost unexpectedly.*

 These facts are enough to make Jacob doubt God's faithfulness, though his past was contributive to some of these turn of events! Yet, God's mercy and eternal purpose was sure over him. Eventually, what was gruesome disappointment turned out to become a tool for God's eternal purpose! For example:

*i. Leah though undesired, became matriarch of Christ, the lion of the tribe of Judah!*

*ii. Rachel's death exposed Joseph to all sorts of domestic intrigues, yet it became a means to bring Israel to Egypt! Thus laying foundation for all the great signs, miracles and wonders in Egypt, through wilderness to Canaan land of promise. Psalm 105:17-21.*

 For a true child of God, every seemly disappointment when placed in God's hand will become a blessing. Therefore, God wants you to remain focused, steadfast and unmovable to pay the price for the joy ahead. May God help you as you strive for mastery and excellence in all your trials. Amen.

 **Hymn: CHS 148: In Times Like This**

1. In times like these you need a Saviour,

in times like these you need an anchor;

be very sure, be very sure

your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He‟s the One;

this Rock is Jesus, The only One!

Be very sure, be very sure

your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

1. In times like these you need the Bible,

in times like these O be not idle;

be very sure, be very sure

your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He‟s the One;

this Rock is Jesus, The only One!

Be very sure, be very sure

your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

1. In times like these I have a Saviour,

in times like these I have an anchor;

I‟m very sure, I‟m very sure

my anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He‟s the One;

this Rock is Jesus, The only One!

I‟m very sure, I‟m very sure

my anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!