 **CHRIST COMPANION BIBLE CHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date:09/07/2024***

**DEMONSTRATING UNABATED LOVE FOR ZION (Part 3) Study 21**

**TEXT:** Psalm 124:1-8.

**MEMORYVERSE: Luke 15:17-18 ‘And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!**

 **I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee**

Sometimes, you don't value what you have, until you lose it! If Samson had valued the anointing upon his life, he would have given all it took to heed his godly parents' advice, rather than enjoying the pleasure of sin on the lap of Delilah in rebellion!

At last, Samson' secret of power was revealed and his link to power discovered due to his carelessness. His enemies also captured and removed his eyes! Until then, Samson could not realise the place of God and the importance of grace in his life.

**ZION'S FREEDOM FROM CAPTIVITY. PSALM 126:1- 6.**

Let us look at Israel's experience in captivity and the useful lessons we can learn as heirs of the grace of God:

**1. Until Israel was on her way to captivity, the full benefits of freedom, the joy of Tabernacle worship, and the faithful dealings of God was not realised. To sing songs of Zion in a strange land became a painful experience. See Psalm 137:1-4.**

*i. Don't be careless as to lose your salvation! The pain, loss, agony and consequences are unbearable.*

*ii. Freedom is a shield, captivity is bondage! Value your freedom in Christ.*

**2. In Captivity, you do not have a choice or say, over your fate and fortune. A slave is always at the mercy of his master!** Often, your captor does not have your interest at heart; rather, he wants to take total advantage of you, and to have you permanently incapacitated. Be wise, and learn from Eve!

**3. Higher power than your captor is the only answer to your freedom. Otherwise, your doom is unredeemable!**

This is why the enemy will do everything possible to cut you away from any linking whatsoever to a source of help and deliverance. Daniel 6:5-7. This truth was known to Daniel and the three Hebrew friends, thus, they maintained unbroken grip on Jehovah God, even in captivity!

**Note:**

*i. Today in Christ, you have higher power than your captors: Sin, Satan, poverty, oppressions, low self-image/esteem, repressive habits, negative thinking/mindset etc.*

*ii. Faith, discipline and readiness to follow God and obey His word and leading are the answers to your freedom and breakthroughs.*

**4. God in you is bigger than all the forces and the powers of your captors put together!** *"What is inside you is far greater than what is in the world!"* 1 John 4:4 (KJV), says: ***"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world"***.Apart from battalions of physical soldiers, Nebuchadnezzar had: furnace of fire, lions in dens etc. to keep his subjects under control! Yet Daniel, Nehemiah, Ezra, and three Hebrews refused to allow their mind to be held captive!

**Note**:

*i. Captivity in your mind is the worst of all captivity! These include fear, frivolity, self-doubt, inferiority complex, guilty conscience, indecision etc. These will limit your sense of adventure to eminence.*

***Way out:*** *Break free by faith, repentance and enlightenment.*

*ii. Poverty of idea will enslave you with a sense of complacency and false pretense under your captor!*

***Way out:*** *Creativity and positive innovation will guarantee your freedom!*

 *Joseph's creativity brought him before Pharaoh! He ruled in the midst of his captors.*

Nehemiah's positive influence over Ahasuerus earned him freedom to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. No matter your constraints today, freedom, exploits, and breakthroughs must exist in your mind, before it can be evident in your life.

**5. Your destiny is at great risk when you choose to blame God, your Church, your parents, your spouse, the nation and any imaginary enemies for your woes!** Until you take responsibility for your freedom and fortune like Jabez, your journey to breakthrough is simply a mirage! 2 Chronicles 4:9,10.

*i. Don't hang your freedom, success and fortune on external factors. Take action yourself.*

*ii. See possibilities ahead and walk towards it, and work for it. Daniel 9:1-3.*

**6. One man's fight and conquest for freedom can set the generations of a race free from all sorts of captivities to enjoy unlimited benefits. Romans 5:17-19.**

*i. Your salvation, as the basis of freedom is to build you to help others get liberation from sin and oppressions!*

*ii. There is no freedom without a fight and sacrifice! Focus on the gains and strive to pay the price for your freedom and that of others.*

*iii. You will be remembered by the risk you bore, the giants you conquered and the largesse of love you shared to humanity. Therefore, quit complaining and labour to win the crown of the faithful conquerors! The just shall win by faith.*

**7. Great are the number in captivity, many are those that wept and sighed over challenges confronted! God only rewarded the brave few that knew their God, and rode on divine strength to win the victory!** Where do you belong?Complainers, murmurers or you, are among the few crowned chosen and faithful.

Revelation 17:14 KJV ***"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful***".

 May God count you worthy in Jesus name. Amen.

**HYMN: O BACKSLIDER (CHS: 34)**

1. Sad and lonely, weak and weary,

Down life’s rugged path I roam;

Heart is bleeding, soul is weeping,

Seeking rest and finding none;

Father, once I dearly loved Thee,

In the happy days of yore,

But of love this world has robbed me,

Shall I never love Thee more?

 *O backslider, there is pardon,*

*Christ will save you from your sin,*

*Fill you yearning heart with gladness,*

*And receive you back again;*

*Come, oh, come, then, to the Savior,*

*Cast your doubts and fears away,*

*Plunge into the healing fountain,*

*There to save your soul today.*

2. Here’s a withered flow’r and faded,

Emblem of my lonely heart,

Once so full of love and duty,

Now lies crushed by human art;

Father, once my prayers were answered,

In the happy days of yore,

When in faith and love I sought Thee,

Wilt Thou never hear me more?

3. Life’s a burden, Lord, without Thee,

Peace I nevermore can know,

All this world a sea of trouble,

All a wilderness of woe;

Father, leaving all, I seek Thee,

Plead once more to be forgiv’n;

Wash away my sins and sorrows,

Father, give me hope of heav’n.