

## ***“WE MUST RELY UPON GOD”***

One of the most encouraging stories in the Old Testament is the story of Joshua and Caleb. As the nation of Israel neared the land of Canaan, after the Lord had delivered them from Egypt and led them through the wilderness, a group of men were sent into the land to gather information about it. When these men returned, only Joshua and Caleb said that Israel should enter the land and take it. All of the others said the task was impossible — the cities were too strongly fortified. **“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we”** (Num. 13:31).

Years later, Moses remembered those events. “And the Lord’s anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying, ‘Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me, none except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord’ (Num. 32:10-12).

***Like Joshua and Caleb, we must rely on the Lord.*** If the Lord has commanded something to be done, He has also promised to provide the means necessary for its accomplishment. Faith means that we follow the Lord’s instructions completely, trusting that He will make it possible for His purposes to be fulfilled. Like Joshua and Caleb, we may not be able to see how God is going to do this, but we trust that He will keep His promises. In the meantime, we will obey His word. If we only follow the Lord in situations where it looks safe from our perspective, then we have little faith. In fact, if we act only on the basis of our own foresight and common sense, that is not faith in the Lord at all — it is faith in our own wisdom.

This week, let’s go back and study the story of Joshua and Caleb. It has many good things to teach us about the way faith and obedience work together. This story has a number of clear applications to our lives today. We may not easily relate to the task of the men who were sent to spy out Canaan, but we have some daunting responsibilities of our own. May we learn to trust the Lord as Joshua and Caleb did, both when it is “safe” to do so and when it is not. **DP**

### **MONTHLY SERMON PREVIEW**

**MAY 8: WHY ACAPELLA MUSIC**      **MAY 22: SIZING UP SATAN**  
**MAY 15: STUMPED**                      **MAY 29:**

# ***The Salisbury Beacon***

## **Salisbury Church of Christ**

3322 Old Ocean City Road,  
Salisbury, MD 21804

<http://churchofchristssalisbury.org>

Douglas Post, Minister  
410-742-4831

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs. 10AM-2PM

**MAY 1, 2016**

### **WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY**

We appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord’s Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. **BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY– *The Salisbury Church of Christ.***

\*\*\*\*Please fill out a Visitor’s Card and place it in the collection plate\*\*\*\*

### **ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER**

SONG # 831 – O THINK OF THE HOME

SONG # 670 – I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

#### **PRAYER**

#### **SCRIPTURE – DANIEL 3:1-6**

SONG # 352 – BLESSED REDEEMER

#### **LORD’S SUPPER**

#### **CONTRIBUTION**

SONG # 773 – BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE

#### **SERMON: “FIRE PROOF FAITH”**

SONG # 904 – BURDENS ARE LIFTED AT CALVARY

SONG # 854 – WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS**

**LET US PRAY FOR:** for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Jimmy McMillon, Stella Reidy, Wilma Duke's mother (dementia), Geri Plourde (cancer), Jenn Striecker (cancer), Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Jane Willie** was with us Sunday. It was great having her back with us. She is still dealing with degenerative disc disease and arthritis. Please keep her in your prayers. Also, Jane will be moving to Virginia the week of May 9, Please pray for her and her move. We will miss her greatly!
- **Jan King**, Bob's sister, will be having surgery on 5/1 for removal of kidney. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Eva Post** is at Health South Rehabilitation and doing great. Getting stronger each day. She is expected to be released May 5 or sooner.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**May 1 (Sunday)** Pot Luck

**May 7 (Saturday)** Ladies Bible Class

### **FOR PERSONAL STUDY & REFLECTION**

#### ***MONDAY – Numbers 14:24; 32:10-12***

Key Idea: We must be willing to trust the Lord completely.

Questions for Growth: In what way did Caleb (and also Joshua) have a “**different spirit**” than the other men who were sent to spy out the land? What does it mean that “[**he**] **has followed me fully**”? Compare this to the statement “**they have wholly followed the Lord**” in 32:12.

Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 28:28.

#### ***WEDNESDAY – Numbers 13:21-30***

Key Idea: We must be willing to do things that involve some risk.

Questions for Growth: What risks would have been involved in the mission to spy out the land? Why was it risky for Joshua and Caleb to disagree with the report of the other spies? How would it have been risky for Israel to try to take the land of Canaan?

Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 29:1.

#### ***FRIDAY – Numbers 13:30-33; 14:5-10***

Key Idea: We must be willing to incur criticism for doing what is right.

Questions for Growth: In 13:30, what advice did Caleb give to the people? In 13:31, what answer was given by the other men? In 14:10, what did the congregation say? What are some of the mistakes we make when we try to do what is right and others become angry at us?

Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 29:3.



## ***“SLEEPING SAINTS”***

Even I had to chuckle! Of course, this is what I see sometimes even when I'm only 10 minutes into the sermon. I suppose I could make some extra money if I recorded my sermons and sold them as a guaranteed cure for insomnia!! **Before I proceed, this is not a problem or an issue with our congregation. I am just making general comments about the subject.** Of course, preachers have always had to put up with those saints who sleep during services. Eutychus, who fell out of the window in Acts 20, is probably the best known. While in Troas, Paul preached in an upper room. Luke writes: "*in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead*" (Acts 20:9).

It has never offended me seeing “sleeping saints. I suppose I can be boring (Sometimes I find myself getting bored with my delivery, unfolding what I have studied). Still, some folks may not have had a good night's rest. Others may have an ailment, while others worked late. There are multiple reasons for “sleeping saints.” However, it has been my observation that some "sleeping saints" don't really care who is preaching they're going to sleep regardless. Brethren, I have heard some of the greatest preachers and have witnessed people sleeping just the same. I remember seeing a news clip of someone sleeping at a Billy Graham Crusade. But I suppose the major cause of "sleeping sickness" is simply a lack of interest. If someone were to lecture on how to easily make millions, these folks would find a way to stay awake. Sleeping is one thing, spiritual lethargy is an altogether different matter. Let's avoid that one! **“AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT”** (Ephesians 5:14). DP

### **WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY**

***Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM***

***Wednesday Bible Study – 6 PM***