

Jesus Is With His Followers

Introduction:

1. We recently studied a series of lessons in which we emphasized the fact that "God does not forsake His people."
2. This principle is stated many times throughout the Bible.
 - a. In the Old Testament,:
 - 1) Moses assured the Israelites that God would not forsake them (Deuteronomy 31:6)
 - 2) God said that He would not forsake Joshua (Joshua 1:5)
 - 3) David assured Solomon that God would not forsake him (1 Chronicles 28:20).
 - b. In the New Testament we learn that God will not forsake Christians (Hebrews 13:5-6).
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on the fact that "Jesus is with His followers."

Discussion:

- I. JESUS PROMISED TO BE WITH HIS FOLLOWERS
 - A. Jesus made this promise when He gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - B. Jesus said He would "always" be with His followers.
 - C. Jesus is with those who gather together in His name (Matthew 18:20).
- II. THE LORD'S FOLLOWERS ARE BLESSED BY HIS PRESENCE IN VARIOUS WAYS
 - A. Jesus is our "mediator" (1 Timothy 2:5).
 1. A mediator is a go-between, one who mediates between 2 parties to make peace.
 2. To illustrate, Moses was a mediator between the Israelites and God (Exodus 32:7-14).
 3. Jesus is the *"one mediator between God and men."*
 - B. Jesus is our "intercessor" (Romans 8:34).
 1. An intercessor is one who makes a petition on behalf of someone else.
 2. According to Hebrews 7:25, Jesus *"ever liveth to make intercession"* for those who *"come unto God by Him."*
 - C. Jesus is our "High Priest" (Hebrews 3:1).
 1. One of the main functions of the High Priest is to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people (Hebrews 8:3).
 2. Jesus offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice once for all (Hebrews 7:26-27; 10:11-14).
 3. As High Priest, Jesus provides special blessings to His followers (Hebrews 4:14-16).
 - D. Jesus is our "advocate" [a counselor, one who pleads another's case] (1 John 2:1-2).
- III. TWO OF THE LORD'S GREATEST SERVANTS SHOW HOW HE IS WITH HIS FOLLOWERS
 - A. Stephen knew that Jesus was with him when he was killed (Acts 7:54-60).
 - B. Paul knew that Jesus was with him when he was in prison (2 Timothy 4:16-18).