

Do EVERYTHING Better for God

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Resting in Redemption – The book of Ruth

After God had set things in order and the children of Israel received and possessed their inheritance behind the leadership of Joshua, it wasn't long before they turned away from God and "did evil in the sight of the Lord...". As a result, "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" during the days when the judges ruled, and disorder was allowed to reign until King David set things back in order in 2nd Samuel. Last week we learned that this was done through submission to the anointed king, seeking the Lord as a priority, proper worship, and taking direction from God. Unfortunately, this "order" was only temporary.

Fast forward some 3,300 years and there is no question that we are, once again, living in a time when "every man is doing that which is right in his own eyes" and there are an abundance of "things" that are completely out of order. As Christians in today's environment, this can cause us to become bitter, submit to our feelings, and often end up defeated. However, the good news for Christians is that soon.... and very soon, Jesus Christ will return, and, once and for all place things in order permanently. But, until then we must press on, we must learn to seek the Lord, remember who we really are, and consider who we belong to. The book of Ruth gives an incredible picture for us in this Laodicean Church age to rest in redemption by submitting to our Lord and Saviour and to humbly evaluate if we are truly doing _____ better for God.

1. Poor Choices, _____ Outcomes – Ruth 1:1-5
2. _____ and Surrender – Ruth 1:6-13
3. Ruth's _____ and Loyalty – Ruth 1:14-22
4. _____ in God's word – Ruth 2:1-7

5. _____ from the man from Bethlehem – Ruth 2:8-12

6. _____ provisions – Ruth 2:13-23

7. The _____ Discipling Relationship – Ruth 3:1-7

8. The Need for Redemption and the _____ of the Redeemer– Ruth 3:8-18

9. The _____ of the Redeemer and the Rest in Redemption– Ruth 4:1-22

CONCLUSION:

As we live out these last days, and _____ we commit to our walk with the Lord, we will suffer persecution, (2nd Tim. 3:12), tribulation, (2nd Cor. 8:2), be hated, reproached, and be named as evil, (Luke 6:22-23). Here is the question: How do these things equate to what Jesus said in John 10:10? *“I am come that they might have life, and they might have it more abundantly.”* I am certain Naomi and Ruth were asking a similar question when they decided to go back to Bethlehemjudah. But despite their lack of physical comfort and lack of provisions, they remembered who they were, considered who they belonged to, and surrendered to the complete sufficiency of God’s promises in His word. As a result, their abundance went far beyond their expectations and temporal needs. When these things come our way, and they will, let’s be like Ruth and Naomi and trust the authority of the scriptures, press on, make disciples, and do every thing better for God.....after all, he deserves it.