

“Hope Despite the Perils of Pride”

Judges 12:1-15

March 1, 2020

I. The Perils of Pride – Judges 12:1-7

- A. The Gileadites resided on the east side of the Jordan River; the Ephraimites lived on the west side.
- B. Why did the Ephraimites cross over to confront and threaten Jephthah?
 - 1. They had not been included in the battle with the Ammonites.
 - 2. Such an exclusion hurt their pride.
- C. Why did the Gileadites so quickly respond with violence?
 - 1. The Ephraimites insulted them.
 - 2. Such a slight inflamed their pride.
- D. Are we so different?
 - 1. We so often want to get the glory of an accomplishment.
 - 2. We frequently turn the slightest offensive word into a major issue.
- E. Pride in Israel led to horrible results; life in the church can also become ugly when pride runs rampant.

Galatians 5:15 - If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

II. Hope Despite – Judges 12:8-15

- A. In God’s abounding grace, the next 3 judges restored (*temporarily*) peace and unity for Israel.
- B. The one who died to deliver us from the guilt of our pride goes on living.
 - 1. From heaven, He sent His Spirit upon us.
 - 2. The Spirit of Christ keeps our pride from completely destroying ourselves and each other.
- C. In light of our future hope of being fully freed from our prideful tendencies, let us seek to put off our pride even now.