

## “Getting Permanent Rest”

Judges 3:7-11

October 6, 2019

### I. Sin and Slavery

A. For Israel in Judges 3:

1. Israel sinned by serving idols.
2. As a result, Israel ended up serving (enslaved to!) a foreign power.

B. For every person: One act of disobedience results in slavery to sin.

*John 8:34 - Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.”*

### II. Deliverance from Slavery

A. Merciful Deliverance

1. When the Lord delivered his wayward people through Othniel, it was an act of sheer mercy.
2. Christians have been mercifully delivered by grace alone.

*Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

B. Deliverance from a Great Foe

1. Through Othniel, God delivered Israel from slavery to what was a significant ancient empire.
2. Through Christ, God has delivered believers from the infinitely greater enemy of sin.

*Titus 2:13b–14 - <sup>13</sup> ...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to rescue us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

*Romans 6:17–18 - <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

- a. We’ve been liberated from sin’s eternal guilt!
- b. We’ve been liberated from sin’s all-controlling power!

*Romans 7:17 - So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

### III. Rest from Slavery

A. Othniel brought temporary rest to Israel.

1. Othniel's victory led to 40 years of rest from foreign servitude for Israel.
2. But upon his death, the cycle of sin and slavery began to repeat itself:

*Judges 3:12a - Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.*

B. Jesus brings permanent rest to believers.

1. This rest is based on a new and better slavery!
  - a. We have been liberated from sin, yes.
  - b. But we are now slaves of God.

*Romans 6:18 - and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

2. This rest will include full liberation from the guilt and presence of the remaining sins in our lives.

*Romans 5:10 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

*1 John 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*