



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

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MOVE ON



WELL, HERE WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A BRAND NEW YEAR. WE START FRESH EVERY NEW YEAR YET WE MAY BE INCLINED TO BRING BITTERNESS AND HURT FROM THE PAST. ISN'T IT TIME TO MOVE ON?

THE ISRAELITES AT KADESH WERE UNWILLING TO MOVE ON. GOD HAD MOVED THEM OUT OF EGYPT AND THROUGH THE WILDERNESS SO THAT NOW THEY WERE ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE PROMISED LAND. YOU RECALL THE ACCOUNT. MOSES SENT TWELVE MEN FROM EACH TRIBE INTO CANAAN TO BEHOLD THE BLESSINGS GOD HAD FOR THEM THERE. WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY EXCITEDLY TESTIFIED THAT THE LAND FLOWED WITH MILK AND HONEY (NUMBERS 13:27). REGRETTABLY, IN THEIR NEXT BREATH THEY SAID, "NEVERTHELESS, THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE LAND ARE STRONG, AND THE CITIES ARE FORTIFIED AND VERY LARGE; AND MOREOVER WE SAW THE DESCENDANTS OF ANAK [GIANTS] THERE." (NUMBERS 13:28). AFTER THE PEOPLE FUSSED AND FRETTEED THROUGH THAT NIGHT MOST WERE READY TO REBEL AGAINST THEIR LEADERS AND RETURN TO EGYPT! FEAR CAUSED THEM TO MISS GOD'S BLESSINGS. REBELLION FORCED THEM TO TRUDGE IN CIRCLES THROUGH A BARREN WILDERNESS FOR FORTY YEARS. THEY JUST WEREN'T WILLING TO MOVE ON.

THEN TOO CONSIDER JONAH, THE PRODIGAL PROPHET. HE PREACHED AND THEN POUTED BECAUSE HIS ENEMIES REPENTED. WHILE COMPLAINING TO GOD HE PARKS HIMSELF ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY WHERE GOD MIRACULOUSLY CAUSES A PLANT TO GROW AND PROVIDE SHADE. BUT THE NEXT DAY THE PLANT SHRIVELS AND JONAH HAS EVEN MORE ABOUT WHICH TO MUMBLE. SO GOD ASKS JONAH, "DO YOU HAVE GOOD REASON TO BE ANGRY ABOUT THE PLANT?" TO WHICH JONAH ANSWERS, "I HAVE GOOD REASON TO BE ANGRY, EVEN TO DEATH." (JONAH 4:9). RATHER THAN BEING MAD WHY DIDN'T JONAH JUST MOVE TO A PLACE WHERE SHADE COULD BE FOUND? JONAH'S STUBBORNNESS ENDED ANY FURTHER MINISTRY GOD MIGHT HAVE HAD FOR HIM. HE JUST WASN'T READY TO MOVE ON.

SO WHAT ABOUT US? ARE WE DISAPPOINTED OR DISCOURAGED ABOUT SOME TURN OF EVENTS? ARE WE MAD AT GOD OR SOME SITUATION? SHOULDN'T WE JUST MOVE ON? HEBREWS CHALLENGES US TO "... RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE SET BEFORE US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF FAITH" (HEBREWS 12:1-2). LETS QUIT HANGING OUR HEADS AND DRAGGING OUR FEET AND START THE MOVE TODAY!

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE