**The City Of Refuge**

**Reading – Numbers 35:9-29**

**Related Passages: Joshua 20 & Deuteronomy 19:1-13**

***Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.***

***Hebrews 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities…***

***Colossians 2:16-17*** ***Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.*** ***17These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.***

 ***Hebrews 6:17-18 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.***

***Romans 5:1-2*** ***Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*** ***2Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

***2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.***

***Galatians 3:27*** ***For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

***2 Thessalonians 3:10 10For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.***

**Conditions Back Home: *Romans 6:15-23*** ***What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17But 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,*** ***18and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*** ***19I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*** ***20When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.*** ***21But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death.*** ***22But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.*** ***23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18] Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

***Mark 9:43*** ***And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.***

***Luke 9:62 “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”***

***Matthew 16:18 On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

***Ephesians 1:22-23*** ***And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,*** ***23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.***

***Ephesians 4:4-6*** ***There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—*** ***5one Lord, one faith, one baptism,*** ***6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.***

**Urgency: *Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*** ***3While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.***

***2 Corinthians 6:1-2*** ***Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.***

**Leaving Has Consequences: *2 Peter 2:20-22 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”***

***Hebrews 10:26-31*** ***For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*** ***27but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.*** ***29How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?*** ***30For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again,*** ***£******“The Lord will judge his people.”*** ***31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

**We Are All Guilty: *Hebrews 6:6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.***

 ***Luke 5:31-32 “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”***

***Romans 5:6-11 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.*** ***8But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** ***9Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*** ***10For if when 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.*** ***11And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.***