

I. The Lord Graciously Gives Another Sign (vv 9-11).

- A.** The assurance stated outrightly, and again
- B.** The Lord's consistent graciousness toward Gideon
 - 1) God condescends to Gideon, even in a way He did not to Israel (Jdg 7:3)
 - 2) The kindness of God in bringing reformation
 - 3) God would have Gideon to do His work, but not in fear (2 Tim 1:7)
 - 4) Gideon's implied fear (but also his faith and desire to serve God), in that he goes down.
- C.** Uses from the Text
 - 1) We need assurance from the Lord regularly.
 - 2) If we would be assured in Christ, we must make use of the means God has given us
 - 3) The purpose of this assurance is for our strengthening in righteousness

II. The Assurance of Victory from the Lord (vv 12-14).

- A.** A reminder of the greatness of the enemy and sign of judgment
 - 1) When a wicked people befall the plagues of Egypt (Ex 10:4-5; Rev 9:2-3)
 - 2) When the enemies of the Church are permitted to grow with the kind of covenantal blessing promised to Abraham (Gen 22:17-18)
- B.** The Midianite's dream
 - 1) Its substance
 - a) The differences between the dream and the fleece:
 - i. The dream is, in a sense and by comparison, more ordinary; while the fleece is more extraordinary.
 - ii. The dream is more akin to the Word; the fleece more to the sacraments.
 - iii. The dream is more concerned with the destruction of the wicked; the fleece with the salvation of God's people.
 - iv. The dream was an unprovoked sign; the fleece was a requested sign.
 - v. The dream had an immediately, sensibly allegorical understanding; the fleece is typological in the scope of the history of redemption.
 - b) The similarities between the dream and the fleece:
 - i. Both these signs are all of grace.

- ii. Both these signs speak of aspects of redemption (salvation and judgment)
- iii. Both show the effect of salvation in history (deliverance of Church and destruction of the wicked)
- iv. Both offer a judicially credible witness (the fleece having two distinct signs, and the dream being heard by two witnesses)

- 2) Its silliness
- 3) Its interpretation

C. Doctrines from the Dream

- 1) The wicked know their true enemy (Psa 2:1-3)
- 2) The destruction of the wicked is clear in their conscience (Eccl 5:11)
- 3) The destruction of the wicked is clear by the Word of God (Pr 16:4)
- 4) The Lord will destroy the wicked in history by attacking the very seat of all their power.
- 5) We are pointed to the work of the Lord Christ – as Redeemer, in His person (2 Cor 8:9) and work (Dan 2:32-35); and as Mediatorial King thru the ministry of His Church (Acts 17:6)

- D.** Use from the Text — You may indeed have such an assurance in Christ, as you are to look to Him set before you in the Scriptures and the preaching of the Word of God.

III. Reasons to Worship God (v 15).**A. Reasons to worship God**

- 1) For the needfulness of God's Word, which He has so graciously given.
- 2) For the surety of God's Word, which is as immutable as the Giver of the Word.
- 3) For the sinfulness and silliness of ourselves, that we must but only worship the true and living God.
- 4) For the excellency of God, which is shone forth in every page of Scripture.
- 5) For the victory of Christ, assured in His resurrection.

B. Uses from the Text

- 1) Because there is a reason to worship God, there is a reason to Church plant.
- 2) Let our gratitude be fueled by the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ.
- 3) Delight in the worship of God.
- 4) Do not forget to worship God - the attention is on Him.
- 5) Do we not see such a reason to offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.