

I. Exposition of the Text

- A. When did this deliverance take place? (Jdg 3:1-3, 5:6)
 - 1) Such was the great evil of the Philistines (Pr 6:16, 18)
 - 2) Such was the great affliction of Israel (Lk 10:30).
- B. Who did the LORD raise up as judge? (Jdg 1:33)
 - 1) Even under the Old Covenant, the true religion was intended to spread to the nations.
 - 2) God makes/matures us from servants to be sons (Gal 4:1-3)
 - 3) This is an implicit rebuke of Israel in this text.
- C. Who did the deliverer defeat? (2 Sam 23:8)
- D. What was the method of this conquest? (Jdg 15:15)
- E. What is the summary of the ministry of this judge?

II. Historical-Redemptive Meditation Upon the Text

- A. How Shamgar points us to Christ's accomplishing Redemption
 - 1) The Lord Christ Jesus delivered us from the power and penalty of all sins, great and small.
 - 2) The Lord Christ Jesus used the means of His personal, perfect and perpetual obedience in all things (great and small) to fulfill the Law on our behalf.
 - 3) By way of contrast
 - a) Shamgar's deliverance was reactionary, Christ's redemption was eternally decreed and historically enacted in the fullness of time (Gal 4:4-5)
 - b) Shamgar's deliverance was partial (the Philistines would attack again) and local (delivering that particular area by his home), Christ's deliverance is total (all of God's wrath and every sin paid for the elect and every enemy conquered) and universal (having a people from every tribe, nation, and tongue).
 - c) Shamgar's deliverance was temporary, salvation in Christ is eternal so that none shall be lost (Jn 3:16)
- B. How Shamgar points us to the ongoing work of the Triune God in sanctification and reformation
 - 1) His tending the garden and cultivating the land
 - a) The Spirit bringing reformation (Song of Songs 4:16)
 - b) Christ Jesus, the Second/Last Adam taking dominion (Psa 60:6-8)

- 2) Killing particular sins particularly
 - a) It was not enemies in the abstract fought, but specifically the Philistines.
 - b) Even the defeat of small sins are significant in the life of a Christian, Church and nation (2 Cor 10:5)
- C. How Shamgar points us not only to the historical (past) redemption accomplished by Christ, but also the historical (future) visible and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - 1) His hatred of the wicked (Psa 11:5)
 - 2) The salvation of the elect (2 Thes 1:6-10)
 - 3) By way of contrast, particularly considering the biblical doctrine of heaven and hell (Psa 16:11; Rev 14:11; Heb 9:27)

III. Uses from the Text

- A. The Evangelical Use: We are to trust in Christ alone for our deliverance from the guilt and misery of sin, as well as from death and the devil (Mt 1:21b)
- B. Training Our Affections:
 - 1) Let us have a thorough hatred of sin (Psa 97:10a)
 - 2) Let us have a thorough love for the LORD and His Church (Rom 12:9b)
- C. Training Our Reactions — We ought to be fit and prepared to war against sin and the enemies of Christ at any moment (Psa 144:1)
- D. Comforts from the Text
 - 1) The LORD most often uses unknown people in unknown places to do faithful ministry.
 - 2) The LORD often uses meager means to demonstrate His might and mercy.
 - 3) The LORD knows the faithful works of every Christian (Mt 6:6)
- E. The Call to Faithfully Plod
 - 1) Remembering the Lord in our work (Dt 8:11-20)
 - 2) We ought not despise the smallness of our ministry.
 - 3) We ought not despise the meagerness of our efforts (1 Cor 1:26-29)
 - 4) We ought to strive for simple, daily faithfulness to the Lord in all aspects of our life.