



-- (Stand); Read Joshua 4; Pray

-- **Landmarks are an important theme of Scripture.**

-- v. 20-24 – In this passage, Israel sets up a monument in order to remember what God had done.

-- The sign of the rainbow given after Noah’s flood (Genesis 9:15-17).

-- Israel’s Festivals

-- Passover – Reminder of deliverance from Egypt

-- Feast of Tabernacles – Reminder of God’s care over Israel during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness

-- Purim – Reminder of the deliverance of Jews in Persia in the time of Esther

-- Pentecost – Reminder of the giving of the Law

-- The Mosaic Law

-- Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

-- **Landmarks compel us to never turn back.**

-- A Famous “Landmark Moment”: It involves a Spanish conquistador, Hernando Cortez – “Burn the Ships” by Steven Curtis Chapman

In the spring of 1519 a Spanish fleet set sail
Cortez told his sailors this mission must not fail
On the eastern shore of Mexico they landed with great dreams
But the hardships of the new world make them restless and weak
Quietly they whispered, “Let’s sail back to the life we knew”
But the one who led them there was saying

Chorus

Burn the ships, we’re here to stay

There's no way we could go back
Now that we've come this far by faith
Burn the ships; we've passed the point of no return
Our life is here, so let the ships burn

In the spring of new beginnings a searching heart set sail
Looking for a new life and a love that would not fail
On the shores of grace and mercy we landed with great joy
But an enemy was waiting to steal, kill, and destroy
Quietly he whispers, "Go back to the life you know"
But the one who led us here is saying

Chorus

Nobody said it would be easy
But the one who brought us here
Is never gonna leave us alone

- Israel had entered the Promised Land to stay.
 - v. 18 – The river instantly returned to flood stage, and there was now no way to return to their former way of life in Egypt.
 - Luke 9:62 – “*Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.’*”
 - v. 20-24 – Israel’s new reality was marked by a new landmark.

- **Landmarks compel us to press on toward the goal.**
 - v. 24 – “*...so that you might **always** fear the LORD your God...*”
 - This landmark was not just a congratulatory moment for Israel; it represented a new standard for relating to God.
 - By this landmark, Israel was expected to remember always what God had done and to respond always in reverence and obedience.
 - Philippians 3:13-15 – “*One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.*”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come!*”

- **Today, we aim to mark our new reality with a new landmark.**

- Our new reality – A biblical understanding of the church of Jesus Christ as revealed in Ephesians
- Our new landmark – A new church covenant among us
 - It is a modified, modernized, and reorganized version of what we already had.
 - It is approved by our deacons and awaits your acclamation at the end of the month.
 - Though we will not collect them, it has a place for you to affirm your participation in it with your signature.
- A membership covenant between us is vital for moving forward together for the glory of God.
 - v. 24 – *“He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”*
 - Similarly applied in our context: -- We make this covenant together so that we might remember that membership in the body of Christ is an amazing reality and an awesome calling.

-- (Examine the covenant together.) (Title Slide)

Are we ready today to walk in a new landmark for living for the glory of God? By the grace of God, let it be so among us, both today and forevermore.

- *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”* (Ephesians 3:20-21).