

“ABRAHAM: THE FRIEND OF GOD”

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: James 2:21-23.

B. Regarding the text:

1. We have all seen epitaphs on gravestones. Usually, they give an insight into the life of the deceased.
2. Wonder... what will be chosen for mine/yours.
3. The Bible describes the life of some.
 - 1) Stephen: “Full of Faith” (**Acts 6:8**).
 - 2) Enoch: “Walked With God” (**Gen. 5:24**).
 - 3) Paul: Finished His Course” (**2 Tim. 4:7**).
4. Our text... Abraham: “The Friend of God.”

I. THE FRIEND OF GOD.

A. Three times Abraham was called “the friend of God.”

1. Our text: **James 2:23**.
2. **2 Chro. 20:7**.
3. **Isa. 41:8**.

B. What did this statement mean?

1. NOTE: The verse says that God identified Abraham as His friend.
 - 1) Imagine God saying to you – “He is my friend.”
 - 2) Nothing greater can be said of any person.
2. God took Abraham into close fellowship with Himself.

C. WHY Abraham? (Why such a wonderful association?)

1. He was faithful. (**Heb. 11:8-10, 17**).
2. He worshipped the Lord: (**Gen 12:8**).
3. He guided his family. (**Gen. 18:19**).

D. There is no doubt that Abraham was a friend of God.

II. WE CAN BE FRIENDS OF GOD.

A. We can obtain to this in the same way that Abraham did.

1. Faithful; True worshipper; Christian family life.
2. In fact, every Christian should strive for this wonderful distinction.

B. We can be recognized as FRIENDS OF THE LORD.

1. HOW?
 - 1) **John 15:14**.
 - 2) **Luke 12:4**.
2. His commands are attainable. (**1 John. 5:3** GRIEVOUS = “not heavy”).

C. We can be friends with God - by obeying His will.

III. FRIENDS OF GOD ARE REWARDED.

A. Obedience is the essential element in being a friend of God.

B. Obedience brings the promised reward (Heb. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:22-23**).**

C. We cannot befriend the world and be a friend of God (Js. 4:4**).**

D. The friend of God has been promised eternal salvation.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Our friendship with God begins as we obey the gospel.

B. We must then maintain that friendship.

C. At judgment we all want to be recognized as friends of the Lord.

1. How does God view our relationship with Him?
2. I'll be a FRIEND to Jesus until my years shall end...!