Godly Optimism
Num. 13:26-31

Introduction:
A. Israel’s God-given task: Conquer Canaan.
   1. Pessimistic spies said, “We are not able.” (vv. 27-28, 31).
   2. Optimistic spies said, “We are well able.” (v. 30).
B. Our God-given task: Conquer hearts of sinners for Christ (2 Cor. 10:4-6).
   1. Pessimists say, “No need to preach, the obstacles are too great.”
   2. Optimists say, “Great need to preach, gospel will work.”
C. We can “take the land” with same companions of optimism that Israel needed to take Canaan.

Discussion:
I. Faith.
   A. Israel’s self-defeating lack of faith. (14:11-12).
      1. Hindrances seemed more powerful than God. (13:27-28, 33)
      2. Delayed 40 years (14:32-35).
   B. Our own self-defeating lack of faith.
      1. Pessimistic about preaching — little faith in power of gospel. (Rom. 1:16).
      2. Pessimistic about planting and watering — little faith in God’s increase (1 Cor. 3:16).

II. Holiness.
   A. Israel’s separation from the nations of Canaan (Deut. 7:1-6).
   B. Our separation from the world (2 Cor. 6:14, 17).
      1. Distinctive in doctrine, practice and life.
      2. Unwilling to compromise (Gal. 2:5).

III. Patience.
   A. Israel needed patience (Deut. 7:17-23).
      1. God was in control.
      2. Progress would be “little by little.”
   B. We need patience to avoid:
      1. Quitting from discouragement.
      2. Extemporizing for speed.
      3. Lowing standards from numbers.

Conclusion:
A. Godly optimism goes with faith, holiness, and patience.
B. Ungodly pessimism goes with fear, compromise and impatience.