

#PRISON EPISTLES

Wrap Up

09:55 am **5 Min. Count Down - VIDEO**

10:00 am ****LIVE Worship –**

10:25 am ****LIVE In House Welcome –**

WELCOME to The Peak CC

Welcome our Church Online Platform –

We are so glad you could join us as we worship the Lord & expound on His Word.

If this is your 1st time or perhaps you've been with us before but haven't engaged... Please fill out

***Online Connect Card * -> RightNow Media**

Opening Prayer - Blessing of Contributions -

10:30 AM ****Announcements Video** - Tithing

10:32am LIVE SHOT – Welcome - Pastor Self Intro -

Lead into *True North Ranch 3rd session* - Who's Your Alpha? --learning to follow your LEAD.

Newspaper share Back the Blue

10:40am LIVE SHOT -

The desert place..

There is something about finding yourself in the “land of desolation” when you feel like you are all alone....

Have you ever felt abandoned or in need of going into survival mode... it's a place of loneliness and stagnation.

However, If placed in God's Hands... It can become a place of Clarity..... (less distractions), A place of creativity... (necessity is the mother of all inventions).

As the lushness of the material world is stripped from our senses by the barrenness of a desert, we might turn our hearts toward God and seek to discover what is truly important in our lives.

Mount Horeb, Har Charev, is also known as Mount Sinai or “the mountain of God.” Charev comes from the Hebrew word charab, which means to make desolate.

It is in the most desolate places where God has made His most significant appearances and where He speaks into the lives of His people.

I’m often reminded how peaceful and little drama life had when I was behind the wall... Truth be told, I often long to be back in that place... The place when it was just me & God!! .. No distractions & far fewer temptations... MONK status..

I'm brought back to Paul & the letters he wrote... Some were truly written in a desert place Both Physically & emotionally.

During his life, he was imprisoned several times while in Rome. It was while being in the Praetorium... Nasty jail ...

that he penned what are known today as the “Prison Epistles”

4 books total... Ephesians (May 2018), Philippians (Sept 2020), Colossians (March 2022), Philemon (Last week)

Each one written from a place of incarceration... a place of despair.. A place of isolation...

A PLACE of engulfment... A PLACE of consecration & holiness...

Ephesians...

The first 3 chapters are theological, emphasizing NT doctrine, whereas the last 3 chapters are practical and focus on Christian behavior.

Perhaps, above all, this is a letter of encouragement and admonition, written to remind believers of their *immeasurable blessings in Jesus Christ*; and not only to be thankful for those blessings, but also to live in a manner worthy of them.

Despite, and partly even because of, a Christian's great blessings in Jesus Christ, he is sure to be tempted by Satan to self satisfaction and complacency.

It was for that reason that, in the last chapter, Paul reminds believers of the full and sufficient spiritual armor supplied to them through God's Word and by His Spirit (6:10-17)

Eph 6:10-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

A key theme of the letter is the mystery of the church, which is (3:6)

"that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" .

All believers in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, are equal before the Lord as His children and as citizens of His eternal kingdom, a marvelous truth that *only* believers of this present age possess.

Paul also speaks of the mystery of the church as the bride of Christ (5:32; cf. Rev. 21:9).

This metaphor depicts the church, not as an organization, but as a living organism composed of mutually related and interdependent parts. Christ is Head of the body and the Holy Spirit is its lifeblood, as it were. The body functions through the faithful use of its members' various spiritual gifts, sovereignly and uniquely bestowed by the Holy Spirit on each believer. "the riches of His glory(3:16).

Paul admonishes believers to "be filled with all the fullness of God" (3:19), to " come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (4:13), and to "be filled with the Spirit" (5:18). Their riches in Christ are based on His grace (1:2,6,7; 2:7), His peace (1:2), His will

(1:5), His pleasure and purpose (1:9), His glory (1:12,14), His calling and inheritance (1:18), His power and strength (1:19; 6:10), His love (2:4), His workmanship (2:10), His Holy Spirit (3:16), His offering and sacrifice (5:2), and His armor (6:11,13).

The word "riches" 'is used 5 times in this letter; "grace" is used 12 times; "glory "' 8 times; "fullness" or "filled" 6 times; and the key phrase "in Christ" (or "'in Him") some 12 times.

Philippians

Philippi ("city of Philip") received its name from Philip II of Macedon (the father of Alexander the Great).

Attracted by the nearby gold mines, Philip conquered the region in the fourth century B.C.

In the second century B.C., Philippi became part of the Roman province of Macedonia.

The city existed in relative obscurity for the next two centuries until one of the most famous events in Roman history brought it recognition and expansion. In 42 B.C., the forces of Antony and Octavian defeated those of Brutus and Cassius at the Battle of Philippi, thus ending the Roman Republic and ushering in the Empire. After the battle,

Philippi became a Roman colony (cf. Acts 16:12), and many veterans of the Roman army settled there.

As a colony, Philippi had autonomy from the provincial government and the same rights granted to cities in Italy, including the use of Roman law, exemption from some taxes, and Roman citizenship for its residents (Acts 16:21).

Being a colony was also the source of much civic pride for the Philippians, who used Latin as their official language, adopted Roman customs, and modeled their city government after that of Italian cities.

Acts and Philippians both reflect Philippi's status as a Roman colony. Paul's description of Christians as citizens of heaven (3:17-20) was appropriate, since the Philippians prided themselves on being citizens of Rome (cf. Acts 16:21).

Philippians 3:17-20

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform

our lowly body so that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

The church at Philippi, the first one founded by Paul in Europe, dates from the apostle's second missionary journey (Acts 16:12-40). Philippi evidently had a very small Jewish population. Because there were not enough men to form a synagogue (the requirement was for 10 Jewish men who were heads of a household), some devout women met outside the city at a place of prayer (Acts 16:13) alongside the Gangites River. Paul preached the gospel to them and Lydia, a wealthy merchant dealing in expensive purple dyed goods (Acts 16:14), became a believer (16:14,15). It is likely that the Philippian church initially met in her spacious home.

Satanic opposition to the new church immediately arose in the person of a demon-possessed, fortune-telling slave girl (Acts 16:16,17). Not wanting even agreeable testimony from such an evil source,

(Acts 16;18). The apostle's act enraged the girl's masters, who could no

longer sell her services as a fortune-teller (Acts 16:19). They hauled Paul and Silas before the city's mag

istrates (Acts 16:20) and inflamed the civic pride of the Philippians by claiming the two preachers were a threat to Roman customs (Acts 16:20,21). As a result, Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned (Acts 16:22-24).

Just because you are doing the work & Will of God doesnt mean everything will be peaches & cream

The two preachers were miraculously released from prison that night by an earthquake, which unnerved the jailer and opened his heart and that of his household to the gospel (Acts 16:25-34).

The next day the magistrates, panicking when they learned they had illegally beaten and imprisoned two Roman citizens, begged Paul and Silas to leave Philippi.

Paul had several purposes in composing this epistle,

First, he wanted to express in writing his thanks for the Philippians gift (4:10-18)

Second, he wanted the Philippians to know why he decided to return Epaphroditus to them, so they would not think his service to Paul had been unsatisfactory (2:25,26).

Third, he wanted to inform them about his circumstances at Rome (1:12-26).

Fourth, he wrote to exhort them to unity (2:1-4).

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Finally, he wrote to warn them against false teachers (3:1-4:1)

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being

conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Colossians

Colossians contains teaching on several key areas of theology, including the deity of Christ (1:15-20; 2:2-10), reconciliation (1:20-23), redemption (1:13,14; 2:13,14; 3:9-11), election (3:12), forgiveness (3:13), and the nature of the church (1:18,24,25; 2:19; 3:11,15).

ONE of my Favorite passages...

1:13

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the

firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

It also refutes the heretical teaching that threatened the Colossian church (chap. 2).

V.8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

I'd like to conclude today by asking you.... Are YOU in a desert place? Do you feel dry? Arid? Separated from "Life"? You may not be incarcerated... but you find yourself isolated & set apart... Loss of joy or purpose?

I'd like to introduce you to Someone.. His Name is Jesus..

You can't figure this out on your own.. Do you think you have gotten yourself here by yourself??

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God. "

(2 Cor. 3:5)

Jesus Christ is completely sufficient for all matters of life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3, 4)!

He is sufficient for creation (Col. 1:16, 17),

salvation (Heb. 10;10-12),

sanctification (Eph.5:26,27),

and glorification (Rom. 8:30).

So pure is He that there is no blemish, stain, spot of sin, defilement, lying, deception, corruption, error, or imperfection (1 Pet. 1:18-20).

So complete is He that there is no other God besides Him (Is. 45:5); He is the only begotten Son (John 1:14,18);all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Him (Col. 2:3); the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Him (Col.2:9);

He is heir of all things (Heb. 1:2); He created all things and all things were made by Him, through Him, and for Him (Col.1:16);

He upholds all things by the word of His power (Col: 1:17; Heb. 1:3);

He is the firstborn of all creation (Col. 1:15);

He is the exact representation of God (Heb.1:3).

He is the only Mediator between God and man; He is the Sun that enlightens; the Physician that heals; the Wall of Fire that defends; the Friend that comforts; the Pearl that enriches; the Ark that supports; and the Rock to sustain under the heaviest of pressures; He is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high (Heb, 1:3;8:1)

He is better than the angels (Heb. 1:4-14); better than Moses; better than Aaron; better than Joshua; better than Melchizedek; better than all the prophets; greater than Satan (Luke 4:1-12); and stronger than death (1 Cor. 15:55).

He has no beginning and no end (Rev. 1:17, 18); He is the spotless Lamb of God; He is our Peace (Eph. 2:14); He is our Hope (1 Tim. 1:1); He is our Life (Col. 3:4); He is the living and true Way (John 14:6); He is the Strength of Israel (1 Sam. 15:29); He is the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star (Rev.22:16); He is Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11);He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1, 2); He is the Captain of our Salvation (Heb. 2:10); He is the Champion; He is the Elect One (Is. 42:1); He is the Apostle and High-Priest of our confession (Heb. 3:1); He is the Righteous Servant (Is. 53:11).

He is the Lord of Hosts, the Redeemer the Holy One of Israel, the God of the whole earth (Is. 54:5);

He is the Man of Sorrows (Is. 53:3); He is the Light; He is the Son of Man (Matt. 20:28); He is the Vine; He is the Bread of Life; He is the Door; He is Lord (Phil. 2:10-13); He is Prophet, Priest and King (Heb. 1:1-3); He is our Sabbath rest (Heb. 4:9); He is our Righteousness (Jer. 23:6);

He is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6);

DO YOU KNOW HIM??

He is the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4); He is Lord God of hosts; He is Lord of the nations; He is the Lion of Judah; the Living Word; the Rock of Salvation; the Eternal Spirit; He is the Ancient of Days; Creator and Comforter; Messiah; and He is the great I AM (John 8:58)!

GOD INCARNATE & walked amongst us to lead us back to Himself...

Today IS The DAY of Salvation... Dont let this moment pass you by...

Right there where you are... right here in person... build an altar before the Lord... AT HOME watching online.. Has God revealed Himself to you in a deeper way? Do you NOW see the FULLness of Christ?

As you close your eyes & bow your heads.... Is God moving you to an action? Do you sense that God is speaking to YOU??

As we close in prayer... and you want this prayer to include YOU.... would you quickly raise your hand...

If this was the 1st time that you really dedicated yourself to Jesus... Recognize Him as NOT only your Savior.... But also, your KING...

I'd like to invite you to connect w/ us..... @thepeakcc.com Visitors link... fill out that connect card...

Perhaps you stumbled across this post online by accident. Or someone invited you out of the blue..

Please contact us via our website @thepeakcc.com Let us know how we can come along your side to help your spiritual growth...

***“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you,
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”***

I bless you in the Name of the Father, & of the SON, & of the Holy Spirit... Amen!!

Next week we'll begin our next sermon series

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Eph 6:10–17.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Eph 6:18.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Php 3:17–21.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Php 2:1–4.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Php 3:8–11.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Php 3:2–3.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Col 1:13–18.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Col 2:8–10.