

Read Through The Bible

Week 33 – Sept. 15-21, 2024

Ecclesiastes 7-12; 2 Chronicles 2-9; Song of Songs 1-8; 1 Corinthians 7:36-13:13

Psalms 95-100, Proverbs 20:5-14

Icebreaker

- Do you know anyone who would rather cheat than act fairly? Who would rather lie than tell the truth?
- Who is the most loving person you know?
- Who is the most serving person you know?
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Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

2nd Chronicles

2 Chronicles 3:1 *Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.*

Why was it important for Solomon to build the Lord a house? Why build it on Mount Moriah? How important was Mount Moriah to the Jews?

2 Chronicles 3:7 *So he lined the house with gold—its beams, its thresholds, its walls, and its doors— and he carved cherubim on the walls.*

Why line the house with gold? How do we honor the Lord today? What would be equal to gold in our lives?

2 Chronicles 5:1, 7-8, 13-14 *1 Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God.*

7 *Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.* **8** *The cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles.*

13 *and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,” the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,* **14** *so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.*

Solomon completes the house of the Lord, furnishes it and brings the ark into the house. The glory of the Lord filled the house of God. What did this mean for Israel? What does the praise “For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever” mean for Christians? About whom else could this claim be made? How magnificent would it be to see the glory of the Lord?

2 Chronicles 6:14, 18-21 *14 and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart,*

18 *“But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, **heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!** 19 Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, 20 that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. 21 **And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.***

Chapter 6 is Solomon’s prayer of dedication for the temple. He begins with praise to God. Do we understand the greatness of God? How important is the phrase *“who walk before you with all their heart”*? Solomon begged for God to hear their prayers and forgive. How important is it for God to hear our prayers? How important is forgiveness to us?

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 *13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, 14 **if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.***

Is this prescription still valid today? What does it mean to humble ourselves? What does it mean to turn from our ways? Are all three acts necessary?

2 Chronicles 7:17-22 *17 And as for you, **if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, 18 then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.’ 19 “But if you² turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, 20 then I will pluck you³ up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 21 And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?’ 22 Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.’”***

What would the world see if Israel forsook God and served other gods? What lesson would this be for the world? What lesson should it be for us?

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 7:1 *A good name is better than precious ointment...*

What is the status of your name?

Ecclesiastes 8:8 *No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death*

What import should not having power over the day of death have for our lives? Do we act as if we will die soon?

Ecclesiastes 8:15 *And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.*

Is your life joyful? How can joy help us as we toil? What brings joy to your life?

Ecclesiastes 9:9-10 *9 Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.*

Are you enjoying your life with your wife? If not, what can you do to increase your enjoyment? Why should we enjoy life? Are we doing everything with our might? How does this apply to our work? How does it apply to school? How does it apply to our Christian life?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 *13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

How are we doing with fearing God? How are we doing keeping His commands? What does it mean that “this is the whole duty of man”? How does this square with your idea of the duty of man? What does it mean for us that “God will bring every deed into judgment”? How should this affect our lives?

Song of Songs

How does each of the lovers look to the other? What compliments does each give the other? Do we look at each other in this manner? Do we compliment each other today?

Psalms

Psalm 95:1-3 *1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us **make a joyful noise** to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us **come into his presence with thanksgiving**; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! 3 **For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.***

How often do we praise God for His greatness? How often do we sing to the Lord? Do we only praise Him during worship service? Do we start each day with praise?

Psalm 100:3 *Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; I we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

How important is it for us to know that God is God and no one else? How important is it that we realize God made us? How magnificent is it that we are His people? How can we know these things and not praise Him? What can we do to improve our praise?

Proverbs

Proverb 20:10 *10 Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD.*

How often have we seen that God want us to deal fairly/rightly with all. How prevalent is this in the world today? How quick are people to cheat each other today? Are there any areas where cheating is expected? How fairly/rightly do we treat everyone?

Proverb 20:11 *11 Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.*

How are we judged in the world, by our acts or by our intent? Why? How would God judge our acts today?

1st Corinthians

1 Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

How would this concept change the world today if it were followed? What is the basis behind this verse?

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is **one God, the Father**, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and **one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

How important is it for us to realize there is **one** God and **one** Lord? What does this mean for us today? How can we use this concept in our daily lives?

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 19 For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.** 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.** 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

What was Paul's attitude toward saving others? What is our attitude toward saving others? What are we doing to save others?

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 12 Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.** 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

How vulnerable are we to temptation? What are we doing to prevent falling? What promise has God made to us? What do we have to do to take advantage of this promise? How comforting is this promise to you?

1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31 23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor... 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

What are we doing for the good of our neighbor? How are our actions helping our neighbors? Are we doing anything that would push our neighbor away from God? Are all our actions done to the glory of God?

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord **in an unworthy manner** will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 **Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** 29 For **anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.** 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died

On what are we to concentrate when we partake of the Lord's supper? What does it mean to eat "in an unworthy manner"? How are we to examine ourselves? How important is it that we discern Christ's body as we partake?

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but **the same Spirit**; 5 and there are varieties of service, but **the same Lord**; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is **the same God who empowers them all in everyone.** 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good...** 11 **All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.**

What is the source of our gifts? Why are we given spiritual gifts? How are the gifts apportioned?

1 Corinthians 12:18-25 18 *But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body... 24...But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

Who arranged the members of the body? How many bodies are there? Why has God composed the body the way He did? How are we to treat other members of the body? How are we to use our gifts? What gifts have you been given? Are you using those gifts? Are you using them in the way God wants you to?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 1 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

How important is it for us to have love?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 4 *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends.*

List the positive aspects of love. _____

List the negative aspects of love. _____

According to this list, how are you doing in showing love? Which characteristics of love are easiest for you to exhibit? Which are the most difficult?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- List at least 3 ways to keep one's name pure.
- Assess your level of joy. How can we incorporate joy in our life? List 3 things that bring you joy?
- Meditate on what it means to "Fear God". List at least 3 effects fearing God will have on our lives.
- List at least 5 things for which God should be praised.
- Review your life this week in light of *1 Cor. 10:31* So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Choose the most difficult of love for you to exhibit and make a plan to improve it in your life.

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