

Read Through The Bible

Week 32 – Sept. 8-14, 2024

1 Chronicles 22-29; 2 Chronicles 1; Ecclesiastes 1-6; 1 Corinthians 2:6-7:35; Palms 92-94,
Proverbs 19:13-20:4

Icebreaker

- How obedient were you as a child? How well did you listen to your parents?
- Do you know someone who became a Christian who you never thought would become one? What caused them to become a Christian?
- How do you feel about work?

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

1st Chronicles

1st Chronicles 22:9-13 **9 Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.**

11 “Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. 12 Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. 13 Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

Solomon is prophesied to build the temple and be a man of rest. What does David want God to give Solomon? For what purpose? When would Solomon and Israel prosper? How often have we heard this promise? Is it still true today? How are we doing today in keeping God's commands? What was David's guidance to Solomon in verse 13? How easy/difficult is this to do? How is our strength and courage today? What should we fear over God? (see Matt. 10:28; Rom. 8:15-17, 31-39; 2 Tim. 1:7)

1st Chronicles 23:13, 27-28 **13 The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart to dedicate the most holy things, that he and his sons forever should make offerings before the LORD and minister to him and pronounce blessings in his name forever.**

27 For by the last words of David the sons of Levi were numbered from twenty years old and upward. 28 For their duty was to assist the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, having the care of the courts and the chambers, the cleansing of all that is holy, and any work for the service of the house of God.

Whose sons were to offer sacrifices and minister to the Lord? Whose sons were to perform the service of the house of the Lord? Where have we seen this pattern corrupted? What was the result? Are we in danger of disobeying God's pattern? What will be the result for us?

1 Chronicles 24 Why was listing the genealogy of the Levites so important? Why do you think this was done in the Chronicles? When did this come into play?

1st Chronicles 24-26 Why was it important to divide the duties of the Levites so precisely? Do we do this today in the Lord's service? What is the difference today?

1st Chronicles 28:9-10, 20-21 9 *"And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. 10 Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."*
20 *Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished. 21 And behold the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work will be every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people will be wholly at your command."*

How are we to serve the Lord? Which of these two characteristics is more important? Why? What promise did David reveal to Solomon about seeking God? About forsaking God? IS this promise the same for us today? What would God not do to Solomon (vs 20)? Do we have the same promise today?

1st Chronicles 19:9 *Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.*

How do we give to the Lord: willingly, out of a sense of duty, so we will prosper, other? How do we give to the Lord? Generously, sparingly, what we think we can spare, other? What do we give today: our heart, our work, our resources, our time, other?

2nd Chronicles

2nd Chronicles 1:7-12 7 *In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." 8 And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 9 O LORD God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?" 11 God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like."*

What would you have asked for? Do we view God as a genie that will grant our wishes? What do our prayers reflect of our thoughts of God?

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10, 13-18 9 *What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us.*

13 *And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.*

16 *I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." 17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. 18 For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.*

What is Solomon's conclusion at this point? How do you feel about this? Does this conclusion agree with your experience? Does it agree with what you know from your study? How does it differ? If this is true, what should be our attitude toward life? A word of advice: Do not judge the whole conclusion of Ecclesiastes by one chapter.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity... till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life... 9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

What was Solomon's conclusion about the search for pleasure? What was the reward for his toil? What was his conclusion about tiling?

Ecclesiastes 2:13, 16-17 13 Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness... 16 For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! 17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

How does wisdom compare to folly? What is the end of the fool? What is the end of the wise?

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, 25 for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? 26 For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

What is the best thing for a person? From where does this come?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What does this mean for us? Which of these times have you experienced in your life? Which ones do you not want to experience?

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 11 Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. 12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

What does it mean God has put eternity into man's heart? How should we apply this in our life? What is there nothing better for man to do? Where have we heard this before? What is God's gift to man? Does this contradict Solomon's earlier conclusions?

Ecclesiastes 3:14 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

How hard is it for most people to understand this statement? Why would this be hard for them to tolerate? What would they prefer?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 9 **Two are better than one**, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 **For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.** But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 **Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?** 12 **And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**

What does this say about our relationships? How are your relationships? Do you prefer to be alone or with others? How does this concept fit the church?

Ecclesiastes 5:10 10 **He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.**

Who do you know like this? How can we apply this to our life?

1st Corinthians

1st Corinthians 2:9 9 **But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”**

What do you think God has prepared for us? Compare this verse with Ephesians 3:14-21. How much greater could it be than heaven? Reading on in verse 12 of 1 Cor. 2, and in verse 20 of Eph. 3, how are we able to achieve these things? Do we have the Spirit in us? Do we allow the Spirit to work in us?

1st Corinthians 3”2-3 3 **I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?**

Are you ready for solid food? How long have you been a Christian? Is there jealousy and strife among us? What does this show in our life?

1st Corinthians 5:4-5, 9-11 4 **When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord...** 9 **I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—** 10 **not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.**

Why are we to not associate with the sexually immoral, greedy, idolaters, etc? Does this extend to the world or only brothers? How are we to act toward those in the world that are acting this way? Is it loving to not discipline brethren? Paul says people in the church were acting worse than those in the world. How does this reflect on the church? What is the effect on the world when we act this way in the church?

1st Corinthians 6:9-11 9 **Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

What is the plight of the unrighteous? Looking at the list of unrighteous acts, do you have a problem with any of them? Do you know people who do? How can we be sure this will not be our plight? Have you been washed, sanctified, and justified?

1st Corinthians 6:15-20 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? **Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!** 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But **he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.** 18 **Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.** 19 Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,** 20 **for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**

According to this passage, why is sexual sin evil? What are we to do with our body? Why? What are we to flee?

1st Corinthians 7:1-16 What is the primary point of this passage? How important is marriage to our Christian life? What effect can strife in our marriages have on our Christian life?

Psalms

Psalms 92:12-15 12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, 15 to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

What happens to the righteous? Does this mean the righteous will have no problems in life? How are you doing in being righteous?

Psalms 94:16-19 16 **Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers?** 17 **If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.** 18 **When I thought, “My foot slips,” your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.** 19 **When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.**

How good is God to us?

Proverbs

Proverb 19:21 21 **Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.**

What are your plans? How are your plans aligned with God's?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- What advice/guidance would you give your child on your deathbed?
- Meditate on what you would ask God for if He told you to ask for anything you wanted. Write out your request
- “Two are better than one.” List some ways this concept applies to the church.
- List at least three examples when God has been good to you; when God has cheered or encouraged you.

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