

March 22, 2020

TIME OF REFLECTION

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

~James 1:2-4

“Nothing is so certain as that which is certain after doubts. Shaking settles and roots.”

~*The Bruised Reed*, Richard Sibbes (1577-1635), Puritan pastor and theologian

“The truth that many people never understand, until it is too late, is that the more you try to avoid suffering the more you suffer because smaller and more insignificant things begin to torture you in proportion to your fear of being hurt.”

~*The Seven Storey Mountain*, Thomas Merton

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?”

~*Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis

“Christianity teaches that, contra fatalism, suffering is overwhelming; contra Buddhism, suffering is real; contra karma, suffering is often unfair; but contra secularism, suffering is meaningful. There is a purpose to it, and if faced rightly, it can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine.”

~*Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*, Tim Keller

“We may hence gather a most useful doctrine—That whenever signs of God’s wrath meet us in outward things, this remedy remains to us—to consider what God is to us inwardly; for the inward joy, which faith brings to us, can overcome all fears, terrors, sorrows and anxieties.”

~John Calvin (1509-1564), leader of the Protestant Reformation in Geneva

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “O Let Me Never Forget” – *Ryan Bouton*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Habakkuk 3:1-16 (ESV)*

¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

² O LORD, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it;
in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy.

³ God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*
His splendor covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise.

⁴ His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand;
and there he veiled his power.

⁵ Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels.

⁶ He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and shook the nations;
then the eternal mountains were scattered;
the everlasting hills sank low.
His were the everlasting ways.

⁷ I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

⁸ Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD?
Was your anger against the rivers,
or your indignation against the sea,
when you rode on your horses,
on your chariot of salvation?

⁹ You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows. *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.

¹⁰ The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;
the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.

¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in their place
at the light of your arrows as they sped,
at the flash of your glittering spear.

¹² You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.

¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people,
for the salvation of your anointed.
You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,
laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*

¹⁴ You pierced with his own arrows the heads of
his warriors,
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.

¹⁶ I hear, and my body trembles;
my lips quiver at the sound;
rottenness enters into my bones;
my legs tremble beneath me.
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble
to come upon people who invade us.