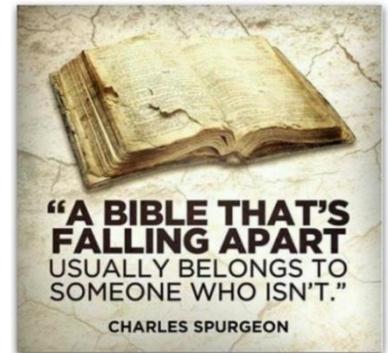




Beaches Baptist Church

Feb.18-24, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH

This week Colin Hardy preached at Beaches Baptist from 1 Peter 3:18-22. The people to whom Peter was writing were most likely Gentile Christians who had been dispersed by persecution for their faith in Jesus. Now that we live in a cultural climate which is becoming more and more antagonistic towards Christians, Peter's first letter has much to say to us about living the Christian faith when times are tough.

Monday

1 Peter 1:1-12 (MSG)

¹⁻²I, Peter, am an apostle on assignment by Jesus, the Messiah, writing to exiles scattered to the four winds. Not one is missing, not one forgotten. God the Father has his eye on each of you, and has determined by the work of the Spirit to keep you obedient through the sacrifice of Jesus. May everything good from God be yours!

³⁻⁵What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

⁶⁻⁷I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it *proved* pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out *proved* genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

⁸⁻⁹You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation.

¹⁰⁻¹²The prophets who told us this was coming asked a lot of questions about this gift of life God was preparing. The Messiah's Spirit let them in on some of it—that the Messiah would experience suffering, followed by glory. They clamoured to know who and when. All they were told was that they were serving you, you who by orders from heaven have now heard for yourselves—through the Holy Spirit—the Message of those prophecies fulfilled. Do you realize

how fortunate you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this!

Reflect: In the midst of tough times we need to always remember what we have in Jesus- a new life in Him and our hope of resurrection when we will be with Him forever. The tough times we go through- when we remain committed- serve to purify us as gold is purified through fire.

Tuesday

1 Peter 1:13-17 (MSG)

¹³⁻¹⁶ So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy."

¹⁷ You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living.

Reflect: As Christians we weren't saved by our 'holy living' because before salvation we did not have the Holy Spirit to empower us even if it were possible to be saved by works- which it isn't (Eph.2:8-9). But, as were God's people of the Old Testament (the Jews), God's people of the New Testament are expected to live holy lives that bring glory to God.

Wednesday

1 Peter 18-25 (MSG)

¹⁸⁻²¹ Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

²²⁻²⁵ Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. Your new life is not like your old life. Your old birth came from mortal sperm; your new birth comes from God's living Word. Just think: a life conceived by God himself! That's why the prophet said,

The old life is a grass life,

its beauty as short-lived as wildflowers;

Grass dries up, flowers droop,

God's Word goes on and on forever.

This is the Word that conceived the new life in you.

Reflect: The new life the Christian enjoys came at the cost of Jesus' death as our sacrificial lamb and is empowered by His resurrected life. So, recognising the price it cost to redeem us let's 'love one another as if your lives depended on it.' Let's live lives that are being regenerated by God's word being applied by His Holy Spirit.

Thursday

1 Peter 2:1-10 (MSG)

¹⁻³ So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretence, envy and hurtful talk. You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God.

The Stone

⁴⁻⁸ Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honour. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion,

a cornerstone in the place of honour.

Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation

will never have cause to regret it.
To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him,
The stone the workmen threw out
is now the chief foundation stone.
For the untrusting it's
. . . a stone to trip over,
a boulder blocking the way.

They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

⁹⁻¹⁰ But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

Reflect: We are living stones, joined with Jesus the Cornerstone, building a holy sanctuary together with Him. All who have received Jesus as inherited the covenant promises which were previously only for the Jews. Therefore, we are all priests, chosen by Him to speak out about the difference He has made in our lives. Are you living up to your priestly calling?

Friday

1 Peter 2:11-25 (MSG)

¹¹⁻¹² Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.

¹³⁻¹⁷ Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ You who are servants, be good servants to your masters—not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behaviour and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.

²¹⁻²⁵ This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.

He never did one thing wrong,
Not once said anything amiss.

They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used his servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way. His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going. Now you're named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your souls.

Reflect: We are to live lives that are pure from immorality or rebellion—lives that promote community and cause it to flourish. Such lives adorn the gospel of God and point people towards Jesus who exemplified the kind of life we should live.

Saturday

1 Peter 3:1-12 (MSG)

¹⁻⁴ The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their needs. There are husbands who, indifferent as they are to any words about God, will be captivated by your life of holy beauty. What matters is not your outer appearance—the styling of your hair, the jewellery you wear, the cut of your clothes—but your inner disposition.

⁴⁻⁶ Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in. The holy women of old were beautiful before God that way, and were good, loyal wives to their husbands. Sarah, for instance, taking care of Abraham, would address him as “my dear husband.” You’ll be true daughters of Sarah if you do the same, unanxious and unintimidated.

⁷ The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honour them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God’s grace, you’re equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don’t run aground.

⁸⁻¹² Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that’s your job, to bless. You’ll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

Whoever wants to embrace life
and see the day fill up with good,

Here’s what you do:

Say nothing evil or hurtful;
Snub evil and cultivate good;
run after peace for all you’re worth.

God looks on all this with approval,
listening and responding well to what he’s asked;
But he turns his back
on those who do evil things.

Reflect: Living the Christian life in such a way that adorns the gospel is nothing airy-fairy- it comes down to getting the simple things right, like being good wives and husbands and treating all people with dignity and respect.

Sunday

1 Peter 3:13-22 (MSG)

¹³⁻¹⁸ If with heart and soul you’re doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you’re still better off. Don’t give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you’re living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They’ll end up realizing that *they’re* the ones who need a bath. It’s better to suffer for doing good, if that’s what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That’s what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others’ sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

¹⁹⁻²² He went and proclaimed God’s salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn’t listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact—saved *from* the water *by* the water. The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus’ resurrection before God with a clear conscience. Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. He’s standing right alongside God, and what he says goes.

Reflect: Submit and consistently commit to the Lordship of Christ, living out His life and speaking out about the hope He has given you.