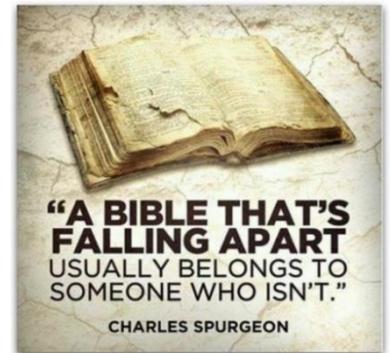




Beaches Baptist Church

Jan.14-20, 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.

GOD ALONE

In the first of the Ten Commandments God says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex.20:3). We can make the mistake of foolishly thinking that commandment only applies to a people of a bygone era, or people of a less 'progressive' culture. However, when under the pressure of severe hardship, the gods we worship become very obvious as we seek to escape from our situation by any other means but God.

As we look at a few of the Psalms over the coming weeks my prayer is that each of us we be challenged to press into God as our nearest and dearest friend through the good times and the bad.

Monday

Psalm 62:1-2 (ESV)

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

Acts 4:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,
'The stone that you builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.'

¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Reflect: When we are left with no options for help and deliverance but God- that is the best place to be. In a very noisy world we need to take time out so that we can be silent and wait on God. The New Testament reveals to us that God's salvation comes through Jesus alone.

Tuesday

Psalm 62:3-4 (MSG)

³⁻⁴ How long will you gang up on me?
How long will you run with the bullies?
There's nothing to you, any of you—
rotten floorboards, worm-eaten rafters,
Anthills plotting to bring down mountains,
far gone in make-believe.
You talk a good line,
but every "blessing" breathes a curse.

Reflect: Are your enemies real people, or are they circumstances out of your control- relational, financial or physical health? This is nothing new to God- look to Him for your salvation.

Wednesday

Psalm 62:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Reflect: Notice this is a repeat of the refrain we came across in verses 1 and 2, but with some variation. This time the Psalmist speaks to himself- to his soul. It is spiritually fortifying to speak God's Word to yourself. Secondly, rather than saying, *I shall not be greatly shaken* (v2), he says, *I shall not be shaken* (v6). After speaking to his soul and placing his hope in God alone he realises that nothing can shake him.

Thursday

Psalm 62:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Reflect: His salvation, his reputation and his security all rest on God. The Psalmist calls all people to trust in God alone.

Friday

Psalm 62:9 (ESV)

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

Reflect: Throughout the history of humanity there have been those who have seen themselves as more important- of a higher estate- than others- whether wealth, colour, religion or pedigree.

But the Psalmist tells us that all, whether of low or high estate, are together lighter than a breath. In Rom.12:3, Paul tells us "*not to think of [ourselves] more highly than [we] ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*"

Saturday

Psalm 62:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

Reflect: It's the human tendency to take short cuts to minimise the suffering. Wealth can't give salvation or security however it is obtained.

Sunday

Psalm 62:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
¹² and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.
For you will render to a man
according to his work.

Reflect: Repeatedly God has told us that He is all-powerful and loyal in love toward us. Why would we place our hope and trust in anyone or anything else?