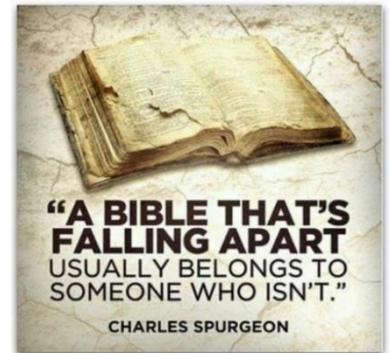




Apr.22-28, 2019



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.

JUSTICE

Our sense for the need of justice comes early in life. Very early on we learn that justice doesn't seem to get done- that wrongs are not 'righted'. For the non-theist this is a problem, but for the Christian we see that through Jesus' death at Calvary the justice of God against our sin was meted out on his Son. Yet this was not the end, Jesus resurrection assures us that all wrongs will one day be 'righted'!

Monday

Reflect: We are good at seeing all the injustices 'out there', but what if they are 'in here' - in our own hearts?

Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Mark 7:15-16, 20-23 (ESV)

[Jesus said,] ¹⁵"There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him... ²⁰And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him.²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person"

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Tuesday

Proverbs 28:5 (ESV)

Evil men do not understand justice,
but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.

Isaiah 30:18 (ESV)

Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Reflect: If only there was a universal standard for justice- well there is! The source of justice comes from the character of God himself. He is the epitome of grace, mercy and justice. Those who seek him know the true meaning of justice.

Wednesday

Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

¹⁰ As the Scriptures say,
"No one is righteous—
not even one.

¹¹ No one is truly wise;
no one is seeking God.

¹² All have turned away;
all have become useless.

No one does good,
not a single one."

Romans 3:22-25 (ESV)

For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflect: We've all broken God's law and deserve the penalty for our sin. We can either receive our just deserts (i.e., death- the penalty for our sin) or receive the free gift of eternal life through Jesus. Justice can't be achieved without Jesus.

Thursday

Isaiah 53:4-9 (ESV)

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Reflect: Jesus became our substitute, bearing the penalty and wrath of God for our sins. Justice for our crimes against God was served on Jesus. Praise him!

Friday

Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT)

... God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Mark 15:33-34 (MSG)

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Reflect: During Jesus' crucifixion there was darkness over the whole land from noon to 3pm. The record of our sins had been nailed to his cross- he took them upon himself. His Father, who had been in an intimate, loving relationship with him for all eternity past could not look on his only Son who became sin for us (2 Cor.5:21). Jesus did indeed become God-forsaken in our place. He experienced the worse thing about Hell so we wouldn't have to.

Saturday

John 19:30 (ESV)

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Romans 4:25 (ESV)

²⁵ [Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Reflect: WE KNOW IN OUR HEARTS THAT -IF JUSTICE ISN'T DONE- THERE IS A GREAT INCOMPLETENESS- IT IS LIKE A STORY WITHOUT A CONCLUSION. IT IS LIKE A SENTENCE WITHOUT A FULL-STOP. At the cross Jesus cried, "It is finished!" He had paid the price. Justice had been accomplished. But the cross is incomplete without the resurrection. The resurrection proves that the transaction is complete, there is nothing left to pay. The deal is sealed.

Sunday

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 (ESV)

²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Reflect: The resurrection assures us that there is a new day coming when Jesus will bring about his rule and all wrongs will be ‘righted’.