Name:					

# SERMON JOURNAL

February 12 - June 24, 2018

Consider using this journal not only for yourself, but also as an opportunity to meet with others in a small group. The Christian faith is about making disciples of Jesus. This journal provides a mutually blessed way for you to do precisely that. Below are some questions your small group may use for discussion each week.

#### Weekly Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Review the key scripture(s).
- Review the key point(s) from the sermon.
  - How were you encouraged?
  - How were you challenged?
  - What questions did it create?
  - What convictions did it bring?
- What was the pastor asking of you, even expecting you to do in response?
- How has the Lord spoken to you through this sermon?
- What are you going to do as a result?

#### Dear church,

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, claimed to be a "man of one Book." The man was an incredibly well-educated person who knew Latin, Greek and Hebrew and read the classic works of literature. He even wrote his own books and pamphlets to help define the teachings of Methodism. But at his heart, he was a "man of one Book." The authority for his life was Jesus Christ. While Wesley had his own personal experiences with Christ ("I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had saved me from the law of sin and death"), he aligned his life with the teachings of the Bible.

Likewise, we believe God has revealed Himself to us through the Living Word. We experience Jesus through various means, especially through the written word (the Bible) and the spoken word (teaching, preaching and faith-sharing).

It is our intent to HELP OTHERS FOLLOW JESUS by putting this sermon guide into action. This is a DAILY journal, not something just for Sundays. This is how it works: Monday's text is the preaching text for the following Sunday and sets the tone for the week. Mondays also include an introduction. Our daily readings support the Sunday text, providing a broader understanding of the topic.

Our Lenten through June journal will be chapter/book studies:

"As It Is In Heaven" looks at worship through two chapters in Revelation (4-5).

"Lost and Found" is the story of a woman in great crisis in the Book of Ruth (4 chapters).

"Righteousness from Above" is Paul's magnificent work in Romans 1-5.

In Christ, Tom



# Scripture Readings

AS IT IS IN	<b>HEAVEN:</b> The Throne	AS IT IS IN HEAVEN:			
<b>2</b> /12	Revelation 4:1-6	Prayers of	the Saints		
<b>2</b> /13	Revelation 1:8-20	<b>3</b> /12	Revelation 5:8-10		
<b>2</b> /14	Revelation 3:19-22	<b>3</b> /13	Nehemiah 1		
<b>2</b> /15	1 Kings 18	<b>3</b> /14	Psalm 86		
<b>2</b> /16	Psalm 93	<b>3</b> /15	Acts 1:12-14		
<b>2</b> /17	Psalm 100	<b>3</b> /16	Acts 6:1-4		
<b>2</b> /18	Revelation 4:1-6	<b>3</b> /17	Colossians 4:2-18		
	HEAVEN 4.6	<b>3</b> /18	Revelation 5:8-10		
	HEAVEN: A Song				
	Revelation 4:7-11	AS IT IS IN	<b>HEAVEN:</b> <i>The Voice</i>		
	Nehemiah 12:27-47	<b>3/19</b>	Revelation 5:11-12		
	Psalm 77	<b>3</b> /20	Psalm 116		
	Psalm 126	<b>3</b> /21	John 10:1-18		
	Isaiah 6:1-10	<b>3</b> /22	Luke 19:28-40		
2/24		<b>3</b> /23	Luke 23:13-25		
<b>2</b> /25	Revelation 4:7-11	<b>3</b> /24	Luke 23:32-49		
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: The Lion		<b>3</b> /25	Revelation 5:11-12		
<b>2</b> /26	Revelation 5:1-5				
<b>2</b> /27	Genesis 49:8-12		HEAVEN: The Fall		
<b>2</b> /28	Proverbs 19:12; 20:2;		Revelation 5:13-14		
	Proverbs 30:24-31	<b>3</b> /27			
<b>3</b> /1	Isaiah 11:1-9	<b>3</b> /28			
<b>3</b> /2	Amos 3:1-8		Genesis 3		
<b>3</b> /3	1 Peter 5:8-14		1 Corinthians 15:20-28		
<b>3</b> /4	Revelation 5:1-5		1 Corinthians 15:42-49		
		<b>4</b> /1	Revelation 5:13-14		
	HEAVEN: And The Lamb	LOCT AND	FOUND: A Family's Grief		
<b>□</b> 3/5		□ 4/2	•		
<b>□</b> 3/6			Genesis 16		
<b>□</b> 3/7		□ 4/3			
<b>3</b> /8		□ 4/4 □ 4/5			
<b>3</b> /9			Mark 10:46-52		
<b>3</b> /10		□ 4/6			
<b>3</b> /11	Revelation 5:6-7	□ 4/7	• •		
		<b>4/8</b>	KUTN 1:1-/		

# Scripture Readings

	1					
LOST AND	FOUND: Ruth's Choice	LOST AND	FOUND: A Family Legacy			
<b>4/9</b>	Ruth 1:8-19	<b>5</b> /7	Ruth 4:13-22			
<b>4/10</b>	Genesis 24	<b>□</b> 5/8	Ruth 1			
<b>4/11</b>	Matthew 5:38-42	<b>□</b> 5/9	Job 42			
<b>4/12</b>	Luke 22:45-62	<b>5/10</b>	John 14:1-21			
<b>4/13</b>	Psalm 94:16-19	<b>□</b> 5/11	2 Corinthians 1:1-7			
<b>4/14</b>	Matthew 16:24-28	<b>□</b> 5/12	Revelation 22:1-9			
<b>4/15</b>	Ruth 1:8-19	<b>□</b> 5/13	Ruth 4:13-22			
LOST AND	FOUND: Naomi's Faith Crisis	RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE:				
<b>4/16</b>	Ruth 1:20-22	The Gospe	l and the Spirit			
<b>4/17</b>	Psalm 22	<b>□</b> 5/14	•			
<b>4/18</b>	Psalm 23	<b>5/15</b>	Luke 9:1-6			
<b>4/19</b>	Romans 8:18-25	<b>5</b> /16	Acts 2:1-41			
<b>4/20</b>	Romans 8:26-30	<b>5</b> /17	Acts 9:1-31			
<b>4/21</b>	Romans 8:31-39	<b>□</b> 5/18	Galatians 1:13-24			
<b>4/22</b>	Ruth 1:20-22	<b>5</b> /19	1 Corinthians 1:13-25			
LOST AND	FOUND: Boaz, the Faithful	<b>□</b> 5/20	Romans 1:1-6			
	Ruth 2:1-8	RIGHTFOL	ISNESS FROM ABOVE:			
<b>□</b> 4/24		Called to b				
<b>□</b> 4/25		□ 5/21				
□ 4/26	Matthew 25:14-30	□ 5/22				
<b>4/27</b>		<b>5</b> /23				
<b>4/28</b>	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	<b>5</b> /24	Colossians 1:24-29;			
<b>4/29</b>	Ruth 2:1-8		Philemon 4-7			
		<b>5</b> /25	2 Peter 1:1-9			
	FOUND: Risk and Reward	<b>5</b> /26	Romans 15:23-16:2			
4/30	Ruth 3:10-13	<b>5</b> /27	Romans 1:7-17			
<b>5</b> /1	Genesis 12					
<b>□</b> 5/2	John 1:1-14					
<b>□</b> 5/3	Acts 7					
<b>□</b> 5/4						
<b>5</b> /5	Ephesians 5:25-32					
<b>□</b> 5/6	Ruth 3:10-13					

# Scripture Readings

#### **RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE:**

#### The Problem

- ☐ 5/28 Romans 1:18-2:4
- ☐ 5/29 Matthew 6:1-8; 33
- ☐ 5/30 1 Corinthians 6:9-20
- ☐ 5/31 Romans 8:1-17
- ☐ 6/1 Ephesians 2:1-10
- ☐ 6/2 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- ☐ 6/3 Romans 1:18-2:4

#### RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE:

#### The Solution

- ☐ 6/4 Romans 3:21-26
- ☐ 6/5 Romans 3:9-20
- □ 6/6 1 John 1:8-10
- ☐ 6/7 Isaiah 53
- ☐ 6/8 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- □ 6/9 1 Peter 2:9-10, 3:8-13
- □ 6/10 Romans 3:21-26

#### **RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE:**

#### Rejoice!

- ☐ 6/11 Romans 5:1-11
- ☐ 6/12 Romans 4:1-15
- □ 6/13 Romans 4:16-25
- □ 6/14 Acts 14:21-28
- ☐ 6/15 James 1:2-4
- □ 6/16 1 Peter 4:12-19
- ☐ 6/17 Romans 5:1-11

#### RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE:

#### Adam One & Adam Two

- ☐ 6/18 Romans 5:12-21
- ☐ 6/19 Genesis 3
- ☐ 6/20 Romans 6:19-23
- □ 6/21 1 Timothy 1:12-17 □ 6/22 Hebrews 9:23-28
- ☐ 6/23 James 1:12-15
- ☐ 6/24 Romans 5:12-21

# As It Is In Heaven

The worship of Revelation meets the reality of life February 12 – April 1, 2018

## Monday, February 12, 2018 Revelation 4:1-6

One of my favorite book titles is The Last Days Are Here Again. Most every generation since Jesus has believed He would return during their lifetime. Unfortunately, the Book of Revelation scares many of us. I encourage you to read: Reversed Thunder by Eugene Peterson. This book opened my understanding that Revelation was written by a man, John, in exile (knocked out of the ministry) - he lost his church, community and purpose in life. When this discouraged believer had a "revelation" from God, it got him back on his feet and reminded him the Lamb and the Lion (not Rome or Babylon) win. Christians need not lose their nerve. Churches must be instructed and corrected. Worship needs to be core. Worship (Revelation 4-5) follows one of the most famous verses in the Bible: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20) Worship centers, gathers, reveals, sings and affirms (Reversed Thunder, pg. 59). Main point: It's not WHAT is in heaven, but WHO is on the throne! As 4:1 shows, the door in heaven is still open! Let's read about and learn to worship God His way, just as Jesus taught us to pray: "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

APPLICATION: On a 1-10 scale (10 being the highest), how much do you feel you know about the Bible? About Revelation? What's the deal with "the throne?" And what's up with the numbers "24" and "7?" And who are the four with eyes everywhere – even in the back of their heads? Welcome to the wild, weird, wacky world of Revelation. If you don't understand it...don't worry about it. I need lots of help on this, too!

#### THE THRONE

## Tuesday, February 13, 2018 Revelation 1:8-20

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

## Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Revelation 3:19-22

ek: What does this passage say? ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? eactice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

## THE THRONE

## Thursday, February 15, 2018 1 Kings 18

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

## Friday, February 16, 2018 Psalm 93

<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					

#### THE THRONE

## Saturday, February 17, 2018 Psalm 100

Observe: What does this passage say? Seek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? Practice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

## Sunday, February 18, 2018 Revelation 4:1-6

#### A SONG

## Monday, February 19, 2018 Revelation 4:7-11

Undoubtedly it was a musician who noted that while there is no preaching in heaven, there will be singing. Thus, musicians will always have a job, but not preachers. Indeed, John Wesley was the chief Methodist preacher, but we are still singing the songs of his brother, Charles. Music profoundly touches us. We are "what we think." We are "what we eat." We are "what our friends are." I would also argue we are "what we sing." Before David was king, he played the harp for his mentally troubled predecessor (1 Samuel 16:23). African-Americans developed spirituals to comfort and provide hope. Some stroke victims who are limited in speech can still sing (our "Aphasia" choir was created for some of these). The deeply troubled Psalmist wrote in 77:6, "I remembered my songs in the night."

**APPLICATION:** On a scale of 1-10, how important is music to you? What are your favorite songs? Why? What songs do you dislike? Why? Do you listen to the words and believe their message? How does your music affect your soul? Your worship? Could the Lord be speaking to you to change your music in some way? Are you familiar with Colossians 3:16? This week, try writing your own psalm to God.

## Tuesday, February 20, 2018 Nehemiah 12:27-47

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

## A SONG

## Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Psalm 77

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

# Thursday, February 22, 2018 Psalm 126

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

## A SONG

# Friday, February 23, 2018 Isaiah 6:1-10

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

## Saturday, February 24, 2018 Colossians 3:15-17

<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?						

#### A SONG

# Sunday, February 25, 2018 Revelation 4:7-11

ermon Notes:	,		

## Monday, February 26, 2018 Revelation 5:1-5

Revelation 5:5 is no "cowardly Lion" like in Oz. This is the strong one – the great King of Heaven. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
He is transcendent. He is Lord. In <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> (C.S. Lewis' wonderful series of books) the Lion, Aslan, represents Jesus. As is said in <i>The Lion</i> , the Witch and the Wardrobe, when Lucy asks if he is a "safe lion," Mrs. Beaver tells her, "of course he's not safe, but he is good. He's the King, I tell you!" Aslan tells Lucy in <i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i> she will see him again, only on earth he is known by a different name. She must learn to know Aslan by that name (Jesus). He adds: "This wa the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there." Most readings this week are from the Old Testament and talk about the nature of a lion. The lion is not only strong but is also worthy.

**APPLICATION:** Have you ever read the book or seen the movie "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"? If so, discuss your favorite part. If not, consider watching it. Children love it, but it is the story of Jesus. 1 Peter 5:8-14 switches metaphors by describing our enemy as "a roaring lion," instead of our Savior. What does Peter say we should do to resist this lion? Finally, describe in your own words what "transcendent" means. Why is this such an important word?

## THE LION

# Tuesday, February 27, 2018 Genesis 49:8-12

ctice: Hov	id this pass v does this	passage	e apply t	o God's	people?	

## Wednesday, February 28, 2018 Proverbs 19:12; 20:2; 30:24-31

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

## THE LION

# Thursday, March 1, 2018 Isaiah 11:1-9

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

# Friday, March 2, 2018 Amos 3:1-8

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

## THE LION

# Saturday, March 3, 2018 1 Peter 5:8-14

ctice: How	d this passa does this p	passage a	apply to (	God's pe	ople?	

## Sunday, March 4, 2018 Revelation 5:1-5

Sermon Notes:		

#### AND THE LAMB

## Monday, March 5, 2018 Revelation 5:6-7

If the "transcendent" (great, distant, beyond us) Lion was the concept from last week, then this week's verse emphasizes the "immanent" (compassionate, tender and near to us) Lamb. The Lion and the Lamb remind me of the organ and the piano. The organ is "transcendent." When it cranks out in full volume, I can't hear myself sing. It's powerful magnificent and grand. It is like the Sovereign God who created the heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1). The piano is immanent (near
to us). It provides melody. Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb. We need the strength of the Lion to defeat our enemy, but we need the tenderness and compassion of the Lamb who loves us. After looking at the sacrificial lamb described in Leviticus, the other four readings this week come from the New Testament. Jesus was "the Lamb of God," who took the place of the sacrificial lamb of Leviticus. His sacrifice is shown in <i>The Lion</i> , the Witch and the Wardrobe. (Have you seen it, yet?) I think a "lamb" is like Christmas – sweet, precious and loveable. We want to pet and snuggle up next to him. A "lion" is like Easter – nobody controls the resurrected Jesus. He is full of power, glory and might.

**APPLICATION:** Why is it important to have both the Lion and the Lamb and not just either/or? Do you relate more to God as "Lion" or "Lamb?" How do you perceive Jesus when you worship? How might your views or preferences be causing you to fall short of giving Him the honor and glory He deserves?

## Tuesday, March 6, 2018 Leviticus 14:10-31

<b>k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### AND THE LAMB

## Wednesday, March 7, 2018 John 1:29-36

bserve: What does this passage say? ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? eactice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

## Thursday, March 8, 2018 Acts 8:26-40

<b>k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					

#### AND THE LAMB

## Friday, March 9, 2018 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

ctice:	at did this How does	this pas	ssage ap	ply to G	od's pe	ople?	E:

## Saturday, March 10, 2018 1 Peter 1:17-21

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### AND THE LAMB

# Sunday, March 11, 2018 Revelation 5:6-7

### Monday, March 12, 2018 Revelation 5:8-10

I love writing these brief sermon descriptions from Revelation 4-5 and that we are now into our fifth week and we've not been talking about "I, ME, MINE or MYSELF." It's all been about <i>The Kingdom of God</i> (not the <i>Kingdom of Self</i> ). Worship doesn't revolve around my preferences, desires or thoughts. Worship isn't about ME at all - it's all been about Jesus' throne, the songs sung to Him, how Jesus has come as the Lion and the Lamb who was slain and is worthy of praise. Revelation finally gets around to talking about "the saints." In <i>Reversed Thunder</i> (pg. 87ff) Peterson describes how God hears our prayers, collects them into
bowls of incense and hurls them back to earth with powerful impact.
He says about those early Christians: "Massive engines of persecution
and scorn raged against them. They had neither weapons nor votes.
They had little money and no prestige. Why didn't they have mental breakdowns? Why didn't they cut and run? They prayed." WOW!

**APPLICATION:** On a 1-10 scale, how comfortable are you with prayer? Do you pray primarily for your own needs or for others or for God's will to be done? Have you ever felt like your prayers just hit the ceiling and bounce back? How does today's scripture affect your thinking about prayer? What did Robert Murray M'Cheyne mean when he said, "Turn your Bible into prayers?"

#### PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

## Tuesday, March 13, 2018 Nehemiah 1

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

## Wednesday, March 14, 2018 Psalm 86

:: What did th tice: How do	es this pass	age apply	to God's p	eople?

#### PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

## Thursday, March 15, 2018 Acts 1:12-14

ctice: Hov	id this pass v does this	passage	e apply t	o God's	people?	

# Friday, March 16, 2018 Acts 6:1-4

ctice: How	does this pass	age apply t	e original audie to God's people?	?

#### PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

# Saturday, March 17, 2018 Colossians 4:2-18

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

### Sunday, March 18, 2018 Revelation 5:8-10

sermon Notes:			

#### THE VOICE

### Monday, March 19, 2018 Revelation 5:11-12

I thought this was an amazing word study. I was greatly surprised to see how often the word, "voice" is found in the Bible (198x). There is the voice of poor Esau crying out for justice after his deceitful brother, Jacob, stole his blessing (Genesis 27:22-38). There is the anguished voice of King Darius crying out to Daniel to discover if he was still alive after being thrown into the lion's den (Daniel 6:20). There is the voice of the "Good Shepherd" in John 10. The voices of many are in the Book of Revelation (33x): Jesus, God the Father, angels, the living creatures and the elders. Revelation 6:10-11 have voices crying out for justice: "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Next week is the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry, but we will look ahead at all the voices crying out.

**APPLICATION:** I think of three primary voices: The voice of **God** the **Father (HE)**, the voice of the **congregation (WE)** and the voice of the **individual (ME)**. How are you able to identify with the joy of the Psalmist in 116 that God has heard his voice? Can you describe times in your life when you felt you were heard by God or that you heard from God? Have there been voices from the congregation who have spoken to you? How can that best be replicated? How are you using your voice for the Kingdom of God?

# Tuesday, March 20, 2018 Psalm 116

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

#### THE VOICE

# Wednesday, March 21, 2018 John 10:1-18

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

# Thursday, March 22, 2018 Luke 19:28-40

k: What did this p ctice: How does t	his passage	apply to G	od's people	?

#### THE VOICE

# Friday, March 23, 2018 Luke 23:13-25

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

## Saturday, March 24, 2018 Luke 23:32-49

<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?						

#### THE VOICE

# Sunday, March 25, 2018 Revelation 5:11-12

Sermon Notes:	

### Monday, March 26, 2018 Revelation 5:13-14

Everything was "good" or "very good" in Genesis 1 and 2. But "the fall" of Genesis 3 is when sin entered the world. Adam and Eve were booted from the Garden, and the ugliness of sin spread. Their son, Cain, murdered his brother, Abel. When confronted about his missing brother, Cain responded with a shrug, "I don't know - am I my brother's keeper?" The murderer killed his brother and felt he was the victim. Read Genesis 4, too. The same thing happens today - people sin and blame God and everyone else. Sin's essence is being self-absorbed. Sin (people don't even like to use this word today - maybe a "sinful dessert") is "the big ME." It's The Kingdom of Self. Genesis 1-2 pictures God's original intent for harmony and peace on earth, but when sin rang the doorbell and the original pair opened it, all hell broke loose with others, oneself, creation and especially with God. How do we get things back together again? Thus, the lament of Revelation that no one was able to open the scroll. People were doomed. That's when the One seated on the throne came. The Lion/Lamb appeared to remove what the first Adam had done. Our story of worship ends with the phrase "fell down." However, it isn't falling into sin – but falling into worship. Easter Sunday, the Lamb is resurrected and the Lion returns. The antidote of "the big ME" is to worship God. It shifts the focus to the Holy One like nothing else. Worship makes us sing. Worship makes us love. Worship makes us fall down. Worship transforms us.

**APPLICATION:** Have you seen the crucifixion and resurrection scenes in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*? How are you struggling with "the Big ME?" How does "the Big ME" interfere with worship? What keeps you from worshipping God? What are you doing about it?

### THE FALL

# Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Genesis 1

ctice: Hov	id this pass v does this	passage	e apply t	o God's	people?	

### Wednesday, March 28, 2018 Genesis 2

ctice: How do	<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?						

### THE FALL

# Thursday, March 29, 2018 Genesis 3

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

# Friday, March 30, 2018 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

#### THE FALL

### Saturday, March 31, 2018 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

# Sunday, April 1, 2018 Revelation 5:13-14

Finding Hope in a Family Crisis April 2 – May 13, 2018

### Monday, April 2, 2018 Ruth 1:1-7

We move from the "other worldly" Revelation 4-5 to a very "real world" family crisis. The background of the story cannot be missed. The previous book, Judges, ends with this cryptic note: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." (Judges 21:25) Selfcenteredness is a recipe for broken relationships. Ruth begins with a famine that relocates Naomi's family. Naomi's husband and both sons die. She is completely devastated and destitute. With no safety net, she will be homeless. Her options are slavery, prostitution or death. Her only hope is to "set out on the road" back to her hometown of Bethlehem. There are some hard roads in the Bible for Hagar (Sarah's handmaiden), Tamar, and Rahab of Jericho, Bartimaeus, the man on "The Good Samaritan Road," and Saul/Paul. Jesus traveled the "Palm Sunday Road" on his "Triumphal Entry," but that road was leading Him to Gethsemane and the cross. Good things eventually happen, but EVERYONE will experience loss. We all will grieve at some point in life. However, we have hope in the resurrection. The Lion/Lamb win. We also have "your prayers" and "the Holy Spirit." Be sure to read Philippians 1:18b - 30. God helps us. We can help each other, too. I recall this song: "The road is long with many a winding turn, that leads us to who knows where. But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him, he ain't heavy, he's my brother."

**APPLICATION:** What road are you on and who is walking it with you? How do you typically cope with crisis and loss? How do you help others who have experienced loss? How has God shown Himself to be faithful in the midst of these situations?

#### A FAMILY'S GRIEF

## Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Genesis 16

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

# Wednesday, April 4, 2018 Genesis 38

actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

#### A FAMILY'S GRIEF

## Thursday, April 5, 2018 Mark 10:46-52

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

# Friday, April 6, 2018 Luke 10:25-37

<b>:k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?				

### A FAMILY'S GRIEF

# Saturday, April 7, 2018 Philippians 1:18b-30

ctice:	at did this How does	this pas	ssage ap	ply to G	od's pe	ople?	E:

# Sunday, April 8, 2018 Ruth 1:1-7

Sermon Notes:	

#### **RUTH'S CHOICE**

### Monday, April 9, 2018 Ruth 1:8-19

Orpah can't be blamed for her choice. She did nothing wrong. But
the name of this book is not "Orpah." Ruth made the "second mile"
commitment. There's a sermon in here somewhere about the
difference between kissing someone and clinging to them -would
you rather have a kisser or a clinger in your life? Maybe it's not an
either/or choice, but this probably won't be the sermon ②. The
"kiss" also makes me think of Judas. One of my favorite Bible stories
is "Rachel's choice" (Genesis 24). Because Rachel did more than was
expected, her reward was far greater than she could have imagined.
Thank goodness for Ruth's choice! Imagine where Naomi would have
been without her. Naomi uses an important Hebrew word (245x in OT)
that is hard to translate into English, "hesed." She uses it to bless Orpal
and Ruth. It means "faithfulness, grace, kindness and never-ending
love." "Hesed" is used in Psalm 94:18 "your love, O Lord, supported
me." Naomi exhibited marvelous grace to her daughters-in-law here.
She insists they NOT go with her. She wanted them to do well in life.
Remaining with her was the opposite of success. Sometimes, when we
lose our lives, we find them. At least that's what Jesus said.
iose our lives, we find them. At least that 3 what Jesus said.

APPLICATION: Why do you think Ruth was determined to go with Naomi? What experiences have you had in starting over as Ruth and Naomi did? What did you leave behind? What did you gain? Who or what are you most committed to, and is this a God-honoring tie?

# Tuesday, April 10, 2018 Genesis 24

<b>:k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### **RUTH'S CHOICE**

# Wednesday, April 11, 2018 Matthew 5:38-42

ctice:	at did this How does	this pas	ssage ap	ply to G	od's pe	ople?	E:

# Thursday, April 12, 2018 Luke 22:45-62

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### **RUTH'S CHOICE**

### Friday, April 13, 2018 Psalm 94:16-19

Observe: What does this passage say? Seek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? Practice: How does this passage apply to God's people?	

# Saturday, April 14, 2018 Matthew 16:24-28

ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

## **RUTH'S CHOICE**

# Sunday, April 15, 2018 Ruth 1:8-19

Sermon Notes:		

# Monday, April 16, 2018 Ruth 1:20-22

"Can THIS be NAOMI?" They didn't recognize the poor lady in the
little town of Bethlehem. The folks must have been saying things like,
"Who is that?" When Naomi left Bethlehem, she had a husband and
two sons, and though things were hard, she had a future with hope.
Things are SO BAD when she returns they don't even recognize her.
She went from being young and healthy to old and haggard. "Naomi"
means "pleasant" but she said, don't call me "pleasant" call me "bitter."
Suffering and adversity often go hand-in-hand with bitterness. Naomi,
like Job, couldn't understand what she had done to have ticked
off God so much. Where is God when it hurts? We must reconcile
God's sovereignty with human suffering. I believe one of the biggest
problems Christians (ESPECIALLY American Christians) have is a
lack of a "theology of suffering." One of my axioms is, "If my faith can't
work in the emergency room, it doesn't work." Many Christians think
life is going to be a never-ending source of happiness and joy. Yes, we
have those moments. But we also have "the other." It cuts both ways.
Remember Psalm 23 follows Psalm 22. Do some "deep reading" and
thinking on Romans 8:18-39. While we may never understand "why"
certain things happen in life, we can always remember WHO is with us
and WHERE we are headed. We win because of the Lion and the Lamb

**APPLICATION:** What is your "theology of suffering"? In light of Hebrews 11:1, what do you think causes a person's faith to grow? In light of Romans 8:24, when is hope most valuable or necessary? What Bible verse(s) are most helpful to you during times of suffering?

#### NAOMI'S FAITH CRISIS

# Tuesday, April 17, 2018 Psalm 22

ek: Wha actice: H	t did this   low does t	passage this pass	mean to sage app	o the origoly to Go	ginal aud d's peop	lience? ble?	

# Wednesday, April 18, 2018 Psalm 23

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### NAOMI'S FAITH CRISIS

# Thursday, April 19, 2018 Romans 8:18-25

ctice: Hov	id this pass v does this	passage	e apply t	o God's	people?	

# Friday, April 20, 2018 Romans 8:26-30

<b>k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### NAOMI'S FAITH CRISIS

# Saturday, April 21, 2018 Romans 8:31-39

ek: Wha actice: F	t did this   low does t	passage this pass	mean to sage app	o the origoly to Go	ginal aud d's peop	lience? ble?	

# Sunday, April 22, 2018 Ruth 1:20-22

#### BOAZ, THE FAITHFUL

# Monday, April 23, 2018 Ruth 2:1-8

Boaz is introduced. I like how one version (ESV) translates his name:
"Worthy." In our Revelation 5 study, they were looking for someone in
heaven who was "worthy" to open the seal. Jesus came to the rescue.
In Ruth, "Mr. Worthy" is Boaz. He lives up to his name! Remember this
story is thousands of years old. Think how much culture has changed
in America in the last 50 years. Keep that in mind as you read the Bible
The story is not from our culture. It is not what we expect from the
Bible. Yet, the Bible is full of the unexpected. I also like it because Ruth
occurs during the period of the Judges (everyone did what was right
in their own eyes). Nobody paid attention to the speed limits then. It
was chaos and anarchy. But here's this faithful, honest guy. There are
ALWAYS people like this, whether at school, at work, in our family or
at church. And we all have the capacity to live faithfully, too. "Loyalty"
is what we ask of people when they take membership vows: Will you be
loyal to Jesus Christ as expressed through Asbury UMC, and will you upholo
it by your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness?" Faithfulness is one
of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is an essential component of marriage
too. We're going to be looking at faithfulness in our readings this week

APPLICATION: Read verses 10-23 also. Naomi asks Ruth a great question in vs. 19: "Where did you glean today?" To "glean" means to gather leftover grain. John Wesley taught theology should be practical and pragmatic, not academic. It should be the fabric of our lives and experiences. We could reflect daily on this, too: "Where have you gleaned today? ...What improvements have you made in grace or knowledge? What have you learned or done?" Reading Ruth challenges us to replicate its examples of faithful living.

# Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Psalm 89

ctice: How	does this pass	age apply t	e original audie to God's people?	?

## BOAZ, THE FAITHFUL

# Wednesday, April 25, 2018 Matthew 24:45-51

Observe: What does this passage say? Seek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? Practice: How does this passage apply to God's people?	

# Thursday, April 26, 2018 Matthew 25:14-30

<b>k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?				

## BOAZ, THE FAITHFUL

# Friday, April 27, 2018 Romans 12:9-13

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

# Saturday, April 28, 2018 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

# BOAZ, THE FAITHFUL

# Sunday, April 29, 2018 Ruth 2:1-8

## Monday, April 30, 2018 Ruth 3:10-13

I repeat what was in the journal last week: Remember this story is thousands of years old... The story is not from our culture. It is not what we expect from the Bible. Yet, the Bible is full of the unexpected. Today's reading seems scandalous. Ruth takes an enormous risk. But "no risk - no reward." We are supposed to use what has been entrusted to us. It's called "stewardship" in the Bible. Today we honor our graduates. "Commencement" doesn't mean "to end" but "to begin." Just as there are two pedals on a bicycle, so it's said that there are two aspects of faith. One pedal is God's pedal. But God doesn't do all the work. We have a pedal, too. We must cooperate. But we don't do all the work, either. It's a classic "faith + works" response. Now, this isn't about salvation, mind you! We are saved by grace alone, not because of works (Ephesians 2:8-9), but we are to live out our faith in cooperation with God (Ephesians 2:10). If Abram had not left after God called him (Genesis 12), he would have missed out on becoming a great father. Moses left Egypt, returned, and left again and became a great man. In marriage, "A man shall leave his father and mother...." Jesus left heaven to move into our neighborhood ("the Word became flesh"). He told us to "leave" as well (Matthew 28:18-20). We see it in Ruth. too. Rewards don't happen without risks.

**APPLICATION:** Read Ruth 3 today. What risks did Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each take in chapters 1-3? List all the ways you can. How did their courage, in spite of their feelings, help them "pedal the bike"? How did their steps of faith open up the possibility for God to demonstrate His faithfulness in return? In what areas of life do you find it difficult to move forward or take risks because you don't want to make a mistake or a wrong move?

#### RISK AND REWARD

# Tuesday, May 1, 2018 Genesis 12

ek: Wha actice: F	t did this   low does t	passage this pass	mean to sage app	o the origoly to Go	ginal aud d's peop	lience? ble?	

# Wednesday, May 2, 2018 John 1:1-14

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

#### RISK AND REWARD

# Thursday, May 3, 2018 Acts 7

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

# Friday, May 4, 2018 Acts 16:6-10

ctice: How do	ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

#### RISK AND REWARD

# Saturday, May 5, 2018 Ephesians 5:25-32

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

# Sunday, May 6, 2018 Ruth 3:10-13

Sermon Notes:	

#### A FAMILY LEGACY

## Monday, May 7, 2018 Ruth 4:13-22

We wanted to end our story about Ruth on "Mother's Day" as it is about her legacy. Genealogies in the Bible are usually found in the beginning of the book, not at the end. The Book of Ruth is an exception. Boaz and Ruth have a son they named "Obed." Obed has a son named Jesse. And Jesse has a son named David, who became the great King of Israel. Naomi, who had been in such disgrace, became forever linked to David. Ruth 4:17 is a wonderful verse: "The women living there said, 'Naomi has a son.'" Go back through and re-read Ruth 1. Who would think that, "and they all lived happily ever after," is how this story should end? Naomi has prevailed. Things worked out far better than she could have imagined after her catastrophic loss of her husband and two sons. The ending of Ruth reminds us how the Book of Job ends (42). It reminds us of Jesus' final instructions to His disciples (John 14). Paul reminded the Corinthians how they have received "comfort" from God through the Lord Jesus Christ even though they have suffered. It reminds us of the hope we have in the Bible (Revelation 22:1-9) that we will live forever. As Christians, ultimately, we cannot lose. As Christians destined for heaven, we have an important legacy to leave behind on earth.

APPLICATION: Read Ruth 4. Naomi (the doubter), Ruth (the outsider), Boaz (the faithful), you and me... none of us is worthy to have a place in eternity with God but for the "hesed" (faithfulness, grace, kindness and never-ending love) that He offers us. What losses are you or have you experienced in life? How is or did God help you find your way through it? What legacy are you leaving, spiritual or otherwise? You may not see clearly the redemption of your loss or pain until you reach heaven, but God IS a God who redeems and THAT gives us hope.

# Tuesday, May 8, 2018 Ruth 1

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

## A FAMILY LEGACY

# Wednesday, May 9, 2018 Job 42

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

# Thursday, May 10, 2018 John 14:1-21

ctice: How do	k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### A FAMILY LEGACY

# Friday, May 11, 2018 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

Observe: What does this passage say? eek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? Practice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

# Saturday, May 12, 2018 Revelation 22:1-9

ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?					

## A FAMILY LEGACY

# Sunday, May 13, 2018 Ruth 4:13-22

Sermon Notes:		

# RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE

Discovering who you are in Christ May 14 – June 24, 2018

#### RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE

# Monday, May 14, 2018 Romans 1:1-6

Romans was written by "the Apostle Paul." An "apostle" is a person "sent" on a mission. Paul's mission had been to persecute Christians, but he was changed by a personal encounter with the resurrected Christ. His given name, "Saul" (Hebrew, meaning "to ask of God"), was changed to "Paul" ("Paulus" in Latin meant "small" or "humble"). Instead of zealously persecuting Christians (see Galatians 1:13-24), he was filled with a new mission to HELP OTHERS FOLLOW JESUS. The gospel is not about us qualifying to be "good enough" for God to love and accept us; the gospel is about accepting Jesus Christ as Lord. In our six verses today, the greater emphasis is upon what God the Father has done in Jesus Christ the Son and how the Holy Spirit calls us to Himself. We may not be identified as "apostles, prophets, teachers or evangelists," but all Christians have received Christ and obediently live in mission to help others follow Jesus, too. Receiving the gospel means our sins are forgiven, we are loved, we have a purpose in life to share this faith with others and to be part of the church that does the same. When this life is over, we go to live in heaven with Jesus. The "gospel" literally means "good news." Indeed, it is the greatest news of all. Today's message is about this gospel. The Holy Spirit empowers the gospel.

APPLICATION: What does this passage teach us about Jesus? What does it tell us about Paul? As a follower of Jesus, what does it tell you about yourself? Do you consider yourself a servant of Christ? If so, how is it manifested? At the end of this week (after you've done the readings), reflect on your own experience with the Holy Spirit.

#### THE GOSPEL AND THE SPIRIT

# Tuesday, May 15, 2018 Luke 9:1-6

ctice:	<b>k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					E:	

#### RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE

# Wednesday, May 16, 2018 Acts 2:1-41

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### THE GOSPEL AND THE SPIRIT

# Thursday, May 17, 2018 Acts 9:1-31

ek: Wha actice: I	<b>k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ctice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?						nce?

## RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM ABOVE

# Friday, May 18, 2018 Galatians 1:13-24

k: What did this passage mean to the original audience? ctice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

### THE GOSPEL AND THE SPIRIT

# Saturday, May 19, 2018 1 Corinthians 1:13-25

ek: Wha actice: F	t did this   low does t	passage this pass	mean to sage app	o the origoly to Go	ginal aud d's peop	lience? ble?	

# Sunday, May 20, 2018 Romans 1:1-6

Sermon Notes:		

#### **CALLED TO BE SAINTS**

### Monday, May 21, 2018 Romans 1:7-17

Paul is writing to Christians in Rome, though he had yet to trave He calls the Christians "saints." Some church traditions hold "sa to be people who have earned this title by some action (be a vir person, perform miracles, etc.) but Paul used the term in an ent	ints" tuous
different way. He says that all of the Christians in Rome were "ot be saints." Thus, a "saint," according to Paul, wasn't an especia virtuous believer, but one who was "set apart for special use." A in the Bible is alive, not deceased. A saint is a believer. Paul was to the saints (not capitalized) in Rome. His introduction (verses is full of gratitude and optimism about their calling. 1:16 described the gospel. 1:17 is THE verse that so greatly impacted Martin L and inspired the Protestant Reformation (see Martin Luther by Eric Metaxas, pg. 95). Salvation is not earned by trying to be good but righteousness is revealed from God. This keeps us from bein "unrighteous" (1:18 – 32) or "self-righteous" (2:1-29). As Metax writes, "We aren't sick and need healing, we are dead and need resurrecting." How do you become a saint? Through the righteous	alled ally saint writing 8-17) pes uther od, ng as
of God in Jesus Christ.	

**APPLICATION:** Have you ever thought of yourself as a saint? What about the person next to you in the pew? On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you with this designation? Righteousness means "right standing" before God, it is achieved by Christ and imparted to His followers. In light of this, how would you describe the "power of the gospel"?

# Tuesday, May 22, 2018 Ephesians 1:15-23

<b>tice:</b> How do	es this pass	age apply	to God's p	eople?

#### **CALLED TO BE SAINTS**

### Wednesday, May 23, 2018 Galatians 3:10-14

Observe: What does this passage say? Seek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? Practice: How does this passage apply to God's people?	

# Thursday, May 24, 2018 Colossians 1:24-29; Philemon 4-7

<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					

### **CALLED TO BE SAINTS**

# Friday, May 25, 2018 2 Peter 1:1-9

ctice: Hov	id this pass v does this	passage	e apply t	o God's	people?	

# Saturday, May 26, 2018 Romans 15:23–16:2

<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					

### CALLED TO BE SAINTS

# Sunday, May 27, 2018 Romans 1:7-17

### Monday, May 28, 2018 Romans 1:18-2:4

The "Good News" = the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are justified
(saved, born again, converted, etc.) by faith in Christ, not because of
works (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, when we are forgiven, we are to
live new lives. We are to be new creations in Christ. Again, we are
not saved because we are "good" people, but we are saved for good
deeds (Ephesians 2:10). We are to be transformed by the Holy Spirit
and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Though God has done
this marvelous work, our problem is that we are sinners. Not just the
"bad" people, but all of us are sinners. Paul illustrates this in Romans
1:18-2:4. Some of us sin outwardly in corrupt behavior, while others
sin in judgmental, hypocritical attitudes. The pagans tended to live
with a "no rules, just right" mindset. This "unrighteousness" does not
please God. The religious tended to live with an "all rules" mindset.
This "self-righteousness" does not please God, either. Both miss the
righteousness of God. When Jesus said, "don't be like them" (Matthew
6:1-8), the context was both the pagan and the self-righteous. Paul is
describing both extremes in this text. Matthew 6:33 points us in an
entirely new way.

**APPLICATION:** "God gave them over" are terrifying words (Romans 1:24, 26, 28). Use Paul's list to see where you are falling short. Take time to confess, repent and ask forgiveness.

#### THE PROBLEM

# Tuesday, May 29, 2018 Matthew 6:1-8; 33

ek: vviiat ictice: H	did this pa ow does th	is passa	ge apply	to God	's people	e? e?

### Wednesday, May 30, 2018 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

### THE PROBLEM

# Thursday, May 31, 2018 Romans 8:1-17

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

# Friday, June 1, 2018 Ephesians 2:1-10

<b>:k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ictice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					

### THE PROBLEM

## Saturday, June 2, 2018 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

## Sunday, June 3, 2018 Romans 1:18-2:4

Sermon Notes:	

#### THE SOLUTION

### Monday, June 4, 2018 Romans 3:21-26

The famous psychiatrist, Dr. Karl Menninger, wrote a book in 1988

with an interesting title: Whatever Became of Sin? His thesis was that sin is old-fashioned and outdated. We've grown beyond it. Yet, look at all the continual chaos all over the world. What's wrong? Obviously, it's the other person's (or group's) fault. If "those people" would just behave, we could all get along. We are all for education, science, technology, ending poverty, economic and political freedom, etc. but these are not addressing our ultimate problem. The real problem is what Menninger was describing in his book - sin. And it's not the sin in YOU, it's the sin in ME. I am the problem. Until we take personal responsibility for our sinfulness, we will never get well. In other words, EVERYBODY NEEDS THE GOSPEL. When we admit we all have problems and all of us are lost, we can meet people where they are. To quote Eric Metaxas again, "We aren't sick and need healing; we are dead and need resurrecting." The solution to our problem is not more self-effort or despair, but it is trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is God's great gift that is available to all.

**APPLICATION:** Looking at these verses, what is humanity's great equalizer - In the negative sense? In the positive sense? God set a righteous standard, but it is not within our capacity to live up to it, so God provided the means of righteousness. Faith in Jesus Christ is the way we receive the righteousness that is from God and become empowered to live according to His standard. To be justified is to be declared "not guilty." How is this status before God achieved?

# Tuesday, June 5, 2018 Romans 3:9-20

ctice: How	does this pass	age apply t	e original audie to God's people?	?

### THE SOLUTION

# Wednesday, June 6, 2018 1 John 1:8-10

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

# Thursday, June 7, 2018 Isaiah 53

ctice: How	does this pass	age apply t	e original audie to God's people?	?

### THE SOLUTION

# Friday, June 8, 2018 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

ek: Wh actice:	ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						nce?

# Saturday, June 9, 2018 1 Peter 2:9-10, 3:8-13

<b>:k:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>ictice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?					

### THE SOLUTION

# Sunday, June 10, 2018 Romans 3:21-26

Sermon Notes:		

### Monday, June 11, 2018 Romans 5:1-11

Unfortunately, in our sermon series, we have skipped over the wonderful text of Romans 4. Paul tells the story of how Abraham believed God and was "credited as righteous" (when in fact, he was a sinner, too). Too many people believe that we get our religion the "oldfashioned way – we earn it." Paul is belaboring the point, that it is "faith alone" (the Latin term is "sole fide") that brings us to salvation. As we prepare for Vacation Bible School this week, we pray our children will make faith professions in Jesus Christ. We think about 50 children who did this last year. We want to work with parents to help children follow Jesus. Many people dream of winning the lottery, but if we won it, we would never get anything near the incredible gifts God gives to us in Jesus as described in Romans 5:1-11. God knows everything about us and loves us anyway. That is remarkable. God is acting on our behalf in Jesus. Even when we are going through troubles, as all of us will have in life, we can still rejoice. This is yet another reason why we want to HELP OTHERS FOLLOW JESUS. He is the key to life. REJOICE! Let's not allow circumstances to steal our joy. God even uses our suffering to accomplish His purposes (James 1:2-4). As the Apostles said. "We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22) And "Let's not grow weary in well doing." (Galatian 6:9)

**APPLICATION:** According to Romans 5:1-11, in what three things should we rejoice? Why? Do you find yourself trying to earn God's love or forgiveness? His approval or the approval of others? How do you know God loves you (look at verses 5 and 8)? How might this knowledge begin to set you free from the "performance trap"?

### **REJOICE!**

# Tuesday, June 12, 2018 Romans 4:1-15

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?						

## Wednesday, June 13, 2018 Romans 4:16-25

ctice: How	does this pass	age apply t	e original audie to God's people?	?

### REJOICE!

# Thursday, June 14, 2018 Acts 14:21-28

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

## Friday, June 15, 2018 James 1:2-4

<b>tice:</b> How do	es this pass	age apply	to God's p	eople?

### **REJOICE!**

# Saturday, June 16, 2018 1 Peter 4:12-19

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

## Sunday, June 17, 2018 Romans 5:1-11

Sermon Notes:		

#### ADAM ONE AND ADAM TWO

### Monday, June 18, 2018 Romans 5:12-21

Adam #1 was the original "dusty" man of Genesis 2-3. His name means "humanity" in Hebrew. The "Fall" is when sin entered the world. "Original sin" describes the impact of Adam #1 upon his relationship with God, with others, within himself and even within creation. The doctrine of original sin explains why things are so messed up in our world. Adam #1's sin was passed on to everyone like some plague. It explains how death came into our world. Though Adam #1 was the "original sinner," that trait has been passed on to every human being. It is hard for many people to believe something done thousands of years ago could have such an overwhelming impact. There are a lot of ways to look at doctrines of the faith, and not all of them fit into nice, tidy packages. For all of its mystery, original sin does explain how humanity continually ends up with such bad actors. It explains a lot of human misery and suffering. The Good News is that there is a second Adam, Jesus. Jesus came as our Savior to help us receive a gift - grace. His actions were completely opposite of Adam #1. Adam #2 was obedient, not disobedient. Adam #2 brought justification, not judgment. Adam #2 brought eternal life, not death. Adam #2 offers reconciliation, not condemnation

**APPLICATION:** The first Adam represents all of human nature (sinful) while the second Adam, Jesus, gives us a new nature - His! Our new nature is one of righteousness that comes from above. Looking back through the text, what benefits do we gain as recipients of Jesus' righteousness? How is it, do you think, the righteousness we have before God is both immediate but also ongoing?

# Tuesday, June 19, 2018 Genesis 3

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### ADAM ONE AND ADAM TWO

### Wednesday, June 20, 2018 Romans 6:19-23

ek: Wha actice: F	t did this   low does t	passage this pass	mean to sage app	o the origoly to Go	ginal aud d's peop	lience? ble?	

# Thursday, June 21, 2018 1 Timothy 1:12-17

ek: What did this passage mean to the original audience? actice: How does this passage apply to God's people?				

### ADAM ONE AND ADAM TWO

### Friday, June 22, 2018 Hebrews 9:23-28

ctice: Ho	w does t	his pass	age app	the orig ly to God	d's peopl	e?

# Saturday, June 23, 2018 James 1:12-15

<b>ek:</b> What did this passage mean to the original audience? <b>actice:</b> How does this passage apply to God's people?				

#### ADAM ONE AND ADAM TWO

### Sunday, June 24, 2018 Romans 5:12-21