

Weekly Theme:
The Mystery
Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Hebrews 10:1-18

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13
In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 7
Numbers 22-24

Monday, March 1

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so! The definition of redemption is deliverance by payment of a price. The act of redeeming a person in Old Testament Jewish culture referred to legal obligations that centered on family preservation. In the book of Ruth we see one example of redemption, when Ruth's husband dies leaving no heir to his inheritance and Boaz, the kinsman redeemer, marries the widow. Boaz redeems Ruth who bears a child, thus carrying on the family lineage. Another instance, where a Jewish family member might have redeemed another member, is when a person became financially bankrupt and was faced with selling their inheritance land in order to pay their debtors. A member of the family would step forward and assume the debt of their relative in order to remove the debt and secure the family inheritance. Once the debt was paid, the destitute family member was free from his creditors.

The sin in our life is to us like a debt we cannot pay. Fellowship with God is the inheritance offered to us but our sin problem has cost us that inheritance. In the Old Testament, God established a means for the Jewish people to atone for sin through the sacrifice of certain animals. In Hebrews 9:22 we read that God required a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin, but Hebrews 10 demonstrates that the blood of mere bulls and goats was not sufficient to obtain eternal forgiveness. As people we were unable by our own actions and sacrifice to redeem ourselves. Therefore, Christ chose to appear as the blood sacrifice for sin, and His offering had the power to cleanse humankind once and for all. Jesus, the Great Kinsmen Redeemer stepped forward to pay our sin debt! This is why the writer of Hebrews is seen encouraging Judeo Christians to discontinue and never return to their former practice of temple worship. Christ has done the work to redeem us and we now can stand before God the Father, debt free.

If you are a believer who has entrusted himself to the redemption of Christ, thank Jesus for paying the debt that brought you freedom from sin and death. If you have not trusted in the saving grace of Jesus, allow Him to lift your burden and bring you into the fellowship of your eternal inheritance today.

Leah Taylor

Weekly Theme:
**The Mystery
Revealed**

Daily Bible Reading:
Hebrews 10:19-39

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13
*In Him, you also,
after listening to the
message of truth, the
gospel of your
salvation--having
also believed, you
were sealed in Him
with the Holy Spirit
of promise.*

**Read through the
Bible this Year**
Mark 8:1-21
Numbers 25-27

Tuesday, March 2

At the end of World War II, an American sub came back to Newport News, Virginia to dock. As it came into port something terrible went wrong with the mechanism and it began to sink in the harbor. They immediately dispatched the Coast Guard to go out because obviously it was full of crew and they were trying to save the crew. Divers went down to the hull of the submarine to find out what went wrong. As the divers swam around the sub you could hear that one inventive sailor had a hammer and was knocking on the hull from the inside in mores code...TINK, TINK, TINK. He was asking, "*Is there hope?*" The sailors couldn't free themselves on their own. They needed someone to provide a life line.

Is there hope? The book of Hebrews provides just that. At the time Hebrews was written, Christians were being hurt and killed because of their belief in Jesus. Some of the Jewish Christians were contemplating leaving their new faith and going back to Jewish tradition. The letter was intended to show succession from Jewish faith to faith in Christ Jesus. It shows how Jesus tore down the sacred inner section and curtain to allow us personal and immediate access to the Father. The author of Hebrews provides four areas to persevere through freedom in Christ. These areas only happen as we engage one another through accountability and discipleship.

(v. 22)...let us DRAW NEAR TO GOD
(v. 23)...let us HOLD UNSWERVINGLY
(v. 24)...let us SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON
(v. 25)...let us NOT GIVE UP MEETING TOGETHER

Winston Churchill (in Oct 1941) gave a four minute lecture to a group of students. He passionately stated, "*Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.*" I, too, echo his voice, "*Never, never, never—give up!*

If you are a child of God then claim your victory over the sin in your life! Be bold and confident. No matter what happens, you are always His! Find someone to keep you accountable and spur you on.

Eric Miracle

Weekly Theme:
The Mystery
Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Romans 8

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13
In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 8:22-38
Numbers 28-30

Wednesday, March 3

In my practice as an attorney, I deal mostly with civil (not criminal) disputes. In almost every context you can imagine, people have disagreements that need to be resolved. Usually, in the end, one side wins and the other side loses. But there is one civil case in which everyone leaves the courtroom smiling — the adoption of a child. It is without exception, a moment of great joy for all concerned. And even if the child is an infant, there is no doubt that the adoptive parents themselves convey to that child a renewed sense of security in the relationship, grounded not only by their love, but by the government, in a sense, blessing their choice to welcome a new member into their family.

In Romans 8, God, through his bondservant Paul, has expressed to each one of us His joy in having us become members of His family — chosen by Him and invited into a relationship in which we are referred to as the "children of God." And throughout this chapter, Paul reminds us of what a tender, loving, protecting, everlasting father He is. He has given us a Spirit of sonship, not fear; through His Spirit, He searches our hearts and prays for our absolute best; He is working everything for our good; He will fight our battles ("If God be for us, who can be against us?"); we are His heirs who will share in His glory; and nothing can ever separate us from His love.

Who wouldn't want a Daddy like that? Have you said "yes" to His invitation to become His child, adopted into His family of faith? You can call on Him right now, and if you do, angels in Heaven will rejoice. After all, rejoicing is what happens at an adoption!

Danny Kepner

Weekly Theme:
**The Mystery
Revealed**

Daily Bible Reading:
1 Peter 2:1-12

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13
*In Him, you also,
after listening to the
message of truth, the
gospel of your
salvation--having
also believed, you
were sealed in Him
with the Holy Spirit
of promise.*

**Read through the
Bible this Year**
Mark 9:1-29
Numbers 31-33

Thursday, March 4

Have you ever been present at the reading of a will? The designated party will begin to read off the items bequeathed to the surviving relatives. These people wait in eager anticipation to hear what they are inheriting, or will inherit in time. Imagine this as the setting for 1 Peter 2:1-12. Peter refers to our inheritance as children of God. When we put God as our cornerstone and trust him, we experience the following four things.

First, we become part of His *chosen generation* (1 Peter 2:9), a holy people set apart to worship Him and make His name known throughout the earth. This is our single most important purpose. Peter's statement reflects the Old Testament where God called Israel His chosen people. (Isaiah 43:20-21).

Second, as believers we are a *royal priesthood* (1 Peter 2:9) and have open access into His presence now and forever. There is no longer a need for a high priest to approach God on our behalf as in the Old Testament. Jesus filled that gap for us. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, God welcomes us into the Royal Priesthood. God makes everyone of us a Royal Priest. He gives us open access into his presence forever and ever. We can personally approach God anytime.

Third, we are a *holy nation* (1 Peter 2:9). The word "holy" means "to be set apart or different". We become part of a nation that God separates from the world and sets apart for His holy purpose. We are to serve Him, obey His laws, and be dedicated to following Him and defending His nation.

Last, when we are children of God we become a *peculiar people* (1 Peter 2:9), or a people for God's own possession. Wow, what a thought! God makes us His very own, a very special possession of His. Possession reflects value and worth. We are more precious to Him than all the treasures of the world. Possession also signifies provision, protection and security. As God's possession, He will provide for, protect us and make us secure in any and all circumstances.

How many of us actually walk and live daily in the presence of God? May God convict our hearts and stir us to recommit our lives to Him, accepting His inheritance.

Mike Bodie

Weekly Theme:
The Mystery
Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Acts 2:14-41

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13
*In Him, you also,
after listening to the
message of truth, the
gospel of your
salvation--having
also believed, you
were sealed in Him
with the Holy Spirit
of promise.*

Read through the
Bible this Year
Mark 9:30-50
Numbers 34-36

Friday, March 5

What is truth? One definition is: an obvious or accepted fact. But a more important question is what defines our personal truths? My answer would be that each truth we hold so dearly is made up of what we have been taught either through education or personal experience. Unfortunately, these truths are often driven by the world around us rather than the one and only God and if we aren't careful, we may even find ourselves looking for real world truths to explain away the very miracles of God Himself.

In Acts, Chapter 2, we see just such an event. God's chosen people, the Jews, had allowed their truths to be defined by their own experiences thus limiting the possibilities that they were witnessing a miracle of God. Acts 2 vividly describes the events that occurred on "The Day of Pentecost" as the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Witnesses saw tongues resting on each disciple allowing each one to speak in a language they had never been taught before. Jewish onlookers, (that scripture describes as devout), did not understand what had happened and used their own real world truths as an explanation. Simply put, they observed a miracle of God and dismissed it by saying the disciples were drunk.

Acts 2:14-41 recounts Peter's sermon to those same Jewish onlookers as he uses the words of the prophet Joel and David, (words that any devout Jew should know by heart), to show them that there is another explanation for what they had observed. The very person whose words and actions they chose not to believe when He walked among them, the very person that they had crucified, the very person that was pronounced dead only weeks before had risen and was indeed alive. The very person they turned their back on had indeed sent help; just like Joel and David had said, just like Jesus had promised.

This promise was made; this truth was kept, before the beginning of time. I once based my "truth" on climbing the latter of success, but that truth never kept its' promise. The world may let us down, people may let us down, but Jesus never will! Jesus says: "*I am the way, the truth and the life; no one gets to the Father except through me.*" Do you know THE TRUTH?

Glenn Best

Weekly Theme:
The Mystery
Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
John 1:1-18

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13
In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 10:1-31
Deut. 1-2

Saturday, March 6

I always feel a sense of awkwardness when the topic, “*Why would a loving God send anyone to hell?*” comes up in conversation. That particular question always leads me to a spiritual exercise and presents me with an emotional dilemma. The spiritual exercise forces me to review what I believe to be true; that God doesn’t send anyone to hell. Our sinful nature, apart from the grace of God, is the reason why people end up in hell. Those in hell have rejected the free gift of salvation offered to them by God through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. The emotional dilemma is attempting to remain calm when I hear the term “unfair” used when discussing God and people going to hell. Assuming that God is unfair makes me quite angry. Do you know what really is unfair? It’s the fact that God allows people to go to heaven after they die. It’s unbelievable that anyone is allowed the privilege of becoming a member of God’s family! We’re talking about people who don’t deserve the privilege of going to heaven, who don’t deserve to become children of God. We are all sinful, evil, wicked, vile and separated from an almighty and holy God. Yet, there it is in **John 1:12** ***“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”***

Of course, as a child of God, we are to reflect the love and holy nature of Jesus in our actions and character through the power of the Holy Spirit. It’s not wise to get caught up in a heated discussion with someone the next time the “unfairness” of God pops up in conversation. It’s not wise to feel like God “owes” you something the next time you experience getting a “raw deal” in life. It’s not wise to take for granted your place in God’s family or to take lightly your responsibility to carry out God’s purpose for your life on this earth. When these “unwise thoughts” invade your mind, reflect on the incredible price that Jesus paid for you and me when He suffered on the cross. Becoming a child of God is a magnificent privilege given to us by our Heavenly Father who loves us very much. Now that’s what I call...UNFAIR!

Jon DuBois

Weekly Theme:
**The Mystery
Revealed**

Daily Bible Reading:
Ephesians 1:1-14

SSCG
Praises:

Prayers:

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:13

*In Him, you also,
after listening to the
message of truth, the
gospel of your salva-
tion--having also
believed, you were
sealed in Him with
the Holy Spirit of
promise*

**Read through the
Bible this Year**

Mark 10:32-52
Deut. 3-4

Sunday, March 7 **Ephesians 1:1-14**
The Mystery Revealed
SSCG Outline

Knowing the will of God allows access to the
mystery of the Gospel.
Christians have confidence that they are part of:

1. The Redeemed vv.7-10
2. The Adopted vv.11-12
3. The Sealed vv. 13-14

Pastor's Sermon Outline

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Matthew 11:1-30

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:15-22

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Read through the Bible this Year

Mark 11:1-19

Deut. 5-7

Monday, March 8

When I was eight years old, I realized my need for the Savior. At eight, I guess there is not much of a heavy burden or a weary soul, but I can tell you this: HIS Word is true.

HE has been my burden-bearer my entire life. JESUS CHRIST has been my very best friend. HE truly has done what HE said HE would do. JESUS called me, I answered. HE has helped me carry my burdens; HE constantly and consistently gives me rest. As I have learned from HIM (through Scripture, daily walking and talking with HIM, and through wise counsel from Godly people) I have experienced HIS gentleness and HIS humble heart. My soul is at rest. I praise HIM for my childlike faith. Finding it easy to trust in JESUS is such a blessing. Let go and believe what HE says HE will do!

Have you taken HIS yoke upon you? Have you begun to learn from HIM? Have you experienced HIS gentleness? Have you discovered HIS humble heart?

JESUS is calling...knocking on the door of your heart. HE desires to take your weary soul and your heavy burdens – HE longs to give you rest. You will find rest in HIM. Take hold of HIM – a simple faith can be yours, too.

Just let go. It's easy to believe!

Faith Gilliland

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Philippians 2:1-17

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:15-22

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.*

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 11:20-33
Deut. 8-10

Tuesday, March 9

Traffic—great arena for working out your salvation; for exercising Christian living for developing patience, thinking of other drivers before yourself; for living in harmony with fellow drivers. The challenges are limitless and constant.

In Philippians 2:12-13 Paul reminds Christians that it is God’s presence in us that gives us the will to live pleasingly before Him. Paul says to work out our salvation with reverence and awe. In verse 17 Paul rejoices in giving his life for the sake of their living faith.

We use the expression “born again” to indicate our initial coming to Christ and receiving salvation. That very expression implies the need for growing, learning, maturing. It is said of Jesus in Luke 2:52 that He “*grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.*” We *work out* our salvation for the same spiritual goals.

Do not be confused into thinking this suggests good works earn salvation. Salvation is the gift if God through His grace and Jesus’ sacrifice at Calvary. Salvation is the **beginning** of a believer’s living to please God. Among the many definitions for *working out* are: thinking carefully about how to do something; making improvements in handling a situation; learning, comprehending, solving difficulties. These apply to pleasing God in our daily living.

Love and harmony among believers must override selfish ambitions. Self-importance must be subjected for the good of others. A compassionate balance between taking care of your own interests and the interests of others is essential. Further, omit complaining (whining as one friend says), arguing, and sinful behavior so that you may shine the light of Christ in this crooked and depraved generation. But you cannot live such instructions in your own power. God’s Spirit within is the source of empowerment for working at pleasing Him.

Back to the traffic scenario: Can I believe the driver who cuts in front of me has needs more important than mine? Am I going to complain or whine about the slow driver in front of me, or his failure to signal, or traffic lights not synchronized to suit me? How I need God’s power in my life just to drive pleasingly, even to church! And this is only one small area of living. Do I really want to please God in every aspect of living?

Carol Dunn

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
John 15:26-16:15

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:15-22

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 12:1-27
Deut. 11-13

Wednesday, March 10

Can you imagine how somber the mood must have been as Jesus spent His last Passover meal with His disciples? He washes their feet, announcing one's betrayal and another's denial. Imploring them to love each other, serve each other. He says He must go away; He says He is preparing a place for them — an inheritance. He says He will return. Can you picture their expressions as He warns them of how the world will hate them, but they must obey all He has commanded them? These men are losing their leader, their friend, their hope for the Messiah. He reassures them He will not leave them as orphans. He will not leave them abandoned. Someone is coming after Him, to help them. This one of whom He speaks? The promised Holy Spirit!

In John 16, Jesus explains the ministry the Holy Spirit will have upon earth. He will have the power to expose darkness, and He will be the mouthpiece for Jesus, in the lives of His disciples. The Spirit will convey the purposes of Christ. He will reveal, to the disciples, things that are to come. All the while, He will honor the person and ministry of Jesus Christ among them and through them. What a powerful, reassuring resource offered to them in light of losing their Jesus. Not abandoned orphans, but a spiritually empowered priesthood!

Ephesians, reveals the Holy Spirit as a guarantee; an initial deposit on the eternal inheritance being prepared for believers. The Holy Spirit has been given as assurance that there is more than what we can see in this life. Maturing Disciples of Christ must know the riches of this glorious inheritance: the promise of complete and eternal unity with the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the POWER that has the potential to orchestrate mighty things in and through the lives of believers.

My grandmother, a wonderful musician, died and left me her piano. She always wanted me to create beautiful music. The piano is capable of wonderful, powerful melodies. Sadly, it produces no song, because I have totally neglected it, never playing it. Capable of so much good, yet I have never tapped into its potential. **Fully accessible yet severely underused.**

Have you ever thought about Jesus asking us what we have done with the portion of the inheritance He left behind? Could the same be said for the Spirit within us?

Leah Taylor

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Revelation 21:1-27

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:15-22

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 12:28-44
Deut. 14-16

Thursday, March 11

We've all seen the scene in the movies or TV. The family gathers to hear the reading of their deceased loved one's will. Some are genuinely grieving, but most are wondering, "What was I left? What will I inherit?" The suspense builds as the executor reads the will.

Some are thrilled with what is coming their way. Those disappointed by what they didn't receive begin to think about how they must have offended their loved one. Or maybe they needed "to do something more" in order to win favor which would have given them what they thought they deserved. Or worse yet, maybe their loved one really didn't love them the way they thought they did.

In Revelation 21 we get a glimpse of what God's children will inherit. John calls the place we will live for eternity, the "new heaven" and the "new earth". His description of The New Jerusalem is awe-inspiring (vs. 10-21). He describes the city's size and dimensions, but also the precious metals and stones which are the building materials for the city's gates, foundations, walls, and streets. Things we would consider priceless, God uses to construct the city in which we will live forever. What an inheritance we have awaiting us!

Yet, all the majesty, beauty, and splendor of The New Jerusalem is not the true richness of the follower of Christ's inheritance. We find that richness, and priceless part of our inheritance in vs. 3-7. *God promises to dwell among His people, wipe away every tear, make all things new, and quench our thirst for Him.* John continues to say in vs. 23-25 *we will have no need for the sun or the moon, for the glory of our God will illuminate our new eternal home.*

Since we are adopted as sons and daughters of God through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:5), we don't have to wonder what our inheritance is going to be. Our Loved One Who has temporarily left us in bodily form, promises that we who believe in Him will have all that John describes in Revelation 21. Thankfully, our inheritance is not based on what we do, or how we perform, but on what He did. We can count on it, *"for these words are faithful and true."* (Rev. 21:5)

Let's keep an eternal perspective as we live and wait patiently for our rich inheritance.

Jim Harris

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
1 Peter 1:1-12

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:15-22

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 13:1-20
Deut. 17-19

Friday, March 12

Your teenage boy is on the other side of the world, aren't you worried sick?" "Not a bit," my mom replied, "I pray for him every day and besides, he's in the Lord's hands." My mom's peace of mind and my physical well-being...kept by the power of God! Through typhoons, trials and temptations, I was safe in the palm of His hand. Jesus never let go.

Peter writes to encourage the believers, afraid of growing persecution. He reminds them they were protected by God. They had been born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Christ. This same resurrection power enables them to rejoice in their trials and gain the victory over circumstances. 1Pet 1:3-8

We too, are protected by the power of God. Not that He saves us from every trouble. Rather He enables us to conquer them through faith and hope. After all, we accept (though reluctantly) the pain of say, an operation, because of the hope of renewed health to come. Likewise, we can accept with joy, the difficult circumstances of life. Why? Because of the hope of heaven to come, and the daily strengthening of our faith in Jesus.

So what worries you the most? Worst case scenario...you lose everything! But you can't lose your salvation. It's kept by God for you, imperishable in heaven. 1Pet.1:4 Anyway, tomorrow is out of your hands. So quit worrying and complaining and, like my mom, determine today to leave everything in His hands. By faith, trust the greatness of God's power.

Larry Dick

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
1 Peter 1:13-25

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 1:15-22

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 13:21-377
Deut. 20-22

Saturday, March 13

I was born November 29, 1965; I was gloriously saved July 14, 1991. In those 25 years I lived life on the “wild side” always looking to have a good time, always trying to escape my problems. I spent years trying to fit in but it wasn’t until Jesus reached down to pull me out of the abyss that I found what I was looking for.

For the first time in my life I was at peace, but Satan led me to believe that once I became a Christian all of my problems would be solved and I would never face turmoil again. I was naïve and woefully unprepared when the enemy struck and strike he did.

As a new Christian I did exactly what Peter said not to do in today’s scripture reading. (vs 14 says —“*As obedient children do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.*”) I went back to what I knew best, my old sinful lifestyle. The difference now was I was overcome with guilt because I knew better, sin led to more sin to ease the pain. I had become like a hamster in a wheel, always running but going nowhere. I tried to rid myself of my sin but I had become its slave just like Jesus said: “*Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin*”— John 8:34.

Then one day I gave up. I realized I couldn’t beat Satan on my own and cried out to Jesus for help. I turned my weakness over to the Holy Spirit who lived within me and allowed Him to take control. My weakness was made perfect through His strength, His love, and His grace.

Today I am still far from perfect; just ask anyone that knows me. I slip; I fall, but I get back up again through the glorious power of the Holy Spirit. My life verse is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17 “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away, behold new things have come*”. Through the power of the Holy Spirit I am a new creation! Are you struggling to defeat the enemy? Have you lost hope? Ask the Holy Spirit for help. I did. It worked for me and it will work for you, too.

Glenn Best

Weekly Theme:
His Calling Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Ephesians 1:15-22

SSCG
Praises:

Prayers:

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:18-19a
¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 14:1-26
Deut. 23-25

Sunday, March 14 **Ephesians 1:15-22**
His Calling Revealed

SSCG Outline

An Enlightened Heart shows the Christian how to:

1. Live in God's Will v. 18a.
2. Live in God's Riches v. 18b.
3. Live in God's Power v. 19a

Pastor's Sermon Outline

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Genesis 3:1-24

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:1-13

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-10
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 14:27-52
Deut. 26-27

Monday, March 15

Have you ever pondered mercy and grace? Mercy is *not* getting what we *do* deserve, and grace is getting what we *do not* deserve. Imagine you are speeding down a road and a policeman pulls you over. Knowingly speeding, you have been caught. The policeman approaches your car; you know the worst is upon you. But, instead of holding you accountable for your offense, the policeman shows mercy by waving the offense and not issuing you a ticket. He then displays grace by withholding the ticket and presenting you, instead, with a hundred dollar bill. Mercy was shown in that you did not get the ticket; grace was revealed in that you were given a gift in exchange for your crime.

In the garden, sin entered the world. Fellowship with God was lost. The moment Adam and Eve disobeyed GOD, they were separated and condemned to death. Have you ever wondered why Adam and Eve continued to exist even after they sinned against God? Why were they not immediately struck down dead? If sin brings death, why were they still living? The answer lies in mercy and grace.

Although we do not see immediate grace unto salvation offered to Adam and Eve in the garden; we do see GOD give them mercy and a form of grace called *common grace*. When Adam and Eve sinned, God chose not to wipe them off the face of the earth—He showed mercy. He further showed *common grace*, by sacrificing an innocent animal, to offer clothing that Adam and Eve did not deserve. This act of *common grace* showed them their dependency on God for their every need. Likewise, this sacrifice foreshadowed how God would later send Jesus as a sacrifice to provide *saving grace* for all mankind.

Through *common grace*, God gives people innumerable blessings that are not components of salvation, yet they are still God's grace. The sun, the air, life itself: these are all things given to us that point us to a provider. Things we need, but cannot produce. If we must depend on His grace for our basic needs, how much more our dependency for eternal security? Born as creatures of wrath, we must lean on the *saving grace* provided through Jesus to ascertain heaven. We deserve the penalty of a criminal and yet we gain the riches of a king. How marvelous is His grace.

Leah Taylor

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Genesis 4:1-17

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:1-13

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-10
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 14:53-72
Deut. 28-29

Tuesday, March 16

I remember, while growing up in New York, one of my favorite things to do on a Sunday was read the Sunday paper comics. One particular comic strip I really enjoyed was *Family Circus*. I think I enjoyed this comic so much because its' theme surrounded the day in and day out activities of a family with young kids. The funny thing is, the only one I could remember had to do with "Not Me". Let me explain.

This particular strip would show a vase broken on the floor, or keys misplaced in a couch, or muddy foot prints tracked through the house. In each case there would be a ghost like child walking from this situation and the child's name would be "Not Me". Of course you have to know the question was always, "Who did this?"

I am sure I have done it once or twice when I was a kid and there are times now when in our house something has happen and all three of my kids say "not me". A subtitle to today's reading could be "Not Me". We first read that Adam and Eve conceived two sons, Cain and Able. We then learn that Cain was a tiller of the ground and Able was a keeper of the flock. It came about that Cain and Abel brought an offering to the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abel's offering but had no regard for Cain's. 1 Samuel 16:7 says "...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart." Cain rose up against his brother and killed him. The Lord asked Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain's reply was "Not me". Well, not really, but Cain's response, "Am I my brother's keeper" is an attempt to avoid the truth of his sin. Cain's punishment for his sin was too great for him to bear and he asked the Lord for forgiveness. Fortunately for Cain, God's forgiveness is greater than the punishment we deserve.

Is there sin in your life and the only way you feel you can deal with it is by saying, "Not Me?" Don't worry, the Lord your God is greater than any sin in your life and His mercy through the death and resurrection of His Son is your assurance that He loves you.

John Werdann

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Genesis 6:1-22

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:1-13

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-10
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 15:1-24
Deut. 30-31

Wednesday, March 17

One summer while on a family vacation in the Smokey Mountains, my son Jared and I visited a roadside do-it-yourself precious gem mine. We each bought a bucket full of dirt and rocks, sat down at the long wooden trough of running water, and began sifting through the mud to see if we had struck it rich! Well, we didn't find any precious gems that day, but we did get our hands dirty and had a lot of fun! The original 49ers, those California prospectors who panned for gold in the 1800's, had to sift through tons of worthless dirt and rocks to find a little gold. In Genesis, the Bible tells us that God sifted through mankind and was disgusted at how much sin and rebellion existed on the earth. However, in Genesis 6:8 the Bible says "*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.*" Finding favor with someone means to offer them preferential treatment or act graciously towards them. God showed mercy to Noah and spared him and his family from the flood. Why did God choose to save Noah and instruct him to build the ark? We see two reasons for this from our daily scripture passage in Genesis 6:

1. **Noah lived a counter-culture lifestyle.** Living in opposition to the mainstream culture of the day must have been awkward, weary and discouraging for Noah, but he determined in his heart that he was going to worship and believe his God.
2. **Noah had an obedient relationship with God.** Genesis 6:9 tells us that Noah walked with God. He obeyed God and trusted Him for everything.

Noah did not live a perfect life. He was sinful and required grace just like you and I do. He didn't earn his salvation, but Noah believed and trusted in God. His faithfulness and his trust in God — that's what made Noah a righteous man. As we walk with Jesus today, we need the grace of God to help us overcome temptation and to fulfill our purpose in God's Kingdom. Thank God today for His grace that lives in you.

Are you feeling shame and condemnation about past sins in your life? Claim God's grace and forgiveness today. God loves you and wants you to walk in His grace.

John DuBois

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Exodus 2:11-3:10

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:1-13

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-10
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 15:25-47
Deut. 32-34

Thursday, March 18

Moses. What an interesting individual. God would later use this man to free His chosen people from bondage and oppression that they were under in Egypt. He would one day be an instrument of God to draft the most extensive set of laws known to man. He would govern and lead Israel through the desert for forty years. Some man, this Moses, he must have really had his act together. Maybe he did, eventually, but, what about before “eventually.”

Starting out in today’s devotion you’ll see a different kind of Moses, one that acts out irrationally, gets scared, and runs. As you read on in the scriptures you get glimpse of how our God is the God of grace and how it is “not of ourselves”, but how it is really all about Him and His plans. After Moses fled Egypt is when I really see the picture of God’s grace. I can just about imagine Moses out there in that desert tending to those sheep and he had probably gotten rather comfortable with his life. Wife, kids, job security tending sheep, ol’ Moses had things really happening for him. He might have not even missed the spoils of the Egyptian way of life. Then, at that moment God showed up, saying, “Moses, go get my people!” “How can I?”, Moses must have thought. Excuses, fear, and the whole nine yards had to be running through his head at that moment. It is at that moment that, once more, we need to realize that it’s, “not of ourselves”. That is the whole amazing thing about grace in this picture —that God chose to use Moses in spite of his past failures and short comings.

Christians, we need to accept God’s grace in our lives. Don’t try to understand grace, just accept it. We can’t possibly deserve grace, and if we could, Christ died in vain! Many times in my life I have ran from grace, further complicating my own life, so I had to realize that God didn’t just “end up” with me, he chose me. We need to know that He knows our destiny and we have been promised in Jeremiah 29:11 that He knows the plans for us, and they are good! What about you? Have you accepted God’s grace? Know today that God wants you no matter where you have been! Accept His grace today.

Mitch Lambeth

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
2 Samuel 11:1-27
Psalm 51

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:1-13

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-10
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read through the Bible this Year
Mark 16
Josh 1-3

Friday, March 19

Richard Nixon won re-election as President of the U.S. in November 1972 by a landslide. Within two years, he would resign that high office in disgrace because he and his staff tried to cover up a break-in at the Democratic Party's campaign office at the Watergate building in Washington. The effort to cover-up, rather than to "fess up" is what brought Nixon down.

By comparison, King David of Israel committed a much worse crime in the cover-up of his night of passion with Bathsheba. He arranged for her husband Uriah to be killed in combat. David thought the child that was conceived in his foolish act of lust would be seen by the public as Uriah's, and he would be seen as heroic for marrying this valiant soldier's pregnant widow. But God, who saw it all, sent Nathan to confront David. And when he realized that he could not hide the truth from the Almighty, David simply confessed, "I have sinned against the Lord."

David had needed God's saving grace several times in his life. He gave God the credit when he killed the lion and the bear that threatened his father's flock of sheep, and of course when he killed Goliath, the giant who had terrorized the Israeli army. Several times when his predecessor, Saul, tried to kill or capture him, God intervened, and in many battles, David was victorious because God was with him.

Here he was again needing God's grace, not because he was undertaking a noble, heroic deed, but because of a despicable series of self-serving acts directly contrary to God's will. In Psalm 51, David begs for God's mercy and grace. Nathan told him, as soon as he confessed, that his sin had been taken away and that he would not die at that point.

But David needed more than mere survival, more even than the forgiveness of his sin. He needed for God to wash him, so he could feel clean again in God's presence; to blot out the weight of his sin which was "always before [him];" to create a pure heart within him; to restore in him the joy of God's salvation; and to come and stay near to him.

This sinful King had first-hand knowledge that God's compassion is great, and His love is unfailing. Do you, like David, need to bring to God a "broken and contrite heart," so He can begin the healing in you?

Danny Kepner

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Acts 9:1-19

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:1-13

Memory Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-10
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 1:1-20
Josh 4-6

Saturday, March 20

What is grace?

Every time I read the story of Saul I can't help but think about my situation 15 years ago and the power of God's grace. It was February 23, 1995, my oldest daughter had been born a little over 12 hours earlier. I was lying in my bed, my heart heavy with deep sadness and great joy at the same time. You see, up until this point I had known about God but had put Him away in a very small corner of my life. What ruled my life was alcohol. I was headed down a road of destruction when God stopped me in my tracks and poured His grace out on me.

I can remember it like it was yesterday, lying in that bed, and hearing God's voice, "Is this the life you want to continue to lead? One you want your daughter to grow up in?" My response: "God, how can you ever forgive me after turning my back on you and walking away from you?" It was then that reality hit me right between the eyes. He reminded me of the story of Saul. A story I remember vividly, my youth minister Joe telling us at a middle school retreat. He explained how despite Saul's numerous attacks on Christ, God covered him with His grace and changed him, making him a follower of Jesus and one of the most influential "good-news-spreaders" of his time. I pulled my Bible out of my desk drawer and read that story over & over. I finally began to realize that if God would do that for Saul, He would do it for me, too. I just needed to ask Him, and then depend on Him rather than alcohol. As I was thinking about that, He gave me another verse: Philippians 4:13 "*I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me*". I got out of bed and on my knees before my God. With tears streaming down my face, I cried out to Jesus Christ. February 23, 1995 was the day I turned my life back over to Him.

No matter what you are going through or what road you are going down, He can do the same for you. All you have to do is ask. Believe that His grace is sufficient for you.

It says in Romans 3:23-24 "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*" Have you truly fallen in His arms? What do you need to put aside to do so?

Mike Bodie

Weekly Theme:
His Grace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:

Ephesians 2:1-13

SSCG

Praises:

Prayers:

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:8-10

*⁸For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Read through the Bible this Year

Luke 1:21-38

Josh 7-9

Sunday, March 21
His Grace Revealed

SSCG Outline

Three Stages of Every Christian's Life:

1. Lifeless Stage vv. 1-3

2. Life Stage vv. 4-9

3. Thrive Stage v. 10

Pastor's Sermon Outline

Ephesians 2:1-13

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Psalm 4

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verses:
Ephesians 2:17&18
¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 1:39-56
Josh 10-12

Monday, March 22

"I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8

Disney produced a movie entitled, "Monsters, Inc." not too long ago. Each night around the world, children go to bed just as the imaginary monsters come alive. Their purpose was to scare children. Do you remember being scared to go to sleep? Begging to either sleep with your parents; find a night light; pull the sheets over your head; or bent on keeping your eyelids open all night? The moment our lights go out alone in the bed our senses become heightened to items around us. We are able to see the monsters trying to team up and flank us.

My daughter a few years ago screamed in terror of monsters in her room. Andrea and I decided to make a game out of it. Our mission was to seek out all monsters and destroy them. I grabbed an umbrella as if it were a sword. I flipped on the light. Strategically went to every spot she suspected the sneaky monster to reside. We conquered her fears that night, along with finding toys we thought were lost.

As an adult much hasn't changed. I'm not referring to sleeping at night (and no I don't use a night light anymore). Our monsters/troubles tend to arise day or night. The troubles in our lives creep in and cause doubt and insecurity to the future. Just as we cried out, "Mom...Dad, I'm scared! There's a monster in my room!" We have lost the faith and determination to cry out to our heavenly Father.

David writes a beautiful Psalm here in Chapter 4 revealing a transparent transformation from turmoil to victory. We see a call of distress to hear the treasured voice of God. In our desperation we recognize God has set us apart for Himself, but we must rid ourselves of the items we hold on most tight.

David was in danger many times in his life, but he always knew God protected him. Only God gives us the security to sleep peacefully while surrounded by problems. During the dark and bleakest of hours there is nothing like sensing the light of God's glory shine on our faces. When we trust the Father it really doesn't matter how long He takes to answer, because we have peace and safety in the integrity of His Word. SLEEP WELL! Find comfort in the power of God's Word.

Eric Miracle

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Psalm 29

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verses:
Ephesians 2:17&18
17And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 1:57-80
Josh 13-15

Tuesday, March 23

The New Orleans Saints NFL football team has caused quite a stir with their war cry, “*Who Dat?*” They challenge any opposition to answer the question, “*Who dat say dey gonna beat dem Saints? Who dat? Who dat?*”

This catchy expression actually can be traced back to theater shows in the 1800s, and jazz and big band performances in the 1920-1930s. No wonder with its jazz roots it has become an endearing cheer in New Orleans. The point of the chant being, that no one is capable to conquer the New Orleans Saints football team!

I think that David had a case of the “*Who dats*” going on in Psalm 29. Even in the midst of struggle and trouble, David found peace under the mightiness of GOD. He knew that no false god, no trial, no circumstance was as great and as powerful, as our Sovereign Creator.

David commanded the mighty ones of the earth to give God the glory due His name. He understood the voice of God is louder than rushing water and His glory thunders. The LORD is powerful and His voice is majestic. The mere voice of God is able to break trees and cause countries to skip across the ground like they were animals. Psalm 29 records that when God sends His word forth, it strikes like lightning and shakes the desert. In verse 9 we see that God’s voice can strip leaves from tree branches. Some translations of the Bible translate that verse to read that when God utters a word, it causes deer to birth their young. Having had three children of my own, I can say the voice of God would have come in mighty handy in labor and delivery!

No wonder David wrote in Psalm 27, “*The LORD is my life and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?*” Who dat who dares to tell David His God is not able to handle David’s adversity?

In life, we as people will always struggle to find peace if we trust only in our capability to handle a problem. Instead we must have faith in the strength and sovereignty of our God. God is mighty whether you believe Him to be or not. Don’t allow a lack of faith to make you a prisoner of fear.

Leah Taylor

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Wednesday, March 24

Daily Bible Reading:
Psalm 34

Praises:

I can't think of how many times I have, for prolonged periods of time, been scared, worried, anxious, trying to "get over it" on my own. Call it stubborn, call it weak, call it whatever you want, but all the above are uncalled for! Christians, it is when we try to live life on our own that we lose sense of what a life of peace truly means. Christ came to earth, lived as a man, died like a criminal, and all this He did for us. He came to set us free from a life without peace, so still why do we often live without peace?

Prayers:

Peace through God comes directly from an intimate and personal relationship with Him. David paints a beautiful picture of the peace that comes from a relationship with the Father. Abimelech had just driven him away and I am sure that it would have been easy for David just to let fear take peace from him. Instead he praises God for delivering him from all his fears! That is amazing to me, and so true. If he would have taken his eye off of God, his trial could have been a mess, but he praised the One who brought him through, and once more God was faithful.

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verses:
Ephesians 2:17&18
¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

What about you, Christian? Are you letting God bring peace to you? Are you struggling, worried and scared? Whatever it is that you are going through; Christ wants to take your hand and lead you through and give to you, peace. Cry out and praise Him like David, and watch your life be changed. Maybe you're not experiencing true peace in your life because you have never accepted Christ as your savior. What's holding you back? Don't live another day without laying your life down before God and let His peace dwell within your life.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 2:1-24
Josh 16-18

Mitch Lambeth

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Psalm 37

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verses:
Ephesians 2:17&18
¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 2:25-52
Josh 19-21

Thursday, March 25

OK, I have to confess! One of my favorite movies is “It’s A Wonderful Life”. The story centers around two characters: George Bailey, the “nice” guy and Henry F. Potter, described as the “richest and meanest man in town”. Throughout the movie we watch as George and his family struggle to make ends meet while Mr. Potter lives in the lap of luxury. The movie is the classic story of good vs. evil but in this story, much like in ours, when we allow God to get involved everything changes.

In Psalm 37, David deals with the age old question of “Why do the ungodly prosper, while the godly often painfully struggle through life?” The answer my friends is a matter of perspective. If you take the world’s perspective of “What about me?”, you might become bitter, angry or even resentful. If you are not careful a sense of entitlement will sweep over you and you will feel that you deserve to be recognized and rewarded immediately for all that you feel you have accomplished.

The Christian perspective should be that we have peace in knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and that our reward is found in the assurance of spending eternity with Him. Throughout scripture we see that unlike the proud that demand their reward now, we are told to take peace and patiently wait. Psalm 37:11, says “*But the humble will inherit the land*”; vs. 37 “*For the man of peace will have posterity*”; Matt 5:3-10, otherwise known as the “The Beatitudes” record Jesus’ promise to the righteous. In Matthew 19, Jesus tells the rich young ruler that to be complete he must sell all of his possessions and give to the poor in order to store up treasure in heaven. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul warns against competing for temporal crowns rather than eternal ones and in James 5, that the treasures of the rich will be worthless in the end times.

Are you that nice guy that never seems to get ahead? Do you feel like you are forced to sit back and watch as the Mr. Potter’s of the world always seem to get ahead? Can you relate to George’s story? If you can relate to George’s story there is hope, and that hope is found in the loving arms of Jesus Christ. He is waiting for you!

Glenn Best

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Psalm 55

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verses:
Ephesians 2:17&18
¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 3
Josh 22-24

Friday, March 26

As a kid, I always admired movie heroes like John Wayne and Clint Eastwood who weren't afraid of taking on the bad guys! I cheered as they fought for those who couldn't fight for themselves! David, one of the bravest warriors in the Bible, had a legendary reputation in combat. In fact, he surrounded himself with battle-tested mercenaries who were skilled in warfare. Throughout his conquests; however, David knew fear. He suffered anguish and emotional torment. David; however, learned how to overcome fear. In fact, Psalm 55 shows us three reasons why David was able to experience peace from God:

- 1. David believed God was all-powerful.** (*Ps. 55:9 "Confuse the wicked, O Lord, confound their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city."*) We serve the almighty God of this universe. Demons tremble at the name of Jesus. If demons are terrified of God, what chance does any man have in His presence? God is able to crush any fears the enemy will use to intimidate us.
- 2. David called out to God for help.** (*Ps. 55:16-17 "But I call to God, and the LORD saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice."*) In an emergency, we instantly call 911. When the dispatcher answers, he not only sends out the appropriate help we need (ambulance, police, or fire dept.), he also stays on the line to encourage us. He'll tell us not to fear because help is on the way! Prayer is our spiritual 911. God is ready and able to help us with adverse conditions in life. His sovereign peace will guide us through any tragedy we face.
- 3. David gave His fear to God.** (*Ps. 55:22 "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."*) How do you give an invisible emotion, such as fear, over to an invisible God? By faith, we believe that God is bigger than our problem. We must picture Him removing our fear and replacing His peace in it's place.

What do you need peace about today? Whatever it is, God is ready and able to deliver that peace. Trust Him!

Jon DuBois

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Psalm 122

Praises:

Prayers:

Sunday text:
Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verses:
Ephesians 2:17&18
¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 4:1-30
Judges 1-3

Saturday, March 27

Peace – that elusive quality of spirit that I so yearn for in the hustle and bustle of daily living. It seems that I even strive for peace. Isn't that ironic? How I wish the world wouldn't intrude on my peace! There are daily stresses at work and at home. There is never enough time or energy to accomplish all that needs to be done. Why, even driving to the grocery store can rob me of my peace.

Biblical peace is a demeanor and lifestyle of quietness, rest, and contentment. It comes from trusting God to help you cope with your daily struggles and problems. And it doesn't come naturally.

David gives us a clue in Psalm 122 how and where to find peace. The Message translates verse 1 as "*When they said, 'Let's go to the house of God,' my heart leaped for joy.*" The gospel church is our modern-day Jerusalem. Does your heart leap for joy at the prospect of going to church?

Where better to go to be pointed to the true source of our peace? To learn how to draw nearer to the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace? Where better to find encouragement and other believers who will stand beside you?

I love my church. It is where I find hope, encouragement, and prayer partners. God used Olive to really get my attention. It was here that I began the quest to truly get to know the Lord Jesus. It was my church that challenged me to grow spiritually and gave me the tools to do so.

While we were studying the 8 Callings of God, I discovered that faith is like a muscle that has to be exercised to keep it fit. I have to work out my faith. In doing so, I find myself wanting to spend more time with the Prince of Peace. I've learned the need to focus on Him and who He is. I've learned that peace comes from a teachable spirit, when I can quiet the strident voices of the world to hear that still small voice. It comes when I confess that I can't and acknowledge that only God can. Peace comes when I remember that His plans for me are to prosper me and peace is a gift from God, just as my church and the joy I find there is a gift from Him. I pray that you have the same peace and joy.

Martha Cobb

Weekly Theme:
His Peace Revealed

Daily Bible Reading:
Ephesians 2:14-22

SSCG
Praises:

Prayers:

Memory Verses:

Ephesians 2:17&18
¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Read through the Bible this Year
Luke 4:31-44
Judges 4-6

Sunday, March 28
His Peace Revealed

SSCG Outline

The Mystery of Peace is understood through the:

1. Formation of Peace
2. Function of Peace
3. Family of Peace

Pastor Traylor's Sermon Outline

Ephesians 2:14-22