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## **WEDNESDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: August 20, 2017**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 18:01-32**

**Text: Ezekiel 18:01-32**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Sins of the Fathers – and sins of the sons. The righteousness of God.**

This chapter contains a vindication of God's moral government concerning His penal righteousness in dealing with Israel's sins against him. The narrative tells us the Jews were crying "injustice", as if they were suffering, not for their own sin, but for that of their fathers. In this chapter, we shall see that it is not only their sins, but their own sins for which they (and us) suffer and give account in this life. This chapter is an enlargement and explanation of [Jer 31:29](#), and shows us fully the doctrine of individual responsibility. Remember, Jeremiah was the weeping prophet in Jerusalem before and during Judah's removal to Babylon.

**Jeremiah 31:29-30** *In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. 30 But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.*

Consider this, if you are among those who think that your present suffering comes to you from the LORD because of your Father's sins. I believe this chapter speaks of the temporal life of Israel – that is, the judgment of God was on them for their own sins in **this life** – and in the end they shall give account for their own misdeeds – and not for

the sins of others.

- **God disallows the parable of sour grapes, [Eze 18:1-4](#)**

***1 The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying, 2 What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? 3 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. 4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.***

- **God shows his dealing with just men, [Eze 18:5-9](#)**

***5 But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, 6 And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman, 7 And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment; 8 He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, 9 Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.***

- **God shows his dealing with the wicked son of a just father, [Eze 18:10-13](#)**

**10 ¶ If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things, 11 And that doeth not any of those duties, but even hath eaten upon the mountains, and defiled his neighbour's wife, 12 Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination, 13 Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.**

- **God shows his dealing with the just son of a wicked father, [Eze 18:14-18](#)**

**14 Now, lo, if he beget a son, that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like, 15 That hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, hath not defiled his neighbour's wife, 16 Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment, 17 That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live. 18 As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, spoiled his brother by violence, and did that which is not good among his people, lo, even he shall die in his iniquity.**

- **God declares that the treatment of both son and father shall be according to their respective**

**deserts, Eze 18:19-20**

**19 Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.**

- **The LORD shows that the wicked, if he repent of his deeds and live righteously, shall live, Eze 18:21-23**

**21 ¶ But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. 23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?**

- **But if a man turns away from his righteousness, he shall die, Eze 18:24**

**24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned:**

***in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.***

- **The Lord defends the equity (fairness, impartiality) of his dealings, [Eze 18:25-30](#)**

***25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? 26 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. 27 Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. 28 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 29 Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? 30 ¶ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.***

- **After proving his righteousness in dealing with men according to their deeds, the LORD exhorts to repentance, [Eze 18:31-32](#)**

***31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?***

***Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed;*** -- Not only cease from sin, but with indignation (cast it) throw it away, as a loathsome, pernicious thing, or as a burden will sink you and take your life.

***and make you a new heart and a new spirit:*** -- which the Lord elsewhere promises to give, and he does give to his own elect. If here to be understood of a regenerated heart and spirit, in which are new principles of light, life, and love, grace and holiness, it will not prove that it is in the power of man to make himself such a heart and spirit. God's command, to man's power, is no argument – men are helpless to do it themselves, but are commanded of the LORD their impotence notwithstanding. And what is the design of the exhortation? Is it not to convince men of their need of such a heart? Men ought to live right on this earth.

***Ecclesiastes 12:13*** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

***32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.***

This speaks not of an eternal death; since the deaths here spoken of was now upon them, what they were complaining of. This speaks of temporal calamity and affliction, as in [2Co 1:10](#);

***2 Corinthians 1:10*** *Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*

It is most assuredly true that God had no pleasure in the death of those who died of his covenant nation. In way of application, let us consider this about our present life as God's children in this world: If we would have good days while we live our life on the earth, then we ought to live godly, soberly and righteously. That has been the issue in this chapter. All of our days are not going to be joyous days insofar as a lack of trials is concerned. As children of God in these New Covenant days, God has appointed us our share of trials and tribulations.

**Philippians 1:29-30** *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;* **30** *Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.*

It is true that we may live totally right, that is, live godly in Christ Jesus – and suffer for it! Yet, if we do suffer for doing righteously, we shall be most happy when we consider it. Yet, far be it from us to live wickedly and suffer for that! Consider what it takes in order that we love life and see good days.

**1 Peter 3:10-15** *For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: **11** Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. **13** And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? **14** But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of*

*their terror, neither be troubled; **15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

**Psalm 34:12-16** *What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? **13** Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. **14** Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. **15** The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. **16** The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

**Proverbs 3:1-5** *My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: **2** For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. **3** Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: **4** So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. **5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

**Proverbs 4:20-27** *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. **21** Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. **22** For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. **23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. **24** Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. **25** Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight*



*before thee. **26** Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. **27** Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

O, beloved, it is my prayer that each and every one of you have come to Jesus Christ and experienced His great love and mercy in the forgiveness of sins. It is by his mercy that he saved us! How we need the mercy of the gracious Lord!

**Isaiah 55:6-7** *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: **7** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, **and he will have mercy upon him**; and to our God, for **he will abundantly pardon.***

How precious are our Lord's words toward those who labor and are heavy laden! Are you, dear one, laboring under a load of guilt before God? Do your transgressions weigh heavily upon you? Listen to His loving words:

**Matthew 11:28-30** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*