



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

NINILCHIK

AUGUST 20TH, 2023

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

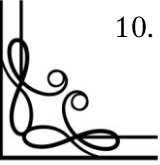
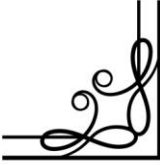
Ezra 3:1-13

In 1989, our dear shepherd at that time, Pastor Ron Blough, initiated our reading through a portion of the 66 books of the Bible as a congregation, typically a chapter each Sunday. Since then, we have been through the entire Bible one full time and are currently in Ezra, the 15th book of the Bible.



TODAY'S SERVICE



1. Hymn #27 - "O Worship the King"
 2. Opening Prayer & Announcements
 - a. CBC Bylaws Reading
 3. Hymn #436 - "Come, We That Love the Lord"
 4. Hymn #177- "Children of the Heavenly Father"
 5. Hymn #244 - "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
 6. Reading: **Bro. Mike S.**
 7. **Message:** "The Bittersweet Gospel of Christ"
 8. Hymn #575 - "The Church's One Foundation"
 9. Benediction
 10. Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.
Holy War #79; Ecclesiastes 6:10-12
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The BITTERSWEET GOSPEL of CHRIST

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

EZRA 3:12-13, ESV

I. *the* BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- A. Destruction *of the* Temple, 586 BC**
- B. Decree *of* Cyrus to Rebuild, 536 BC**
- C. Darius' *6th* Year, Finished, 516 BC**

II. *the* BREAKDOWN *of the* CHAPTER

- A. Rebuilding *the* Altar, vv1-3a**
- B. Renewal *of* Sacrificial Worship, vv3b-6a**
- C. Ready to Rebuild *the* Temple, vv6b-13**

Book of Ezra

*National Restoration
under Zerubbabel*

Return to Land, 1-2

Rebuilding *the* Temple, 3

Resisting *the* Enemy, 4-6

*Spiritual Reformation
under Ezra*

Ezra Comes to *the* Land, 7-8

Ezra Confesses Sins, 9

Ezra Cleanses Nation, 10

III. *the* BLESSINGS EMPHASIZED *from* OUR TEXT

A. Practical Gospel Illustrations & Applications

1. the bittersweet life of Christ
 - a. Psa 45:6-7 (Heb 1:8-9); Isa 53:3-5

2. the bittersweet truth of Christ's gospel
 - a. Rev 10:8-10

3. the bittersweet life in Christ
 - a. the struggle, Romans 7
 - b. the suffering, Romans 8
 - c. the submission, Romans 9-12

QUOTE of the WEEK

There are others in this world to whom Christ is something, but not much. They are anxious to save themselves, but since they must confess some imperfections, they use the merits of Christ as a sort of makeweight for their slight deficiencies. Their robe is almost long enough, and by adding a little fringe of the Redeemer's grace it becomes all they can wish. To say prayers, to go to church, to take the sacrament to observe Good Friday, these are the main reliances of many a religionist, and then if the coach sticks a little in a deeper rut than usual they call in the help of the Lord Jesus, and hope that he will put his shoulder to the wheel. They commonly say, "Well, we must do our best, then Christ will be our Saviour, and God is very merciful." They allow the blessed and all-sufficient work and sacrifice of the Saviour to fill up their failures; and imagine that they are extremely humble in allowing so much as that. Jesus is to them a stopgap, and nothing more. I know not whether the condition of such people is one whit more desirable than that of those to whom Jesus is nothing at all, for this is a vile contempt and despising of Christ indeed, to think that he came to help you to save yourselves, to dream that he is a part Saviour, and will divide the work and honour of salvation with the sinner. Those who yoke the sinner and the Saviour together as each doing a part rob Christ of all his glory; and this is robbery indeed, to pilfer from the bleeding Lamb of God the due reward of his agonies. "He trod the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with him." In the work of salvation Jesus stands alone. Salvation is of the Lord. If Christ is not all to you he is nothing to you. He will never go into partnership as a part Saviour of men. If he be something he must be everything, and if he be not everything he is nothing to you.

There are many who, unconsciously to themselves, think Jesus Christ to be much, but yet they do not understand that he is all in all. I allude to many seeking souls, who say, "I would put my trust in Jesus this morning, but I do not feel as I ought." I see, thou thinkest that there is at least a little of thy feeling to be added to the Saviour's work ere it can avail for thee. "But I am not as penitent as I should be, and, therefore, I cannot rest in Jesus." I see, thy penitence is to add the topstone to the Saviour's yet unfinished work. Perhaps it is one of the hardest works in the world, so hard as to be impossible except to the Holy Spirit himself, to drive a man away from the idea that he is to do something, or to be something, in order to his own salvation. Sinner, thou art the emptiness, and Christ the fullness; thou art the filthiness, and he the cleansing; thou art nothing, and he is all in all; and the sooner thou consentest to this the better. Have done with saying, "I would come to the Saviour if this, and if that," for this quibbling will delude, delay, and destroy thee. Come as thou art, just now, even at this moment, for Christ is not almost all, but all in all.

"Christ is All" from the text, Colossians 3:11

a sermon delivered on August 20th, 1871

by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume 17, Sermon No. 1,006

This Week's Bible Portions from *Robert Murray McCheyne's "Daily Bread"*

AUGUST 2023

FAMILY READINGS			PRIVATE READINGS	
1 Samuel 12	Romans 10	20	Jeremiah 49	Psalms 26-27
1 Samuel 13	Romans 11	21	Jeremiah 50	Psalms 28-29
1 Samuel 14	Romans 12	22	Jeremiah 51	Psalms 30
1 Samuel 15	Romans 13	23	Jeremiah 52	Psalms 31
1 Samuel 16	Romans 14	24	Lament. 1	Psalms 32
1 Samuel 17	Romans 15	25	Lament. 2	Psalms 33
1 Samuel 18	Romans 16	26	Lament. 3	Psalms 34
1 Samuel 19	1 Cor. 1	27	Lament. 4	Psalms 35

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