



**COLLEGE HEIGHTS  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

# The Christian Life: Part II

Daily Scripture Readings for  
February 1-28

## **WEEK 5: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND RACE**

### **Monday, February 1 - Galatians 3:23-29**

Racial tension in America is probably the most difficult conversation to have today. Slavery has been called America's original sin. While slavery has been outlawed for almost 160 years and segregation has been illegal for almost 60 years, prejudice, discrimination, and racism still abound in our culture today. It is important to recognize that we are not a post-racism culture. Maybe one day but not yet. As we read Scripture about Race this week, it is important for me to share that these will not be political posts. This isn't about Black Lives Matter, Blue Lives Matter, or All Lives Matter monikers; our devotional focus is on what the Bible says about race and racial equality.

The purpose of today's passage in Galatians is to explain the hierarchy found in the Kingdom of God: THERE ISN'T ONE! We are all children of God; we are all part of Abraham's family. Being a Christian fundamentally alters your perception of the social order. White, black, or brown? It doesn't matter. Rich, poor, or somewhere in the middle? It doesn't matter. Male or female? It doesn't matter. Born in the United States, Mexico, China, or Iran? It doesn't matter. When one becomes a child of God, we all become equal and as Christians we must see each other as equal.

Survey your heart today. Don't survey your neighbor's heart, but survey your own heart. We bring glory to God through our service to others. What is your level of service to people who are not like you? Pray for God to lead you into relationships with people who don't look like you. And remember, "all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

### **Tuesday, February 2 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-13**

The same Spirit. The same Lord. The same God. We were all baptized into one body and we all drink of one Spirit. In your mind, you probably agree with these words in 1 Cor. 12, but do your hands and feet match your mind? The church in Corinth struggled with community. Some thought themselves better than others. The original context of 1 Cor. 12-14 is Paul commanding those who have the gift of speaking in

tongues do not think themselves better than others. All gifts are given for the glory of God, and all gifts must work together to grow the body of Christ.

How does this relate to Race? We are one universal church who is supposed to work together as one body, yet, in most cases, we have segregated ourselves into groups of people who are like us. White churches and black churches. Affluent churches and poor churches. Traditional churches and modern churches. To use Paul's analogy in 1 Cor 12:14, we have churches made of hands and churches made of feet. Eye churches and nose churches. We are a disjointed body of Christ when we have segregated ourselves yet have the same Spirit within us.

Please don't mishear me: this is not a statement that all churches should cater to every single type of person. Not only is this impractical, but it will end up turning away more people than it would bring in. Every church should be open to every type of person, but that is a different discussion for maybe a different day. What we need to realize is the body of Christ is bigger than one church. The Kingdom of God advances when different types of people use their different gifts and work together for the common goal of spreading the gospel. We can do far more together than we can do apart. Let's advance the Kingdom under one Spirit, one Lord, and one God.

### **Wednesday, February 3 - Romans 6:1-23**

We spoke of justification last week in Romans 5 and tonight we will discuss the other side of the coin of salvation in sanctification. Our passage for tonight explains the freedom we have in Christ from sin. In the current life we live, we are free from the bondage to sin and instead we receive the Spirit inside of us which subdues the tyranny of sin. What I have described here is the sanctification which is given to us as a free gift of God. Just because we have been justified in Christ (Romans 5), does not mean sin can remain our master. We must be sanctified as well. No person can serve two masters.

## **Thursday, February 4 - Jonah 4:1-11**

To understand Jonah, we would do well to contemporize the nations. It would be like a current-day Jonah being from the United States and Nineveh being Iran. The people of Israel and the people of Nineveh did not like each other. Some commentators have even suggested there is a tinge of racism in Jonah's voice throughout the book. It's why Jonah goes to Tarshish some say. Yes, Jonah says in Jonah 4:2 that he didn't go to Nineveh because he knew God would save them anyway, but that doesn't make too much sense. God only saves them because Nineveh repents, and Nineveh only repents because Jonah tells them judgment is coming. How can Jonah not see that his trip to Nineveh was instrumental in this work?

I believe that Jonah goes to Tarshish and throws this pity party because he wanted to see Nineveh, this rival and enemy of Israel destroyed. He wanted these people who were not like him to be killed. Jonah thought the world would be better off without Nineveh in it.

How does God respond to Jonah? God shares with Jonah the love he had for the Ninevites (and all creatures in the land). God alludes to the fact that he created Nineveh in the same way he created Israel. Taking this principle to the New Testament, Jesus clearly tells Nicodemus in John 3:16 that "God loved the world..." Jesus did not say God loved Israel or God loved those born into Christian families, or God loved white, middle class Americans. God loves the world. If we are like Jonah and just wish certain people would just cease to exist, we are contrary to the will of God. God wishes all people to be saved and God loves all people. Do your actions match the actions of God? Pray today that you live as God leads and wills.

## **Friday, February 5 - Luke 10:25-37**

For our last two devotions on the Christian Life and Race, we will turn our attention to the relationship between the Jewish people and Samaritan people. They hated each other. This animosity had been brewing for several centuries. The Samaritans arose when the Northern Kingdom of Israel was exiled in 722 B.C.; the

beginning of this people group is likely told in 2 Kings 17:24-28. The Jewish people felt that the Samaritans in the north were living on land which was not ancestrally their land. The Jewish people saw these people as mixed race and half-Jews. They say they worship the same God, but they don't worship God like we do. They say they are worshipping but they don't worship the right way.

With that background, we see the parable of the Good Samaritan. This fictional story with a moral meaning tells us who our neighbor is. Jesus makes it clear by making the hero of the story a Samaritan, when the villains are a priest and Levite, that race does not mean someone is immediately good or bad. Jesus makes it clear by making the hurt man have no name and no nationality that race has nothing to do with whether you should help someone in need of assistance. Living the Christian life means showing mercy to others and loving your neighbor as yourself.

If I am in a car wreck, I don't care if the person helping is white, black, brown, male, female, young, old, gay, straight, dressed nice, or wearing ripped jeans. All I care about is if they help me. This is how we should help other people as well. Pray you can show mercy to others as the Samaritan showed mercy to the one in need.

### **Saturday, February 6 - John 4:1-42**

Your passage today is long, so the devotion will be slightly shorter. Jesus should not have spoken to the Samaritan woman because men shouldn't speak to women and Jews don't speak to Samaritans. Of course, we know that Jesus didn't concern himself with social convention; his concerns were the concerns of God: "that whoever believes in [the Son], will not perish but have everlasting life."

No matter their earthly differences, Jesus' concern was on eternal matters. When it comes to eternal matters, we are all equally separated from God. All people need a redeemer and as people who have been redeemed, it is our Christian duty to share the story of redemption with everyone. Who can you share the story of God's love with today? Who can you call? I'm praying for you today as you do not worry about earthly barriers but instead concern yourself with heavenly community.

**Sunday, February 7 - Psalm 81**

**WEEK 6: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MARRIAGE, SINGLENESS, AND LOVE**

**Monday, February 8 - Mark 10:1-12**

This coming Sunday is Valentine's Day, a day we set aside to consider our significant other. How should a Christian approach love for a spouse? How should a Christian approach being single, whether that is a widow, divorcee, or never married? Answering these questions is the goal for these devotions this week.

What should the Christian say about divorce? This was the question posed to Jesus in Mark 10. The Pharisees knew that the Law given to Moses by God said that a man could divorce his wife but must give her a certificate of dismissal. Essentially, this was a license the man would give the woman that she was free from his control. Jesus says this law was a compromise given to the people; God's plan is for marriage to be forever and that "whatever God has joined together, let no one separate."

Even though God's plan is for marriage to be forever, we live in a fallen world where sin abounds. This means divorce happens for a myriad of reasons. Divorce should not be taken lightly; it is painful and causes much anguish, but in a world where sin is prevalent, it will happen. Relationships will deteriorate. So what about Mark 10:10-12 where it says anyone who remarries is committing adultery? It is probably best to read these verses as one action. Jesus is probably saying if you divorce your spouse in order to marry another person, you are committing adultery. I think this corresponds well with what Jesus says in Matt. 5:28: "everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." If a person is divorcing someone to marry another, then they have likely already committed lust/adultery. They have not kept their marriage pure.

I do not think Mark 10:10-12 can be used to keep divorced people from remarrying, but it furthers the point Jesus was making: divorce is not to be taken lightly. If you are

married, pray with your spouse today for God to strengthen your marriage. If you are single, pray for God to strengthen you in order to not commit lust in your heart. Pray for the married couples you know and whatever God has joined together, let no man separate.

## **Tuesday, February 9 - 1 Corinthians 7:1-16**

Paul gets into several specifics in this chapter to which this devotion cannot devote time. There are instructions for married people, widows, divorced persons, and those never married. It seems that the Corinthians wrote a letter to Paul and made the statement “it is well for a man not to touch a woman.” Paul corrects this statement. My summary of his statement is as follows: sex is good when within the confines of marriage. Too often, we talk about the sinful side of sex, but do not spend time discussing the holiness of sex. That’s right; I said the holiness of sex. God gave us sex drives, and in his infinite wisdom, God chose to make sex pleasurable.

In our passage yesterday, Jesus quoted Genesis 2:24 “and the two shall become one flesh.” It is understood that sex is part of marriage: two becoming one. Before sin entered the world, the first man and woman remained naked and unashamed. It is God’s will for a husband and wife to give themselves to each other. It is a holy, spiritual event not to be ashamed of. The rampant sexual immorality in the world today is not because we think too much about sex. It is because we do not think enough of sex. We demean it; instead, we should elevate to part of the goodness of what God created. Of course, within the confines of what God intended. Sex is not to be denied; it is to be expressed in the way God intended.

## **Wednesday, February 10 - Romans 7:1-25**

Last week, we discussed Romans 6 and freedom from bondage to sin. Tonight, we discuss the freedom we have from bondage to the Law. Our reliance on the Law of the Old Testament must be broken in order to fully submit to the Law and Salvation of

Christ. For certain, the Law is from God, but it cannot justify or sanctify. Only a relationship with Jesus can do that.

The last section on Romans 7 tells us of the inner conflict which Paul has and which may sound familiar to our own lives as well. I know what is good. I know what is bad. I want to do good, but too often I find myself doing the bad I do not want to do. How can we combat this evil which tempts us to do the very thing we do not want to do? I hope we can provide some answers to that question tonight.

### **Thursday, February 11 - Colossians 3:18-19**

The relationship which Paul commands to husbands and wives in Colossae was amazingly counter-cultural. The Roman family was ruled by a patriarch with an iron fist. He treated his wife, children, and slaves however he wanted. He sought mistresses without care. He cruelly mistreated slaves and children alike. Paul, in Colossians and Ephesians, tells the church that this type of treatment is unacceptable in the eyes of God. Husbands are supposed to love their wives. In the first century, marriage was a business transaction between families. Love was not expected in marriages. The command for the husband to love his wife puts the majority of the instruction in these household codes on the husband. He would need to change his life most drastically. The commands for the wife to submit would not change her social requirement in marriage.

What does this mean for our marriages today? It means to treat your spouse with respect. It means that no one lords control over their spouse. It means that no one ignores the needs of their spouse. It means you work together with your spouse in life. It means that we live out the statement "the two become one flesh." We work together for the common goal of serving our Lord in heaven.

If you are single, I have a special request of you. Read Colossians 3:20-4:1. What types of relationships do you have with the closest people in your life? Live out what you see in these verses. Do not provoke your children. Do not treat people harshly. Treat others justly and fairly. Whatever your task, work hard.



These are not just words for certain relationships. These are words for all of us. Pray for God to give you a spirit of compassion and love toward others so we can live out our faith in all of our relationships.

### **Friday, February 12 - Ruth 4:14; Luke 2:36-38**

Today, we have two examples of two women who were widowed while they were young. Ruth and Anna lived out two types of lives after their husbands died and both lived within the will of God. Ruth remarried and became the great-grandmother of King David; Anna remained single, devoting herself to worship in the Temple, and was led by God to bless baby Jesus.

What's the point? There isn't a right way to live out your life after your spouse dies. The only right way to live is as God leads you. God may lead you to remarry; God may lead you to do wonderful things for Him only a single person can. As Colossians 3:17 says, "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..." Ruth and Anna are two great examples of living even after their husbands died. Don't give up on living because your spouse is gone; God still has you here for a reason. Seek that reason and live!

### **Saturday, February 13 - Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)**

I'm going to ask you to do something different today. If you are married, I want you to read all of Song of Songs with your spouse. If you are widowed, read Song of Songs thinking of departed beloved. If you are divorced or always single, read Song of Songs as a metaphor for your relationship with God.

I believe the Song of Songs is included in Scripture because it is the blessing of erotic love within the confines of marriage. It promotes waiting for the proper time (2:7, 3:5), devoting yourself to one forever (6:3), and the deep spiritual commitment which marriage and love are (8:6-7).

Knowing our common conservative Baptist background, this is likely the first time you've read all of Song of Songs. After you finish, write down your thoughts about the book and ask yourself this question: why is this book in the Bible?

**Sunday, February 14 - Psalm 82**

## **WEEK 7: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND FAMILY**

**Monday, February 15 - Ephesians 5:21-33**

Families in 2021 look much different than families of the First Century. Families during the time of the New Testament consisted of husband/father/master, wife/mother, children, and slaves. Today, we have families of one person and families of several generations. We have blended families, single-parent households, and two-parent traditional households. The world is much different and yet the commands on how to relate with your family members stays the same.

The words in Ephesians 5:21-33 give the family a wonderful foundation to build. A loving committed relationship between husband and wife, father and mother, gives the family the best chance at success. A committed relationship between husband and wife starts with mutual submission to one another. As 5:31 reminds us "a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." There is a submission to each other that is necessary for two individuals to become one.

Often, these verses are used to show that a wife must submit to her husband. While there is that element of these instructions, the biggest change for the first century marriage would have been for the husband. A husband didn't have to love his wife. That wasn't part of marriage. Now, husbands are being commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. Husbands are being commanded to sacrifice of themselves for the betterment of his wife and family.

If we are to have strong Christian families, then we need husbands and wives to work together for the common good for their family. Pray for your family and pray for different households in your family. Pray that the adult leaders of those families work together and keep God at the center of their lives.

## **Tuesday, February 16 - Ephesians 6:1-4**

After Ephesians instructs husbands and wives, it moves to instructing parents and children. The text only says fathers, but I think we can include mothers as well. For the children, the only command is nothing new: children are to follow the fifth commandment of honoring their father and mother. The instruction for fathers of the first century and all parents of the twenty-first century should be our focus from these verses.

In many families, parents have ultimate power, even to the detriment of the children. In order to “make their kids tough” for the real world, parents have a mentality that ends up provoking their kids to anger, anger that is either held within and exhibited as mental health concerns or anger that is unleashed on the world. This style of parenting is not godly parenting. The instruction and discipline we give our children is leading the next generation to be godly men and women who can lead their families and lead the church. It is not just about morality and “breaking” a child’s will like you would a horse; it is about guiding children to be in the will of God.

Most of you reading these devotions do not have children at home to train in the Lord, but maybe there are children within your influence who you can help guide to a strong relationship with God. Pray for God to help parents of children raise their children in a relationship with God and pray to discern if it is the will of God for you to be involved in the lives of children to instruct them as well.

## **Wednesday, February 17 - Romans 8:1-39**

Some consider Romans 8 as one of the greatest chapters of Scripture because of its beautiful picture of what a Christian is. The most important feature of the Christian

life as it is seen in Romans 8 is the Holy Spirit. He is mentioned 19 times in these verses, the most times in any chapter of the Bible. The work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life is great, but one thing that stands out from Romans 8 is the assurance of salvation the Holy Spirit provides. At the beginning of the chapter there is “no condemnation,” and at the end of the chapter, there is “no separation” from Christ. The assurance of life we receive from a relationship with Christ is beyond anything we deserve. Let’s celebrate the gift of life together tonight and study more about this passage!

### **Thursday, February 18 - Mark 3:31-35**

We mustn’t let our families become idols. We must have the right priorities in life. Now, Jesus didn’t disown his family when he started his ministry. Instead what a passage like this tells us is Jesus understood the priorities necessary in life: God first.

All too often, we put our families before God. The baseball or rodeo tournament takes precedence over worshipping on Sunday morning. The family coming over for Sunday lunch means we skip out on church. When we make these decisions, what does it say about our priorities? Do not think for one moment I am saying you must be at church every Sunday in order to be a good Christian. Far from it. Attendance is not required; attentiveness to God is. How are you attending to God when you put your family responsibilities ahead of your relationship with God?

Jesus understood this requirement of his life even when he was twelve years old. When his parents found him in the Temple, he said “did you not know I would be about my Father’s business” (Luke 2:49)? He didn’t go home with his earthly parents, but did the will of his Heavenly Father. Jesus had his priorities straight. In the Christian Life, we cannot let our family become an idol. We cannot put our family ahead of God. Be like Jesus and put your Heavenly Father ahead of your earthly family.

## **Friday, February 19 - Judges 4:4-5**

“Wife of Lappidoth.” Even though that description of Deborah is the only insight we get into her personal life during her story in Judges 4-5, it reminds us even the Bible leaders of great renown had families. I hope that yesterday’s devotion did not lead you to think family is unimportant. It is only a problem when it is elevated above God. Family is a wonderful gift of God to give us community, support, and love as we go out to do the will of God.

That is what I imagine Lappidoth did for Deborah. Never mentioned again in the Bible, Lappidoth gives Deborah a shoulder to cry on, a discerning ear, and an encouraging word after she spends her day settling the disputes for the people of Israel. Lappidoth is comfort when she is proclaiming prophecy to the Israelites. Lappidoth is strong and can take care of the family when Deborah must go with Barak to battle King Jabin’s army. These are the things our family can do for us.

Who do you have in your life who takes care of you while you fulfill God’s will? Praise God for that person today! This person doesn’t have to be a spouse, but can be another relative or close friend; a person who has your back no matter what. Thank God for that person and then write a note of thanks to that person. Give it to them in person or send it in the mail. This can be a great way to encourage your encourager.

## **Saturday, February 20 - 1 Peter 3:1-12**

First Peter 3:1-7 seems to me to be more of a descriptive text than a prescriptive one. What I mean by that is there seems to have been some marital issues in Peter’s church, so he has certain people in mind when he is writing these instructions concerning the braiding of hair, gold jewelry, and the dishonor husbands were showing their wives. While these verses were directed toward a specific audience, there are some forever truths we can glean from these seven verses about all of our lives. Verses 8-12 do an excellent job of describing these forever truths. We should have unity, sympathy, love, a tender heart, and humility toward one another. We should not judge ourselves or others based on the clothes they buy, the jewelry they wear, or

make-up, but we look at the heart of each other to see beauty. Even when we experience judgment or hurt from others, we repay that hurt with love. Let us seek peace and pursue it.

Pray that this is the attitude you have with all people in your life. Seek to live a life with your family and your church that seeks peace, love, unity, humility and sympathy. Living life like this will bring glory to God.

**Sunday, February 21 - Psalm 83:13-18**

## **WEEK 8: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, February 22 - Philippians 4:12-13**

I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me. We typically use that verse to describe the willpower to push through difficult circumstances. Sometimes, a sports team will take up this phrase from Phil. 4:13 as a rallying cry to work harder and get better. While these thoughts of Christ giving us strength to get through the difficult events of a day are biblical, it is not the original meaning of this verse. We must read verse 12 to realize what Paul means. The purpose is to share with the Philippians that Paul knows what it is like to persevere through times of hunger and enjoy times of having plenty. That whether he is hungry or well-fed, he will do all things through Christ who gives him strength.

I have titled this week The Christian Life and Food and the Environment. Part of this week will focus on that sin we don't like to discuss as Americans: gluttony/overeating. The sin of gluttony ends up causing problems all over the world. It is also a shame that so many overeat and thus have health problems related to that while others in our community do not have enough to eat and thus have health problems as well. What are we doing as Christians if we eat too much and neglect our neighbors who do not have enough? We bring glory to God through our service to others. Whether we are hungry or well-fed we can do all things through Christ who

gives me strength. Let us work toward serving others so that all people in our community can be fed.

## **Tuesday, February 23 - Exodus 16:4-36**

Let God take care of your needs. That is the message of the manna from heaven. When we try to supply our needs, or when we think we need more than God provides, the provision spoils. No matter how much the people of Israel gathered, they had enough for their families. If they tried to gather more, the manna went bad, except on the day before the Sabbath when they gathered two days' worth of manna and it kept through the Sabbath. When they tried to gather on the Sabbath, there was no manna to gather.

When will humans get it through their thick skulls that God's instructions reign supreme? God was providing for their needs and yet the people continued to think they needed to do differently. How often do we rely on ourselves to provide food rather than trust God? What I mean is we buy more canned food than we need for the next month because "it's on sale" or "they may run out" or "a nuclear apocalypse may come and we need to be ready." Instead of buying those extra items for your pantry, why don't you buy those extra items for a food pantry? Or you can donate the money you would've spent on those items to a person in need or non-profit organization fighting poverty and malnutrition.

Maybe you are concerned that next month you won't have enough and need to stock up now. If you, as a person of God, let God use you to take care of others today, then trust that God will use others to take care of you in your time of need. "Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matt. 6:34). "What good is it, brothers and sisters, to say go in peace, stay warm, and eat your fill and yet you do not supply their bodily needs" (James 2:16)? Take care of others today; if needed, we will take care of you tomorrow.

### **Wednesday, February 24 - Romans 9:1-29**

Romans 9 starts a new section in the letter after the first eight chapters were deeply theological. The application of this theology doesn't start until Romans 12. In Romans 9-11, we have Paul wrestling with the problem of Jews not believing in Jesus as the Messiah. Does this mean they have lost their place as God's people? Do they still experience a special love of God? God has made promises to Israel, so how are those promises fulfilled if Israel does not believe in Christ? These are the questions Romans 9-11 entertain. It is clear that God has incorporated Gentiles into the Family of God. What does this mean for the biological descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Let's start to discuss this tonight.

### **Thursday, February 25 - Proverbs 23:19-21; Proverbs 28:7**

Isn't it odd that as Christians we recognize the sin of drunkenness but ignore the sin of gluttony? How selective we can be in condemning other people's sin! Drunkenness and gluttony are treated the same way in Proverbs 23. In Proverbs 28:7, there is a connection between gluttony and law-breaking. Those who are gluttonous shame their parents.

Concerning gluttony and drunkenness, there is also a passage in Deuteronomy 21:20 which makes a connection even more serious for our duty to not be gluttons: gluttony is a symptom of rebellion and disobedience. The punishment was death. Why such a severe punishment? Gluttony and drunkenness are selfishness and putting yourself before the community. It is eating more than you need which takes food away from others in need. It is not just overeating; it is causing others to not eat enough. On top of that, think of the personal effects of gluttony and drunkenness. Sloth and laziness follow because of the effects of the food and drink. Now, one is not working and serving the community in that way.

These are the reasons why gluttony is a sin. It takes food away from others and takes productivity away from society. Think of all the money we spend and time we waste on doctors and medicine because we eat too much food. Think how much better



the world would be if we could devote that time and money to the Kingdom of God and helping those who have no food! Commit yourself today to resisting the temptation of gluttony and instead providing food for those in need.

### **Friday, February 26 - Genesis 9:1-17**

After the Flood, God makes a covenant with Noah. However, it is not only a covenant with Noah, but it is a covenant with “every living creature.” God gives Noah instructions about what is and is not permissible to eat, and then God promises to not flood the earth ever again. This covenant shows us the connection between our food sources and God’s desire for the environment to be cared for. Older generations do a much better job respecting the environment than younger ones in regards to this. Maybe it’s because they (y’all) know of first-hand accounts of the Great Depression; maybe it’s because many were much closer to the butchering process of their dinner than younger people who only know chicken as in a frozen package from the grocery store (for the first four years of both my children’s lives, they thought there was a “food chicken” and an “animal chicken”).

Whatever the case and whatever your relationship with your food, as Christians, we need to return to this understanding of God caring for all of creation and we need to take care of the earth as God desires. We eat only what we need; we care for every living creature. God shows us that he cares for the earth by hanging his bow in the clouds as a promise to not destroy the earth by a flood again; let us make the same commitment and work so that we don’t cause the tides to rise as well.

### **Saturday, February 27 - Isaiah 24:1-13**

Isaiah 24 expresses a truth that is found in several prophets of the Old Testament: the earth suffers when humans sin. The whole earth faces judgment because of the sin of humanity. Humans have broken the everlasting covenant God made with Noah and the earth suffers because of it.

This calamity is on display today as well. Whether one believes that climate change is man-made or natural, the temperature of the earth is rising. If we read the Bible, especially passages like Isaiah 24, it seems clear that our sin causes adverse effects on the earth. Whether those effects are directly correlated to our actions or if they are supernatural punishment, our sinful actions as it relates to the earth is causing calamity throughout the earth. As Psalm 24:1 says, “the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it...” God has entrusted His people with taking care of the earth; let us do as God requires.

**Sunday, February 28 - Psalm 84**