

Weekly Worship Guide 2024 – Week 9

Prayer Focus: Pray through a portion of Proverbs 9 each day.

Memory Verse: “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.” – Isaiah 26:3-4

Shepherding Notes	Family Worship	Bible in a Year
<hr/> Sunday <hr/>		
Service Review	Service Review	Service Review
<hr/> Monday <hr/>		
Romans 13	Genesis 47	Genesis 48
<hr/> Tuesday <hr/>		
Romans 14	Genesis 49	Leviticus 26 Leviticus 27
<hr/> Wednesday <hr/>		
Romans 15	Genesis 50	1 Chronicles 1 1 Chronicles 2
<hr/> Thursday <hr/>		
Romans 16	Exodus 1	1 Chronicles 3 1 Chronicles 4
<hr/> Friday <hr/>		
Isaiah 1	Exodus 2	1 Chronicles 5 1 Chronicles 6
<hr/> Saturday <hr/>		
Job 15	Proverbs 9	Job 16

February 25, 2024 Sunday Service Review

- How did today's service stir your affections for Christ? Have your affections for the Lord grown cold? If so, who in your church could you speak to that would help you delight in the Lord?
- What was said in today's sermon that you already "know," but you needed to hear again?
- Did you notice anyone missing today that is normally at church? How could you lovingly reach out and check in on them and encourage them in the Lord?
- Are you generally encouraged or discouraged in your walk with Christ? What about today's church service did the Lord design to help encourage your heart?

February 26 Shepherding Notes – Romans 13

By Jonathan Rodriguez

Being that we are in election season, I think it will be very fitting to focus on verses 1-7 of today's chapter. Politics is a very hot topic and one that can cause much discord among those in the body of Christ. How should our minds be renewed by the Word on this topic?

God sovereignly ordains who will be in power

I think as Christian's we do have a responsibility to elect leaders that we think can lead well. We should have knowledge of those who are running and know what they stand for. We should do our research, pray about it, and vote for whom we feel can lead well. At the end of the day, when we have fulfilled our responsibility, we must come to terms that God will ultimately determine who will come into power. Many times, we might not like the person that God puts into a position of power, but keep in mind the biggest example of someone in power that God used - Pharaoh. Pharaoh was not a godly man, he was someone who opposed God with every fiber of his body, yet God is the one who put him in that position. Ultimately as we read in Romans 9, Pharaoh was put into power so God's power and glory can be put on display and that his name would be proclaimed on the earth. When we do not like the person in power, we must remember that God is sovereign and does not make mistakes and somehow God will be glorified through his decision of governing authorities.

Those in power are God's servants

Just like God raised up Pharaoh to display his power and for his name to be proclaimed God raises up all the world leaders that are currently in power. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that "God makes everything beautiful in its time." That means that God knows how the pieces of the puzzle go together for the big picture. God knows who he has to raise up, he knows whose heart needs to be hardened, he knows whose heart needs to be softened. God knows exactly who he will put into power to act as his servant so that his glory and name be spread throughout the world. God knows who his servants will be to move the pieces of the puzzle of the big picture. Rulers and governors are put in place to be servants of God.

We are to submit to these authorities

Whoever is in office, whoever is in power, whoever the ruler is of the place we reside, Paul gives us a command to be subject to those people. This is something that we might not want to hear because we disagree with the people in power. But Paul does not say "if you agree with them, submit to them", he says "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities." Paul does not give us any exceptions, because God is sovereign, and he is the one who determines governing offices. Now I do think there is only one exception, that is when those governing authorities tell us to go against something God has commanded or to go against God himself. That is the only thing in which we do not submit to the governing authorities but instead obey God, like not forsaking the assembling of the saints.

February 26 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 47

Discussion Questions:

- Today we are going to reflect on the events of the last ten chapters.
- The horrible danger of a seven-year famine has been underlying all of the events of the last few chapters. Why were famines so dangerous in Joseph's time? (People would only grow food for the coming year, or at most two. Seven years of famine would completely wipe out grain reserves, kill all of the plants in that arid region, kill all of the herbivores who depended on the grass, etc. Famine = starvation and death.)
- The Lord protected all twelve of Jacob's sons from the effects of the famine by bringing them to Egypt. In order for the 11 brothers to be saved, they had to first be forgiven by Joseph. Our spiritual situation is far worse than famine. The Bible teaches that our salvation also comes to us through being forgiven.
- The story of Joseph and his brothers is truly one of the greatest stories ever told. The unpredictable twists and turns are positively fascinating. What part of the story was most shocking, surprising, or unexpected to you?

Song: [How Vast the Love](#)

Prayer Focus: Read Proverbs 9. Pick one thing from it to pray for today.

Family Activity: 'Favorites'

Each family member should take turns stating their favorite in the following category: Who is your favorite Old Testament prophet?

Bible in a Year

- Read Genesis 48

February 27 Shepherding Notes – Romans 14

By Jonathan Rodriguez

Today's chapter deals with conscience. How should believers who have different levels of conscience deal with each other? How can our conscience be renewed by the Word?

Not everything is so black and white. There are certain things that the bible speaks about that we know for sure are sinful such as: fornication, adultery, murder, hate, drunkenness, etc. But not everything in life is black and white. There are areas of life where we do have freedom if we are striving to glorify God. Believers will have different conscience issues at all levels and that means that just because someone does something different than what you do does not make it a sin (if the bible does not label it as sin). But even though we have freedom in Christ, if there is a gray area we should always proceed with wisdom, critically thinking about what the possible outcomes are if we choose to live a certain way.

We should always consider others before our own freedom - Even though we have freedom in Christ when it comes to doing something or living in a specific way, we should always consider those around us. In 1 Corinthians 8 Paul gives us an example of someone who causes his brother to stumble because he eats food that has been sacrificed to idols. That idol we know has no power but to someone who has not yet understood that it is the responsibility of the mature believer to abstain from eating that food for the sake of their brother's conscience. As believers we should lay down our freedom to consider those who might be weaker in conscience. Jesus said that the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor, we practice loving our neighbors by laying down our rights for their sake.

We should honor all our brothers and sisters - When it comes to conscience issues, the waters can get really muddy. But we should always remember, as Paul mentions here, that we should not think less of people because of the way they exercise their freedom. The mature believer should not look down on other believers because they have a weaker conscience in a certain area. The weaker conscience should not judge the other brother by how he lives. Instead, we should think that both the mature and weak conscience are trying to glorify God and honor him to the best of their abilities even though the method looks different. We all need to humble ourselves like Christ did no matter which side of the spectrum we fall on.

Everything should be done in faith - Everything we do in life should be done in faith knowing that God has given us all good gifts and life to enjoy because we have been saved by the gospel. Everyone is at a different level spiritually and we should strive to do all things in faith and strive for God's truth to straighten and guide our conscience to align with his word. Let us pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding for the cause of the gospel and the love of Christ in us.

February 27 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 49

Discussion Questions:

- Look at verse 1 closely. How is Jacob able to tell his children what is going to happen in the future? (He is prophesying – meaning he is speaking these words that were given to him by God. This is going to be really important to understanding the blessings that follow.)
- The first three sons were disqualified from the greatest blessing because of various sinful actions that they had performed. The fourth son, Judah, is going to receive the most important blessing. Do you know what it is? (Hint: It is found in verse 10. – It is the promise that the scepter will never depart from Judah’s house.)
- Who normally holds a scepter? (A king.) What is the prophecy promising about Judah’s family line? (That kings will come from that line.)
- How can Jacob say that the scepter will never leave Judah’s household? (Because Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah. He is the last king, and He rules forever. Nobody will ever take away His throne or scepter.)

Song: [The Old Rugged Cross](#)

Prayer Focus: Read all of Proverbs 9. (Yes, we will read it every day this week ☺.) The Lord promises to give wisdom to all who ask. Ask for wisdom in accordance with Proverbs 9.

Family Activity: ‘Book Order Challenge’

See who can do the best at putting the following books in order. If your family has memorized all of the books of the Bible and this challenge seems to easy, perhaps add a timer, or make it a race to see who can complete it first. The books that we will order this week are: Acts, Amos, Ezra, Ezekiel, Exodus, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Ephesians, Zechariah, Zephaniah.

Bible in a Year

- Read Leviticus 26
- Read Leviticus 27

February 28 Shepherding Notes – Romans 15

By Jonathan Rodriguez

Vs 4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” The things that were written in the Old Testament were written for our instruction, we have somewhere to look back to and see how God worked in the lives of people. It is through the Scriptures that we can endure this long and hard race of life and where we can find encouragement in this life with many difficulties. The reason we can find encouragement and endurance in the Scriptures is because they all point to one person, they point to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the person that we look to because he is the one whose image we are being made into.

As Philippians 2 says, Jesus emptied himself to be made in the form of servant in the likeness of man. Jesus left behind the glories of heaven, he left the worship of angels, he left behind being in eternity to come into the world to then be obedient to the point of death on a cross. Jesus came to serve others not to be served. Jesus who had every right to demand others to serve him, humbled himself and washed the feet of those he created. He humbled himself and laid down his own life to be killed by the ones he created. When Jesus entered this world, his goal was not to please himself, but to lay down his life for others to serve, love, and rescue them. Nothing he did was ever for selfish reasons, nothing he did was because of hidden motives of selfish gain. Jesus came because he loved his people and that led him to spill his blood for the people, he knew he would redeem through his sacrifice.

Brothers and sisters, are we greater than Christ? Do we think that humbling ourselves and serving others is beyond us? Paul in this chapter encourages us to take the example of Christ not pleasing himself and to imitate that in our lives. One of the ways we need our minds to be renewed is by constantly reminding ourselves that our lives are not meant to be lived for ourselves but for others. Have you been diving into the Scriptures? Has your life been marked by servitude and humility? Have you been striving to serve others according to the hope that has been revealed to you? Are you striving to exemplify the gospel in everyday mundane life? Have you been outdoing one another in service and showing honor? If your answer is no, then I want you to know there is still hope and that the gospel is able to redeem our failures.

We all have much to grow in and I am thankful that the gospel is able to redeem me even when I fall short. But I also want to encourage you that today is the day. We can start today as vs 5 says “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.” Today we can ask the Lord to give us endurance in all aspects of life in serving others, living for others, sharing the hope that is in us. May we be able to praise the name of our Lord among the people, may we be able to praise his name among the nations. May we be able to preach among those who have never heard him before, may we be able to proclaim the glories of the gospel that Jesus is able to save even the worst of sinners. Verse 13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Praise God for the Scriptures where we see the person of Christ.

February 28 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 50

Discussion Questions:

- Why were Joseph's brothers afraid when their father died? (They thought that Joseph would seek revenge now that Jacob had died.)
- Had Joseph truly and completely forgiven his brothers for their sinful actions against him? (Yes.) Did Joseph have any interest in seeking vengeance? (No.) Sometimes Christians who have been forgiven of their sins think of God as still being angry at them. Read Romans 8:1. What do you think that means? (The Lord's heart is never going to seek vengeance against His people. Their sins have been washed away and there is no condemnation, no record that stands against them, no cause for God's wrath. Just like Joseph forgave and did not seek to avenge, the Lord completely forgives those whom He saves.)
- Did Joseph's brothers sin by selling him into slavery? (Yes.) Did they intend to do wickedness? (Yes.) Even in their scheming, did God have a perfect plan? (Yes.) Read verse 50 again. Then read Acts 2:23. How are these two verses similar? (Both of them show God working out His definite plan according to His foreknowledge through allowing people to do really bad things: Joseph was sold into slavery, Jesus was crucified.)
- Can you think of a vocabulary word that we have been learning this year that perfectly connects to Genesis 50:20? (Providence.)
- Why is it a big deal that Joseph wanted his bones to be taken back to the land of Israel? (The Egyptians are famous for their mummies. Death ceremonies were a really big deal for important people like Joseph. But, by rejecting that kind of embalming, Joseph was declaring in his death, "I am not Egyptian." Even though he had high status, he identified with the people of God to his death, and symbolically even after.)

Song: [Forgiven](#)

Prayer Focus: Folly is the way that we are called to reject. Proverbs 22:15 says that "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him." As you pray today that the Lord would keep you from folly, also pray that you would heed the good guidance of your parents.

Family Activity: 'Bible Pictionary'

This game of Bible Pictionary is going to be a little bit different in the following ways. All of the drawings you create must be from stories that we have read in the book of Genesis. Just like normal Pictionary, you cannot use words, letters, or symbols. However, since we have narrowed the focus to Genesis, you are also not allowed to draw people – only animals, plants, or objects. Have fun!

Bible in a Year

- 1 Chronicles 1
- 1 Chronicles 2

February 29 Shepherding Notes – Romans 16

by Jonathan Rodriguez

Back in the beginning of the book Paul had mentioned that he had a desire to visit the church in Rome. Chapter 1:10 “always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.” Eventually Paul did end up making it to Rome, but not in the way he intended. Paul made it to Rome as a prisoner where he was kept under house arrest for two years. I do not think that when Paul wrote this epistle, he thought that he would make it to Rome as a prisoner, but God works in mysterious ways. According to Acts 28:23 many people were able to visit Paul while he was under house arrest, and he was able to preach Christ and the gospel to them. From morning till evening, he would preach and teach them from the Scriptures while he was under house arrest.

The reason I mention this is because of the doxology he gives at the end of chapter 16 vs 25 “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages.” Paul was one of the greatest Christians who ever lived, I do not think many people would debate me on that. But the reason he was one of the greatest was not because of anything special about him, but his dependence on Christ and the gospel. Paul always boasted about his weaknesses, his frailty, his body was probably significantly messed up due to the number of times he was beaten and treated. What kept Paul going was the fact that the gospel strengthened him. The gospel not only strengthened Paul, but it helped him to grow in a low view of himself. Paul in his epistles is always encouraging and spurring on the people of the church to grow in godliness, holiness, righteousness, in servitude, in humility, in hope.

A good portion in this last chapter Paul spends greeting people of the church that he knows encouraging them in their faithfulness and in their service to the church. It is also what keeps Paul hoping even though the circumstances seem difficult. Brothers and sisters, the gospel is of first importance and there will never be a day where we outgrow it. Instead, we should be striving to be renewed and strengthened in the gospel daily. The gospel is the power of God, because when we learn to depend on our savior and not on ourselves is when the God of glory strengthens us because we are trusting in him. Through difficult circumstances, through trials, through all things we go through the gospel is what gives us hope. It is not in money, riches, other people, or things that we put our hope in but in the gospel.

The gospel should also be what helps us to encourage our brothers and sisters around us. To encourage them in the faith to press on, to encourage them in their walk and to encourage them in the ways that they serve. The gospel is our first and final hope. Paul in his farewell gives the Roman church this hope, vs 20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” The first preaching of the gospel in Genesis 3:15 says that the offspring will crush the head of the serpent. Those who are in Christ will know that their savior is fighting for them and will give us victory. As we close this book, I pray that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

February 29 - Family Worship

Read Exodus 1

Discussion Questions:

- What evil atrocity did the new Pharaoh commit against the Israelites? (He commanded that all of the baby boys be cast into the Nile River.) Does this remind you of anyone in the New Testament? (Herod the Great commanded all of the boys aged two and younger from Bethlehem be killed.) How do these two stories relate to each other? (The Lord saves a deliverer from being killed as a baby – both Moses and Jesus.)
- The Israelites are called slaves. What do you think their slavery looked like? How does verse 14 describe it?
- How did the Lord bless the midwives who risked their own lives to protect the Hebrew babies? (He gave them their own families.)
- Read Genesis 15:13. Was this all part of God's perfect plan? (Absolutely, yes.)

Song: [Jesus Your Mercy](#)

Prayer Focus: Proverbs 9:10 speaks about the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom. Pray that the Lord would cause you to have a proper fear of Him.

Family Activity: Vocabulary Challenge

Do your best to define and learn each of the following Bible Vocabulary Words

- Messiah – the promised Deliverer
- Redemption – to be purchased at a price
- Covet – to be sinfully jealous of what other people have
- Hallelujah – An exclamation that means "Praise Yahweh"
- Pharaoh – The chief ruler of Egypt

Bible in a Year

- 1 Chronicles 3
- 1 Chronicles 4

March 1 Shepherding Notes – Isaiah 1

by Caleb Bunch

The book of Isaiah is perhaps chief amongst all of the Old Testament books of prophecy. It is a masterpiece that consistently points forward to the coming work of the Messiah. Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament than any other book except for Psalms, and it is referenced without being quoted more than any other book in the Old Testament. Jesus' first sermon in His own hometown of Nazareth was preached from this glorious book and in that sermon, Jesus made it clear that this book speaks of Him. "Today this Scripture (Isaiah 61) has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:21) Every book of the Bible is about Jesus, but very few places in the Old Testament give such clear, explicit, detailed prophecy about the person and work of the Messiah. For this reason, some theologians have become fond of referring to Isaiah as 'the fifth gospel.'

Jumping in with both feet

In literature, there is a style of writing called 'in media res.' It literally means 'into the middle of things.' It has become very popular over the last 70 years because it is very effective in film making. You have surely seen this tool used many times in movies and television shows. The opening scene is filled with action and adventure and leads to a tense moment. But just as the hero is about to encounter a great trial or seemingly unavoidable death, the story rewinds to sometime in the past to explain how we arrived at this point. 'In media res' was not invented by Hollywood. Isaiah was utilizing it 700 years before Christ to open his book with a punch. Isaiah 1 is basically the summary transcript of God's courtroom judgment against Judah. Let's get to know the players:

The Judge - In verses 1-2 we see God ordering the courtroom. He is the great judge of the earth.

The Witnesses – The Lord calls the heavens and the earth to stand in as the two necessary witnesses in his courtroom. (Remember, there must always be at least two witnesses.)

The Defendant - The defendants are his children. "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me." This is specifically speaking about the people of Judah.

The Charges – "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Judah does not know, my people do not understand." (vs. 3) Israel has become blind to the fact that God is their King. He goes forward in verse 4-15 to describe the utter debauchery of the hearts of Judah. I want you to notice that one of the things God accuses them of doing is WORSHIPING HIM. He accuses them of sacrificing. He accuses them of doing what He had commanded of them. But, they were doing so with the wrong heart. Read verse 11-13 again and consider that God was always more interested in the heart behind worship than the rote practice of outward conformity. The charges are not just sins of immorality, they also include sins of religiosity.

The Sentence – The sentence is not what you might expect. It is found in verse 16. God basically lets them off with a stern warning. It is like a judge saying, "I don't want to see you back in this courtroom again, young man." He is not sentencing them to destruction, at least not yet.

The Plea - Then we see something truly shocking happen in the unfolding drama of this heavenly courtroom. God makes a plea. Generally speaking, it is the guilty party who makes a plea to the judge. But in this instance, we see the Great Judge of the universe step down from the bench, approach the criminal's table, and pull up a chair. He lowers Himself to our level and says, "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Who are we that God would come to the table to reason together? It is obvious that His thoughts and ways are higher than our own. It is clear that we could never persuade or convince Him to change His plans, and rightfully so. He is always right, so if there is a dispute or difference of opinion, we are always in the wrong. God is making an amazing illustrative promise to them. He is going to do a work of

restoration that they cannot do themselves. Hidden here in verse 18 is the key to the book of Isaiah. This is the promised gospel that will unfold through every chapter. God will make us clean. Isaiah does not tell us here how this happens. We have to wait for that mystery to unfold throughout the book. But I can't wait that long to tell you, so let me remind you of the gospel, which is of first importance. We are sinners. We need a Savior. And as the song goes, "Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, but He washed it white as snow."

March 1 - Family Worship

Read Exodus 2

Discussion Questions:

- How did the Lord preserve the life of baby Moses? (Being placed in a basket and found by Pharaoh's daughter.) Who raised the child as his nurse? (His own mother.)
- Hebrews 11:24-26 says, "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward." How do we see that displayed in Exodus 2?
- Moses tried to be a deliverer in his own strength. How did that go for him? (Terribly. He killed a man, the Israelites refused to follow him, and he ran away into Midian.)
- Look at verses 24-25 again. What do those verses teach us about God's covenant faithfulness? Does God still love us even when we are suffering?

Song: [Christ the True and Better](#)

Prayer Focus: Proverbs 9:9 teaches us that there is a connection between being righteous and learning wisdom. If you are saved, thank the Lord for His righteousness. If you are not, pray that He would cover you with His righteousness.

Family Activity: Memory Verse Challenge

Who can best quote this week's verse from memory? "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." – Isaiah 26:3-4

Bible in a Year

- Read 1 Chronicles 5
- Read 1 Chronicles 6

March 2

Shepherding Notes Track

Family Worship

Read Proverbs 9 one last time this week. What have you learned?

Prayer Focuses:

Christlikeness – Pray that you would be filled with the wisdom of Christ.

Tomorrow’s Church Service – That the Lord would encourage the hearts of His people.

Family Activity: Quiz over this week’s reading: (Points are for fun. Use them if they are helpful, discard them if not. (answers on the reverse side of this page.)

20 Points – How long did the famine last?

40 Points – What was the land called where the Israelites lived while they were in Egypt?

30 Points – What was the special prophetic blessing given to Judah?

20 Points – How did Joseph’s brothers feel about Joseph after Jacob died?

20 Points – “You _____ evil against me, but God _____ it for good...” Gen. 50:20

30 Points – What did Joseph command be done with his body after his death?

10 Points – What did Pharaoh command to be done to the baby Hebrew boys?

30 Points – Who protected the Hebrew babies?

20 Points – How did young Moses attempt to be a deliverer?

40 Points – Where did Moses flee to after killing the Egyptian?

Bible in a Year

- Read Job 15
- Read Job 16

Answers Key:

20 Points – How long did the famine last?

Seven years

40 Points – What was the land called where the Israelites lived while they were in Egypt?

Goshen

30 Points – What was the special prophetic blessing given to Judah?

The scepter would not depart from him.

20 Points – How did Joseph's brothers feel about Joseph after Jacob died?

They were afraid he would seek revenge.

20 Points – "You _____ evil against me, but God _____ it for good..." Gen. 50:20

Meant

30 Points – What did Joseph command be done with his body after his death?

Take his bones back with him to the Promised Land.

10 Points – What did Pharaoh command to be done to the baby Hebrew boys?

Throw them into the Nile

30 Points – Who protected the Hebrew babies?

The midwives (God is also an accurate answer here, obviously 😊)

20 Points – How did young Moses attempt to be a deliverer?

He killed an Egyptian who was abusing a Hebrew slave.

40 Points – Where did Moses flee to after killing the Egyptian?

Midian
