

The Corona Chronicle.

Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday March 21st



Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)

God gave these words to the prophet Jeremiah while he was in prison. In the previous chapter he had promised that good would come out of calamity (32:42), and now he is revealing to Jeremiah how this good will come about. Prayer is a constant theme in the Scriptures, and the constant means through which a Sovereign God delivers and blesses His people. No wonder Jesus' disciples said, 'Lord, teach us how to pray!' This text reveals three ways in which God encourages us to pray:

1. To continue in prayer – *'Call to me'*. The Christian has the great privilege of calling on God at any time, through our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though there may be times of spiritual barrenness when we do not feel as if we can pray, we have the assurance that God is always ready and willing to hear and answer prayer. Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow with the intent: 'that men always ought to pray and not lose heart' (Luke 18:1).

2. Expect answers to prayer – *'and I will answer you and show you'*. The God who commands us to pray, promises that He will answer.

C H Spurgeon said: 'He has appointed prayer and made arrangements for its presentation and acceptance. He could never have meant it to be a mere farce: that were to treat us as fools.' Sometimes the answer may be different from what we expect, and sometimes we may even wonder whether he has answered at all, but if we look carefully enough, he has promised to reveal an answer to us.

3. Expect great things from God *'and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'* Many great things happen when we pray. The most important is that we enter deeper in our relationship with God – what could be greater than this! We also get to know the mind of God, especially when our prayer is the result of meditation upon His Word.

Jeremiah was in prison. We too are sometimes imprisoned by our circumstances, our sin, or our unbelief. These are like prison bars that keep us from the blessedness of His presence.

God delivers His people in many ways, but at the root are the prayers of His people. When the apostle Peter was in prison the church prayed and an angel delivered him. As a seventeenth century Christian, Thomas Watson, once put it: 'The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer that fetched the angel!'

Jim Winter

God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean."

— **Jonathan Edwards, The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733**

It is said that in some countries trees will grow, but will bear no fruit because there is no winter there."

— **John Bunyan**

"Christian, how did you enjoy comfort before? Was the creature anything to you but a conduit, a pipe, that conveyed God's goodness to you? 'The pipe is cut off,' says God, 'come to me, the fountain, and drink immediately.' Though the beams are taken away, yet the sun remains the same in the firmament as ever it was."

— **Jeremiah Burroughs, The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment**

"For a close, remember this, that your life is short, your duties many, your assistance great, and your reward sure; therefore faint not, hold on and hold up, in ways of well-doing, and heaven shall make amends for all."

— **Thomas Brooks, Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices**

Between the Letters Puzzle

This week's Gospel is about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. People stood along the road and put palm branches on the road to honor Jesus. They shouted something, and if you solve the puzzle, you will know what they shouted. Find the letter that comes between each pair of puzzle letters in the alphabet. For example, when the puzzle says G_I, the letter between is H. When the puzzle says Z_B, the letter between is A. Then write those letters in the spaces below.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

G_I N_P R_T Z_B M_O M_O Z_B
S_U N_P S_U G_I D_FR T_N P
M_O N_P E_G C_E Z_B U_W H_J
C_E A_C K_M D_FR T_R T_D F
C_E H_J R_T S_U G_I D_FR N_P
M_O D_FR V_X G_I N_P B_D N_P
L_N D_FR T_H J_M O_S U_G I
D_FR M_O Z_B L_N D_FR N_P E_G
S_U G_I D_FR K_M N_P Q_S C_E

" _____
_____!

_____!"

Hymns, Readings, Prayers

**Hymn 1 All Scriptures are given by the breath of God,
are inspired of God,
are the Word of the Lord;
all Scriptures are given by the breath of God,
and glorify His Name!**

**They can make you wise to a saving faith
in Jesus Christ the Lord;
they can make the man of God complete,
and are meant to be His sword!**

**2 So study to show yourself approved to God,
fit to use His Word,
fit to speak in His Name;
so study to show yourself approved to God,
a workman not ashamed.**

**They'll reprove, correct, and a training in
all righteous living afford;
they will yield up all that we need to know
of the teaching of the Lord!**

**3 All Scriptures are given by the breath of God,
are inspired of God,
are the Word of the Lord;
all Scriptures are given by the breath of God,
and glorify His Name!**

Michael Baughen (born 1930)

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Jeremiah 33 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying, ²“Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): ³‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

⁴“For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah, which have been pulled down *to fortify* against the siege mounds and the sword:

⁵‘They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but *only* to fill their places with the dead bodies of men whom I will slay in My anger and My fury, all for whose wickedness I have hidden My face from this city. ⁶Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. ⁷And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first. ⁸I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. ⁹Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it.’

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR REDEMPTION IN CHRIST
From Ephesians 1

We praise You, God and Father of our Lord Jesus, for You have blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing in Christ:

Thank You, Lord.

You chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in Your sight:

Thank You, Lord.

We praise You for Your glorious grace, freely given in Your beloved Son; by whose blood we are redeemed, our sins forgiven according to the riches of Your grace:

Thank You, Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Tonight

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed; All for Your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed; All for Your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. Amen

Night Prayers Common Worship