

The Chronicle

The Magazine of West Worthing Evangelical Church

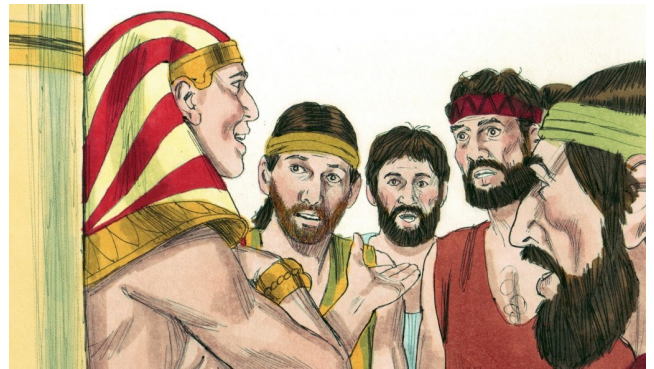
Rugby Road.

October 2021

Read Genesis 45

The reconciliation.

I suppose one of the most moving stories in the bible is the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers. After his brothers had sold him into slavery he had risen to the second most important person in the land. Now through a famine his brothers had come to Egypt to buy grain. They met Joseph but he chose not to reveal himself to them. God, through Joseph, was testing them to bring in circumstances to change them from a dysfunctional family to a covenant family that would become a great nation and herald in the Messiah.



When Joseph **finally reveals** himself to them, they draw near to him at his request (45:4), and he tells the story of God's work in his life, the story of Joseph from a divine perspective (45:4-15). They had sold him into slavery, **but God had planned it** so that Joseph could go ahead and preserve their lives in the midst of the famine. God had a plan all along, and it was for the **salvation of His people**. It came because the party that was **sinned against was Joseph** who was willing to forgive his brothers.

Reconciliation involves two parties.

Joseph took the initiative as God takes the initiative when we are reconciled to Him.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation." **2 Corinthians 5v18-19**

The fact that we needed reconciliation means that our relationship with God was broken. Since God is holy, we were the ones to blame.

Our sin alienated us from Him. [Romans 5:10](#) says that we were enemies of God:

"For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!"

The brothers were alienated to each other. They had arguments with each other **thoughts of murder** which ended up with Joseph being **sold into Slavery**.

But because of the **initiative of Joseph**, they were able to be reconciled.

With such Grace (Unmerited favour) it was irresistible to refuse. Brothers condition was fear. For years they had come to realise they had done wrong. All they had strived for on their own had been smashed.

The best they could hope for at the sight of this Prince of Egypt was Slavery or even a quick death.

God's irresistible grace, effectual grace.

The Brothers could have resisted, Joseph's call to come and be reconciled but although shocked they embraced the one who they had sold into slavery.

RC Sproul says

God's grace is so powerful that it has the capacity to overcome our natural resistance to it.

However, the idea of irresistibility conjures up the idea that one cannot possibly offer any resistance to the grace of God. . **Irresistible grace** does not mean that God's grace is incapable of being resisted. It is not that the Holy Spirit drags people kicking and screaming to Christ against their wills.

The Holy Spirit changes **the inclination of our wills**, so that whereas we were previously unwilling to embrace Christ, now we are willing, and more than willing.

Indeed, we aren't dragged to Christ, we run to Christ, and we embrace Him joyfully because the Spirit has changed our hearts.

The brothers embraced Joseph, and the life they were to enjoy. At this time it would be a better life in Egypt than Canaan. After the Hebrews became slaves the reverse would be true.

This Covenant family God **guided to Egypt** and through **God's providence** was putting the whole family through circumstances that would lead to this point.

About ourselves

By God's regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, we no longer have hearts of stone that are impervious to the commands of God and to the invitations of the gospel.

God melts the hardness of our hearts as He did with the brothers. Joseph could see the change and they were reconciled.

By that **regenerating work** He makes us **new creatures**. The Holy Spirit resurrects us from spiritual death, so that we come to Christ **because we want to come to Christ**.

The reason we want to come to Christ is because God has already done a work of grace in our souls. Without that work, we would never have any desire to come to Christ. That's why we say that regeneration precedes faith.

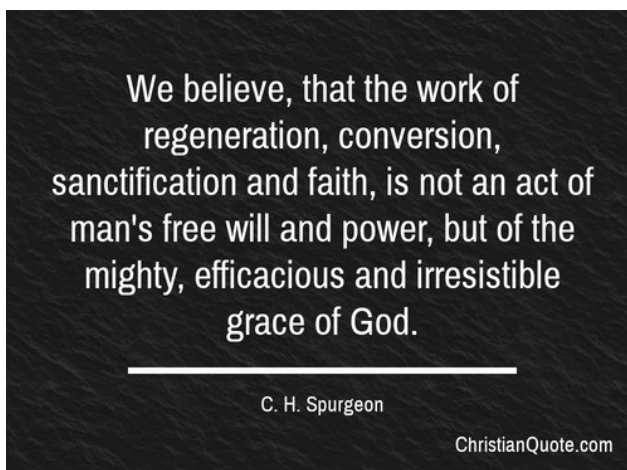
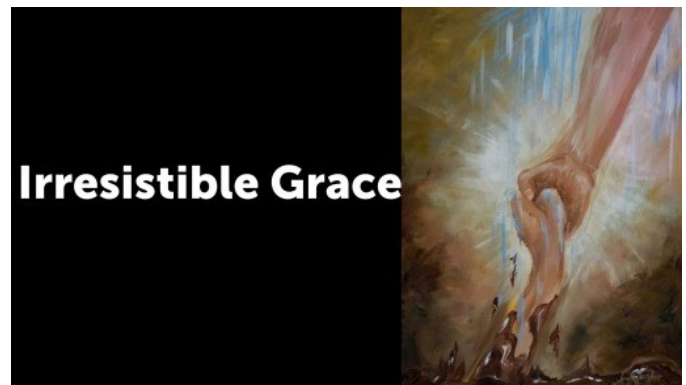
Summary

Joseph is a type of Christ.

Joseph was enslaved by the hand of his brothers, but it ended up with the Salvation of his brothers.

Jesus suffered that we might be saved. It was Jesus who under God's providence, gave His life that we might be rescued from our sins. Jesus was crucified by the hand of men but was really and truly crucified according to the plan of God for the salvation of all who believe?

This Jesus, welcomes and encourages us, too, and envelopes us with His love and embrace as we come to Him with repentant faith.



Devotional Pages for Sundays.

Especially for those unable to get to Church.

Sunday October 3rd

Read Psalm 129..

V1-4 Christians since Apostolic times have experienced oppression. But God has kept His Covenant people and has been preserved. God's Church will always be preserved until He returns.

V5-8 Yet it is right to ask God to shame, turn back and deny fruitfulness to those who hatefully oppose His people. God is always faithful

- 1 **Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not,
as Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.**

*Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

- 2 **Summer and winter,
and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

*Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

- 3 **Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!**

*Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pray for the wisdom of the persecuted church in the preaching of the Gospel and evangelism.

Pray for boldness for Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

Pray for secret house churches that are meeting daily throughout the world.

Pray for Christian brothers and sisters who are imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel.

Pray for specific examples of persecuted believers or churches that you read or hear about in various parts of the world.

Pray for the power of the Gospel to transform oppressive nations throughout the world by name.

Pray for God's grace for those for whom God has chosen the way of extreme suffering or death for His glory.

Pray that the burden for the persecuted church will be placed on your heart more heavily.

Pray that we will pray about persecuted believers in the world according to God's will.

Pray that we will be ready to give an answer for our faith in Christ should we be chosen for persecution.

Sunday October 10th

Read Psalm 130

V1-2 Out of the depths of his very being the Psalmist cries out with his whole heart. What does it take for us to do that?

V3-4 We need to come to the Lord in Repentance and in fear of the Lord, with humility.

V5-6 And with Patience . God will only answer in His time.

V7-8 Based on the hope of His mercy. The Psalmist knows that God will achieve His purpose by redeeming His people. So let's hope in the Lord.

- 1 **My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly trust in Jesus name.
*On Christ, the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.***

- 2 **When weary in this earthly race,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every wild and stormy gale
my anchor holds and will not fail.
*On Christ, the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.***

- 3 **His vow, His covenant and blood
are my defence against the flood;
when earthly hopes are swept away
He will uphold me on that day.
*On Christ, the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.***

4 **When the last trumpet's voice shall sound,
O may I then in Him be found!
clothed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before His throne.**

*On Christ, the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

O Lord my God.
Teach my heart this day,
where and how to find You.
You have made me and re-made me,
and You have bestowed on me all the good things I possess,
and still I do not know You.
I have not yet done that for which I was made.
Teach me to seek You,
for I cannot seek You unless you teach me,
or find you unless You show yourself to me.
Let me seek You in my desire;
let me desire You in my seeking.
Let me find You by loving You;
let me love You when I find You. Amen.

Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury

Sunday October 17th

Read Psalm 131

V1 No pride stops King David's relationship with the Lord His relationship with the Lord comes before matters of State
V2 We need that relationship with the Lord ,trusting in Him as a Child is content with his/her nursing mother. In stress filled days we need that contentment.
V3 This gives David the motivation to hope in the Lord.

1 **With joy we meditate the grace
of our High Priest above;
His heart is made of tenderness,
it overflows with love.**

2 **Touched with a sympathy within,
He knows our feeble frame;
He knows what sore temptations mean,
for He has felt the same.**

3 **He, in the days of feeble flesh,
poured out His cries and tears;
and now exalted feels afresh
what every member bears.**

4 **He'll never quench the smoking flax,
but raise it to a flame;
the bruised reed He never breaks,
nor scorns the meanest name.**

5 **Then let our humble faith address
His mercy and His power;
we shall obtain delivering grace
in the distressing hour.**

If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: "God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled." When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage.

John Owen

We beseech thee, Master, to be our helper and protector. Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the lowly; raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the ungodly; restore the wanderers of thy people; feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners; raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.
Clement of Rome, 1st Century

Sunday October 24th

Read Psalm 132

V1-5 With the Ark of the Covenant in mind David remembers his vow to prepare a place for the Lord..

V6-9 It is a delight to be with the Lords people in the assembly of the Lords people to come and worship Him.

V10-12 David is also reminded the He will keep His covenant with the Lords people. We stand on the promises of God.. Yet we have to remain faithful to the Lord to receive those promised blessings.

V13-18 In the Old Covenant God has chosen Zion as His special resting place. WE have Jesus as our resting place

1 **Standing on the promises
of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let His praises ring:
'Glory in the highest' I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.**

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises
of God my Saviour,
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

2 **Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms
of doubt and fear assail
by the living words of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.**

3 **Standing on the promises I now can see
perfect, present cleansing
in the blood for me;
standing in the liberty
where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.**

4 **Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to Him eternally
by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.**

5 **Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment
to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Saviour as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.**

El Shaddai, Lord God Almighty, we bow down before You to honour, praise and worship You. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We thirst for You, oh God, our Redeemer.

Lord, You are good and Your mercy endures forever. We give You thanks for setting us free from sin, free from bondage, free from temptation, free from evil.

We bask in Your glory and Your holy presence. Heavenly Father, we look forward to the fulfilment of Your promises. We act and continue to act on the promises, even when it doesn't seem to make sense.

Thank You for all the promises that have been fulfilled and the ones that are yet to come.

GREAT God, there was a time when we dreaded the thought of coming near to Thee, for we were guilty and Thou wast angry with us, but now we will praise Thee because Thine anger is turned away and Thou comfortest us. Ay, and the very throne which once was a place of dread has now become the place of shelter. I flee unto Thee to hide me.

We long now to get right away from the world, even from the remembrance of it and have fellowship with the world to come by speaking with Him that was, and is, and is to come, the Almighty. Lord, we have been worried and wearied oftentimes with care, but with Thee care comes to an end, all things are with Thee and when we live in Thee, we live in wealth, in sure repose, in constant joy.

We have to battle with the sons of men against a thousand errors and unrighteousnesses, but when we flee to Thee, there all is truth and purity and holiness, and our heart finds peace. Above all, we have to battle with ourselves and we are very much ashamed of ourselves. After many years of great mercy, after tasting of the powers of the world to come, we still are so weak, so foolish, but oh! when we get away from self to God, there all is truth and purity and holiness and our heart finds peace, wisdom, completeness, delight, joy, victory.

Oh! bring us, then, we pray Thee, now near to Thyself. Let us bathe ourselves in communion with our God. Blessed be the love which chose us before the world began. We can never sufficiently adore Thee for Thy sovereignty, the sovereignty of love which saw us in the ruins of the Fall, yet loved us notwithstanding all.

CH Spurgeon

Sunday October 31st

Read Psalm 133

V1 David records how pleasant it is for believers to be together in unity. A visit to the dentist may be good but it might not be pleasant. Brotherly unity is both good and pleasant!

V2 This is compared to the anointing oil running down the beard of Aaron and on to his clothing.. It spreads and soothes and shows God's hand upon His people.

V3 Blessing.

Unity is like early morning dew. It spreads to others. Where God's people are united. God's blesses and the work of the gospel grows.

1 **O Lord most Holy God,
great are Your purposes,
great is Your will for us,
great is Your love.
And we rejoice in You,
and we will sing to You,
O Father have Your way,
Your will be done.**

2 **For You are building
a temple without hands,
a city without walls,
enclosed by fire.
A place for You to dwell,
built out of living stones,
shaped by a Father's hand
and joined in love.**

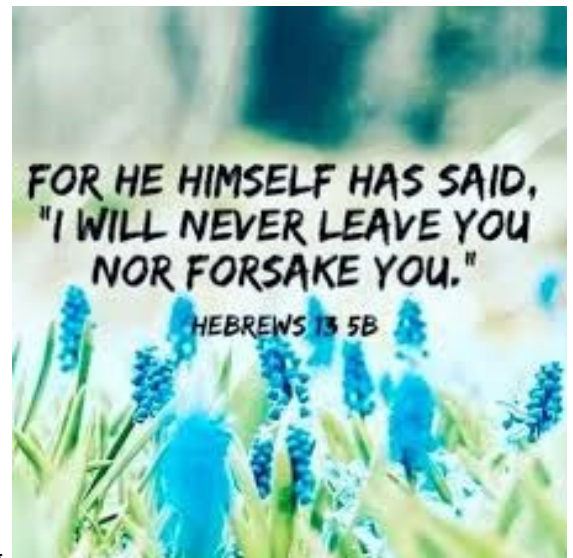
Almighty God, You have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to You; and You have promised through Your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in His Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen

Bishop Chrysostom of Constantinople

What I learned from the COVID pandemic.

People in general were so helpful and kind. Total strangers. I remember one couple who put a note through my letterbox offering to fetch any medication, I might need from Boots. These callers I found most refreshing but on the other side a different story. Not doing my own shopping. Thankfully my son did that for me. No travelling on buses, no hugs, or kisses not even a handshake, no church fellowship.

I really thank God for the radio, CDs, TV. In many ways I felt like a leper in scripture having when out to ring a bell warning everyone to keep their distance. When I moved from Cornwall, little did I imagine such a situation, but I remember waking up one morning thinking, if I did catch covid God was still in control, He had allowed it to happen. It says in Hebrews 'I (God) WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU. So, praise His wonderful name.



Jane Smith

1. Salvation

Romans 10:9-13 KJV

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 3:16-18 NIV

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:3 KJV

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 6:28-29 TLB

They replied, "What should we do to satisfy God?"

Jesus told them, "This is the will of God, that you believe in the one he has sent."

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1. Salvation

AGAIN	GREEK	RICH
ASHAMED	HEART	SALVATION
BELIEVE	JEW	SATISFY
BORN	KINGDOM	SAVED
CONDEMNED	MOUTH	SENT
CONFESS	NAME	SON
DEAD	ONLY	STANDS
DIFFERENCE	PERISH	THINE
ETERNAL	RAISED	WILL
EXCEPT	REPLIED	WORLD