

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply,
Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done,
Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Lo! the Sun's eclipse is o'er, Alleluia!
Lo! He sets in blood no more, Alleluia!

3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell,
Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

4. Lives again our glorious king,
Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save,
Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

5. Soar we now where Christ hath led,
Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise,
Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Alleluia!

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“Running On Empty”

Ruth 1:6-13

March 20, 2016

3 Layers in the Book of Ruth

1. A Romantic Love Story

2. The Amazing Sovereignty and Providence of God

3. The Unlikely Selection of the Blood Line for the Messiah

Ruth 1:1-5

- 1 Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons.
- 2 The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there.
- 3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.
- 4 They took for themselves Moabite women as wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.
- 5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

Quick Review

1. Nothing in this book will be insignificant because of where this book ends, with Ruth in the genealogy of the Messiah.
2. Elimelech's choice to preserve life, resulted in just the opposite for he and his sons.

Prov 14:12

12 There is a way which seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

3. The house of Bethlehem in famine would have been better than the land of Moab in abundance.
4. God's presence was in the land of Israel. So if you leave the land, you leave His presence. The choice is God + nothing in Bethlehem or minus God + everything in Moab .
5. Israel was not to get involved with the people of Moab (Deut 23:4-6, 2 kings 3, Neh. 13:1-3).

6. If God had withheld His rain from heaven because He was not honored in Bethlehem, was He more honored in Moab?
7. Faith, instead of fleeing, would have said, “As God has given to me and my family an inheritance in Bethlehem forever, I will trust Him daily for the food needed by my family, and I will continue to remain here.”
8. Naomi was old, she was barren, she was in a foreign country, she has lost her husband, lost her sons, lost her dreams, lost her hopes of ever raising a family, and she had two alien and childless daughters-in-law. Things looked bleak and hopeless at this juncture of her life. **She is running on empty** because all is lost.

1 Cor 1:27-29

- 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,
- 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,
- 29 so that no man may boast before God.

Trials



Pressure



1. Embrace the trial.

James 1:2

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren,
when you encounter various
trials,

2. Exist in the trial.

3. Escape from the trial.

God's Will

1 Will - 2 Dimensions

God's Determined Will - what He determines will happen.

(unrevealed)

God's Desired Will - what He desires to happen.

(revealed in His Word)

Desired

Ex 5:1

"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "**Let My people go** that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness."

Determined

Ex 4:21

21 The LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will **not let the people go.**

Desired

Ex 20:13

13 "You shall not murder.

Determined

Acts 2:23

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Acts 4:27-28

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Principle: God wills the "greater good". It may be His desired will or it may not be.

God determines for any given situation what will best reveal His divine attributes and therefore achieve His divine purposes.

We exercise our wills the same way:

"I really desire a piece of French Silk pie, but I am determined to stick to my diet."

"I really desire to go on a trip to Europe, but I am determined to save my money."

"I don't want to punish you, but I have determined it is the best thing to do."

Ruth 1:6-13

- 6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.
- 7 So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.
- 8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
- 9 "May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.
- 10 And they said to her, "No, but we will surely return with you to your people."
- 11 But Naomi said, "Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?
- 12 "Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons,
- 13 would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the Lord has gone forth against me."

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.

3 very important words in this verse:

1. “arose”

God begins His work in the 3 widows. A human and a divine work.

2. “return”

To make an about face, to repent, to restore, to turn back, to do again, to change, to withdraw, to reestablish, to a reverse or change of direction.

3. “heard”

Faith is a responder to hearing.

Rom 10:17

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Mark 4:9

9 And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Ruth 1:6-13

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Confluence – a flowing together.

Concurrence – happening at the same time.

Gal 2:20

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Ruth 1:6-13

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- 8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. **May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me.**
- 9 **"May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband."** Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.
- 10 And they said to her, "No, but we will surely return with you to your people."
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A Godly Goodbye:

1. Prayer

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 "May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband."

- ***For God's kindness.***
- ***For God's provision*** - "May the Lord give each of you security in the home of a new husband!"

Ruth 1:6-13

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A Godly Goodbye:

1. Prayer

For God's kindness

For God's provision - "May the Lord give each of you security in the home of a new husband!"

2. Genuine love and affection.

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For God's provision - "May the Lord give each of you security in the home of a new husband!"

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3. Selflessness.

11 But Naomi said, "Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"

12 "Return, my daughters!

Ruth 1:6-13

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A Godly Goodbye:

1. Prayer

For God's kindness

For God's provision - "May the Lord give each of you security in the home of a new husband!"

2. Genuine love and affection.

3. Selflessness.

4. Being sensible in the midst of great emotion.

A Godly Goodbye:

1. Prayer

For God's kindness

For God's provision - "May the Lord give each of you security in the home of a new husband!"

2. Genuine love and affection.

3. Grace and selflessness.

4. Being sensible in the midst of great emotion.

1. Can I produce more sons for you to marry?

2. Look at me – I am old.

3. I am too old to have a husband.

4. If I could have a husband and conceive and give birth to sons, would you wait until they are grown so that you could marry them?

5. Would you really wait 20 more years and refrain from marrying?

6. This is a very difficult, bitter time for me because God's hand of providence is against me – I don't know what the future holds. I see no prospect down the road.

“The Lord’s hand is against me” –

1. The chaos in Israel
2. The famine
3. The exile in obedience to my husband.
4. The death of my husband.
5. The death of my 2 boys.

****”Therefore – girls, you don’t want to go with me.”**

JOHN W. PETERSON

1921 - 2006



John was born in Lindsborg, Kansas, the youngest of seven children. As a child, he loved to sing. When he was twelve, John responded during a church altar call, accepting Jesus' payment for his sins. He began reading the Bible. Starting in Genesis, he read ten chapters per day until he finished Revelation. John kept repeating the practice, becoming well grounded in his understanding of the Bible's teachings. His devotional life as a teenager fed into what became John's desire to write gospel songs. In 1940 John traveled and sang with two of his brothers as the Norse Gospel Trio. One night between Wichita and Lincoln, Kansas, a tanker truck heading their way crossed the center line. It hit them head-on. The collision destroyed their car, but the three Peterson brothers walked away with minor injuries. That incident and many other episodes John experienced made the word "miracle" the theme of the songwriter's life.

It's Not An Easy Road

1. It's not an easy road
We are trav'ling to heaven,
For many are the thorns on the way;
It's not an easy road,
But the Savior is with us,
His presence gives us joy ev'ry day.

Chorus

No, no, it's not an easy road,
No, no, it's not an easy road;
But Jesus walks beside me
And brightens the journey,
And lightens ev'ry heavy load.

2. It's not an easy road
There are trials and troubles
And many are the dangers we meet;
But Jesus guards and keeps
So that nothing can harm us,
And smooths the rugged path for our feet.

Chorus

3. Tho' I am often footsore
And weary from travel,
Tho' I am often bowed down
with care,
Well a better day is coming
When home in the glory
We'll rest in perfect peace
over there.

Chorus

Application

1. Bleakness does not have to result in weakness.
2. The promptings of the Spirit are often a subtle move of God unnoticed until seen in hindsight.
3. Your obedience to the revealed will of God, showing kindness, mercy, and help to others, will have a much broader impact within the unrevealed will of God.
4. It is a sign of spiritual maturity to be able to discern the bitter providences of God in your life and yet not become spiritually paralyzed by them.

