

Thursday 2nd July 2020



Dear people,

What does the Sabbath mean to New Testament believers? Should our day of rest and worship actually be Saturday? In our Exodus study this week we come to a passage in which God put stern emphasis on a strict observance of the Sabbath for his chosen people. They were to do no regular work on the seventh day of the week, literally on pain of death. Does this passage apply to us today, or do we have good reason to observe Sunday rather than Saturday?

Seventh Day Adventists obviously believe that Christians should maintain a Saturday-Sabbath. If that is so, and this Exodus passage forms any part of the foundation for that belief, an honest and consistent hermeneutic would also raise the question of whether those who fail to do so should be put to death. The problem with trying to impose Old Testament law upon New Testament Christianity is that you end up picking and choosing which parts to apply and which parts to disregard. How can we make such choices without being arbitrary? Join us this Sunday, and we will address these questions together.

Until then, God bless!

Pastor Brian

*Newsletter*

# Devotional By David Jeremiah



## Two Kinds of Prayer

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Mark 9:24

Christians who attend liturgical church services—services where prayers and creeds are written out and repeated each Sunday—find security in the repetition of time-honored words. Christians who attend non-liturgical services find comfort in the opposite—praying and professing in a different, spontaneous way each week. Not only is there room for both in Christendom, there is room for both in each Christian’s life.

Jesus taught His disciples a prayer to pray—word for word—that has been repeated in church services for nearly two thousand years (Matthew 6:9-13). But the Bible is also filled with instances of spontaneous prayers—prayers that only make sense in the moment. Like the father who sought relief for his demonized son: “Lord . . . help my unbelief!” Prayers prayed by memory allow us time to pray meditatively, thinking about God rather than searching for words. Spontaneous prayers call up passion and devotion and shameless dependence on the only One who can help.

As you pray, include both practiced prayers and pressured prayers. And enjoy the blessings that come from each.

*Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.*

*Soren Kierkegaard*

# **This week please pray for ...**

A church family: Kat and Josh Fernandez

A church ministry: Worship service ministries

A church leader: Brian and Angie Eggert

## **Announcements:**

4th July – FBC Work Day. Sign up sheet on Facebook. **9AM at the church.**

12th July – Growing Kids God's Way Parenting Course Begins

Communion this Sunday service

25th July – Mens Coffee Club – Espresso Warriors (Level 3 Blacktown Westpoint) **8:30am**

## **Ministry Opportunities at FBC**

Scripture Reading – Glen Truman (glen8truman@gmail.com)

Music Item for Sunday Service – Pastor Brian (bkeggert@outlook.com)

Holiday Bible Club Volunteers (Spring Holidays) – Ann Millis (themillisfamily2001@gmail.com)

22/6/20  
Dear Friends,

# Gibbs with BMW

In an attempt to rally prayer and be more accountable in sending out regular prayer updates, I'm making a commitment to send an update each Monday morning. It will be called, "Where are we headed this week?" and it will not be much more than bullet points for prayer. That will start next week.

In the mean time, some of you are asking, where have you been? We have been very blessed to take some time to sloooooow down. Without being able to travel anywhere for many weeks, we focused on our own soul care with reading, walking, praying, hanging out with our kids at home, and we recognise, this was not something everyone in lockdown was able to do. We thank God for his gracious gift, and we feel our Good Shepherd has led us beside still waters and restored our souls.

Since then, we've learned to "Zoom" around the world from our own home. Back in April we had a meeting with all our missionaries in New Zealand via Zoom, and that was in place of our annual conference over there. Not the same of course, but super amazing none-the-less to hear what God was doing in their lives during lock down. Jane started a Zoom prayer meeting with the lady missionaries in the Pacific region and I with the men. We have seen the Lord do remarkable works of grace in answering our "digital" prayers. One of the men described the challenges of learning a foreign language when everyone is wearing masks and scared to talk to anyone let alone strangers who "most likely" brought this terrible disease. We prayed. That afternoon God sent a young man keen to make friends with a foreigner and they have been meeting many times a week ever since.

Amazingly, nearly all gospel workers we speak with report an increase in attendance, giving and gospel witness since they have had to stop meeting together. Rather than interpret this as God's new way of doing things, everyone is thanking God for turning what Satan meant for evil and using it for his glory.

While the pace of life has yet to return to the frenetic pre-Covid frenzy, ministry opportunities have been increasing. We have been blessed to be faithfully supported by your prayers, and we feel that need continues to grow. As we work in conflict resolution and as mediators and to encourage missionaries on the front lines, it is so clear that apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5) He has told us (John 15:7) "if we abide in him, and his words abide in us, we may ask what we will and it shall be done for us." Here are some things for which we would appreciate your prayers.

## Family

We have been blessed to worship together in our home and feel we have all grown spiritually as a result. As churches re-open, we will feel this loss as we often are not in the same worship context.

## Travel

Australia remains in lockdown for international travel other than limited exceptions. Pray for wisdom in possibly traveling to a conference in the US in October. At the moment, if permission was granted, it would mean a two week quarantine on return.

## Ministry

Conflict resolution: currently working with several individuals deeply hurt by others.

Mediation: about to start a formal mediation which will most likely last the next 6-8 weeks.

Training: We are preparing training to be delivered to our BMW administration on 3 July then training for our missionary candidates to be delivered on 9 July. All via Zoom and either late night or early morning due to time zone differences.

## Transition

Our mission is transitioning to a new General Director during 2020. In our Administrative meetings 2-4 July, we will be doing a lot of brainstorming on how we can build on the solid foundation we currently enjoy. We will also be talking about how Jane and I can effectively deliver peacemaking training to our entire mission organisation. There are a lot of unknowns in a post, yet continuing, coronavirus world.

Finally, while many people have suffered immense physical and financial hardship as a result of Coronavirus, we want to thank God and you for your generous and sacrificial giving. The Lord has been our Shepherd. We have lacked nothing and our cup overflows.

In Christ's abundant love,

Steve and Jane Gibb.