

## **Bible Study Lesson Summary, May 6, 2018**

*This Sunday, May 6th, your readings should be Day 197: Chapters 30-31 of the Second Book of Chronicles, Proverbs 22:1-16, and Chapter 15 of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.*

***There will be no class on Mother's Day so the next class will be May 20.***

### **ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS**

**Rom. 8:** Remember that Paul has just talked about how "I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate." (Rom.7:15) His spirit wants to follow Christ but his flesh doesn't always cooperate. This idea is continued in this chapter. He wants the Romans (and us) to focus on the spirit and not on the flesh. He knows that perfecting the flesh is not possible for him or us. But we have to be working on perfecting the spirit, which is what Jesus is trying to do. Vs. 14: "For those who are led by the spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!"'" Then in vs. 18 he starts explaining that creation was made subject to futility. There is no inheritance there. But through the spirit we can receive glorified bodies that won't be subject to death. In vs. 28 he says that followers are predestined. In other words God knew what was coming, as in his promise in Gen. 3:15. So nothing can separate us from God for Jesus is for us. By the way that does not mean we are safe for we can still separate ourselves from God.

**Rom. 9:** He starts with praying that he could take the place of the Israelites who have not believed. Then he talks in vs. 18-29 of the people who chose against God and how God wills or predestines this. He uses the example of a potter, who sets expectations for the pieces he will save. The rest are trashed. If we don't meet those set expectations we are in trouble. Vs. 30-33 is the emphasis on faith. Some of the Israelites still think they can be saved by the following the law. God as potter has set up higher expectations. They must have faith. Vs. 33 is a quote from Is.28:16. "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion that will make people stumble and a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him shall not be put to shame." In other words God is raising the bar.

**Rom. 10:** Here we get a comparison between the OT (Moses) and the NT. The OT gave the law. Vs. 5; "The one who does these things will live by them." You will survive to get to the Holy Land. Vs. 9; "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You will go to heaven. That is the higher reward from reaching the higher bar. Vs. 21: "All day long I stretched out my hands to a disobedient and contentious people." God keeps trying to help us over the bar.

**Rom. 11:** Paul starts by letting the people of Israel know that God has not disowned them. But they must be like Paul and believe. Then starting in vs. 11 he shows that this salvation comes from the Jews, even the ones who messed up because they opened the door to Jesus the gift of salvation. Vs. 17 starts his warning against boasting for it all comes from Jesus the vine. Vs. 30 starts his explanation that God's mercy to the Jews is the start of God's mercy to the Gentiles.

**Rom. 12:** Vs. 2 is important to every culture, but surely ours, which changes so fast; "do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." In vs. 3-8 he lets us know that we each can have a different role to play in God's plan. Vs. 9-21 show that faith is not enough but we

must live out that faith in faithful service. This includes things like vs. 18, try to live at peace with all.

**Rom. 13:** He continues the theme of living out our faith in this chapter and ends with vs. 11-14 his warning that the time may be short so “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.” (vs. 14)

**Rom. 14:** Vs. 7-8 is a good summary of this chapter; “None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so the, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” But he does add that we need to watch out for our brother. Do not become his stumbling block. (vs. 13-23)

## **THE BOOK OF PROVERBS**

**Prv. 18:** Vs. 18 is interesting: “The lot puts an end to disputes, and is decisive in a controversy between the might.” Currently most people do Rock, Paper, Scissors.

**Prv. 19:** Vs. 18 is good: “Chastise your son, for in this there is hope; but do not desire his death.” For then there is no hope of him helping you in your retirement.

**Prv. 20:** Vs. 9 is a key: “Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am cleansed of my sin.”” Reading through these proverbs thoughtfully can help a person write up their own examination of conscience. The wise saying can fine-tune our attitudes rather than the basics we usually use like “I haven’t killed anyone so I must be okay.

**Prv. 21:** So all of these are helpful but we must realize that the real test comes on judgment day. Vs. 2: “All the ways of a man may be right in his own eyes, but it is the Lord who proves hearts.”

## **SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES**

**2Chr. 10:** Rehoboam is King of Judah. He consults the elders but doesn’t like their answer so he consults his young friends in vs. 8. They are tough young men with no experience or wisdom from Proverbs so they suggest Rehoboam be a tough-guy with his people. (vs. 11) So the kingdoms become divided.

**2Chr. 11:** Vs. 1-3, King Rehoboam wants to go to war with the North (Israel) and reunite the kingdom he divided through his arrogance but the Lord has a prophet tell him to hold back. He listens. Vs. 13-17, Jeroboam sets up his own priesthood in the north and sacrificed at the high places and satyrs and calves he had made. Vs. 21, Rehoboam has learned from his father, Solomon, and has 18 wives and sixty concubines.

**2Chr. 12:** King Rehoboam was not faithful to God so punishment came from Egypt and their leader Shishak, who made of mess and even looted Jerusalem and the Temple but God held him back from doing worse.

**2Chr. 13:** Abijah takes over as King of Judah. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, servant of Solomon is King of Israel. He wants to attack the south. Abijah warns him in vs. 3-12 but Jeroboam has no respect for the Lord and attacks and gets beat and eventually dies.

**2Chr. 14:** Asa takes over for dad in the south and is faithful to God. The Ethiopians attack but get beat by God who likes faithful kings.

**2Chr. 15:** At the word of Azariah, son of Oded, Asa called for a religious reform for Judah. Vs. 13, “and everyone who would not seek the Lord, the God of Israel, was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.” Even his mother got deposed in vs. 16.

**2Chr. 16:** After 36 years as king, Asa bought an enemy army with silver and gold from the temple to battle the northern kingdom. In other words he didn’t call upon the Lord and God made his feet rot and he died.

**2Chr. 17:** Jehoshaphat succeeds Asa and is loyal to the Lord and things go well for him. Vs. 10: “Now the fear of the Lord was upon all the kingdoms of the countries surrounding Judah, so that they did not war against Jehoshaphat.”

**2Chr. 18:** King Jehoshaphat makes friends with King Ahab, king of Israel. They want to attack Ramoth-gilead. 400 prophets say yes and Micaiah says no. They go and King Ahab is killed.

**2Chr. 19:** King Jehoshaphat is rebuked and so he gets back on track and served the Lord faithfully.

**2Chr. 20:** Kingdoms threaten Judah from the south so Jehoshaphat prays with the people and the Lord has the enemy armies fight each other and the threat is eliminated.

**2Chr. 21:** Next in line is Jehoram for king of Judea. He killed his brothers and was evil like the kings of Israel. (vs. 5-7) Elijah told him the Lord would stir up his enemies and give him a bowel disease. It happened and he died from the bowel disease after two years and they didn’t even have a funeral pyre for him, no glory for a bad guy.

**2Chr. 22:** Ahaziah was the only son of Jehoram left so he became king but only for a year. He had been with the northern kingdom during that war that his father started and ended up getting killed. His mom tried to kill off all the royal offspring of the house of Judah. But the princess Jehosheba rescued Joash and hid him for six years while grandma Athaliah reigned.

**2Chr. 23:** This is cool, the priests took up arms and made Joash king and when Athaliah protested, they took her outside the temple and killed her. Then they got rid of the altars of Baal that Athaliah had set up in it.

**2Chr. 24:** King Joash took over at age seven. With Jehoiada the priest’s help he restored the temple. But after a while Jehoiada died, at the age of 130. Joash started to listen to rowdy princes and worshipping false gods. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, preached against this abomination and Joash had him killed. God punished him within a year by having the Arameans attack and even wounded Joash. The friends of Jehoiada and his son killed him in his sickbed.

**2Chr. 25:** Amaziah took his dad's place and was pleasing to the Lord, though not wholeheartedly. He killed the guys who had killed his dad, Joash. He should have let God deal with that. Then he wanted to go to war so he hired some mercenaries from Israel. That was not good. After being warned by a prophet, he dismissed them with their pay but did not have them join in battle. He won the battle against the people of Seir. But took their idols home with him to worship. While he was gone the mercenaries had looted much of Judah. Then he tried to work with Israel and that ended with Judah getting beat and they were looted. A conspiracy of faithful people killed Amaziah because he had turned from God.

**2Chr. 26:** Uzziah took his father's place and did well at first and rebuilt the city and temple. Then he made the mistake of entering the temple as if he were a priest and offered an incense offering. The priests confronted him and when he didn't back down God gave him leprosy. Isaiah supposedly wrote about him, vs. 22, and his tomb just said: "He was a leper."

**2Chr. 27:** Jotham took his father's place and was good but the people weren't.

**2Chr. 28:** His son Ahaz took over and was bad because he worshipped Baal. The Arameans beat him. The Israelites beat him and plundered Judah, but some of the soldiers had a change of heart after hearing from Oded the prophet and helped out the captives and released them. King Ahaz did not have a change of heart and tried making friends with Assyria. That didn't work but Ahaz had taken gold and silver from the temple to do this. He even closed up the temple for he was worshipping other idols. He died.

**2Chr. 29:** His son Hezekiah was good and restored the temple. You should have noticed the emphasis of the temple in the southern kingdom in these Chronicle Books. Remember the author is trying to motivate the people in his time to rebuild the temple. That was after the exile.