

Monday

2 Samuel 7:12-17

February 26

Kingdom Forever

I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2 Samuel 7:13)

BFF is what some kids call their really good friends. It stands for “Best Friends Forever”. It’s based on the idea that they really like each other and cannot foresee anything that could possibly change that. Friendships, as we unfortunately find out in life, sometimes come and go. When we speak of “forever”, we often make it conditional. Our best definition of “forever” can only ever be “a very long time”.

When the Lord speaks of “forever”, though, He actually means “forever”. Without end. Unconditional. Bound up in Christ. Eternal. Full of life. Only God can mean “forever” in this way. Only God can establish and maintain a promise of this magnitude. And only the Lord can bring it to bear in such a magnificent way as He has done! The Kingdom in the line of David has been established and lasts the test of time! Forever will the Lord Jesus Himself sit upon the throne. Forever will we look to Him with thanks and praise!

Dear Jesus, bring me in to your established Kingdom forever. Amen.

Wednesday

Psalm 22:1-11

February 28

Forsaken

Be not far from me for trouble is near. (Psalm 22:11)

Sometimes in life we experience trauma so powerful we begin to feel as if it can’t be overcome. Even as if the Lord has hidden Himself from us. That’s exactly the way David felt when he wrote today’s Psalm. “Why have you forsaken me?” “Why are you so far from saving me?” “Why are you not answering when I cry to you?” Take a close look at this Psalm and just see if maybe David has put words to feelings you have sometimes. So what do we do if we feel like this? Again to the Psalm! As we go through any kind of suffering, it’s impossible for us to see the outcome, but we can trust that the Lord will continue to be faithful! He has always delivered His people, David reminds us. Trust Him when He says He won’t leave you now! Trust the One who put this Psalm upon His lips as He suffered the cross and died. He was forsaken so that you would never be. Our trust and hope planted in the promises of the Lord is never misplaced.

Lord of mercy, keep me faithful and deliver me from all suffering. Amen.

Tuesday

2 Samuel 7:18-29

February 27

Who am I?

“Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that You have brought me thus far?” (2 Samuel 7:18)

Here we see David humbly asking, “Who am I?” David is wondering why the Lord has done such great things for him. *What have I done to deserve all these blessings?* Nowhere in 2 Samuel 7 does God say that David is deserving of such blessing. Instead, God *graciously* blesses David. David *doesn’t* deserve to be the father of a dynasty and a kingdom that will stand forever. As proof, just look at David’s very serious sins in 2 Samuel 11 and elsewhere. Yet despite David’s sins and shortcomings, God *does* build His house through the family of David, eventually sending the One who is both His Son and David’s son, Christ Jesus.

Who am I that God has blessed me in so many ways, spiritually and physically? Who are you that God has similarly blessed you? God doesn’t say that we are blessed because of who *we* are, but because of who *HE* is!

Thank You, Lord God, for your many, gracious blessings. Amen.

Thursday

Philippians 1:21-26

March 1

To Live is Christ

“My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.” (Phil. 1:23b-24)

Scripture tells us few details about what will happen immediately after we die. Most of our concepts about life after death come from personal or cultural imaginings. Let’s allow Paul’s words to the Philippians to guide our reflections on life after death: “My desire is to depart and be with Christ.” *That’s* the key. Christians depart this valley of the shadow of death and are immediately in the presence of Christ Himself! Resting in the presence of Jesus will be “far better” than even our greatest days on earth! Eternal life at Jesus’ side is coming soon, but we’re not there yet. We still remain in the flesh, and as long as that’s the case, we are here to labor fruitfully for our family, church, neighbors, community, and above all, God’s kingdom of faith. Your eternal destination with Christ is sure and certain! It’s also sure and certain that Christ has good things for you to do in His name each and every day until you depart this life to enjoy the better life to come.

Jesus, thank you for giving me eternal hope and daily purpose. Amen.

Friday

Ephesians 1:3-6

March 2

Chosen

*God . . . blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places even as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world.
(Ephesians 1:3-4)*

I don't recall if I have ever been chosen first by a captain in a major dodgeball tournament, but wouldn't it be nice? That would mean the team captain knows your prowess and recognizes your amazing skills at not being hit by flying objects. With that first pick would come heavy expectations and responsibilities, but hey, you're the best! Good thing, because being chosen early means you have to be the best. That's **not** how it is with God's team though. Yeah, He chose His team and has made you an early pick, no question about it. Even before Creation was laid in place, the Lord already had in mind to choose you. But not because of how good you are. Not because of how great you would one day become. In fact, the choice is entirely based on the gracious and merciful work of Christ on your behalf. You made the team thanks to Christ.

Dear Father, thank you for choosing me through Christ. Amen.

Saturday

Psalms 23

March 3

Dwelling in the House of the Lord

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6)

In six beautiful verses, the 23rd Psalm unfolds God's will for us both in time and in eternity. God wants only good things for you! Look at all He does: He shepherds you. He restores you. He leads you. He walks through valleys with you. He comforts you. He feeds you. He keeps you safe from enemies. He gives you eternal life.

Like a dedicated Shepherd keeping close watch over His lambs, the Lord is the Keeper of your life, now and forever. His goodness and mercy follow you every single day because, by His very nature, He is always good and merciful. You will fully experience and appreciate His goodness and mercy when you depart this life to live with your Lord Jesus. He promises that He is preparing a place for you (John 14:2-3). Your eternal home with the Lord will be free from all ills, fears, sins, and sorrows. Better yet, it will overflow with love, beauty, peace, and joy.

Lord, set my heart on You and on Your house where I will dwell forever. Amen.

Thy Will Be Done

**Daily Devotions to
Accompany our
Scripture Readings for
the Season of Lent**

Week 3