

Newsletter – Sunday 6th March 2022

Questions relating to Sermon

1. What does it reveal about us when we, like Job, are tempted to say that there is 'no profit in trying to please God'?
2. Discuss what Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes as an indication that he was struggling with the concept of the fall of man.
3. Explore how and why this is mirrored in modern society.
4. Examine the role that the acknowledgement that we have no righteousness of our own, ultimately plays in receiving Christ as our righteousness.

Bible References

Reading: Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

Genesis 3:17-19 “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Job 34:7-9 Is there anyone like Job, who drinks scorn like water? He keeps company with evildoers; he associates with the wicked. For he says, ‘There is no profit in trying to please God.’

Psalms 143:1-2 Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

Proverbs 10:16 The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin

and death.

Proverbs 11:5 The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

Proverbs 12:7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous stands firm.

Proverbs 13:21 Trouble pursues the sinner, but the righteous are rewarded with good things.

Ecclesiastes 7:15 In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: the righteous perishing in their righteousness, and the wicked living long in their wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 8:14 There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

Malachi 3:13-15: “You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the Lord. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’ “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.’”

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Philippians 3:8-9 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

News

Mission Newsflash - The Mission Committee has sent a donation of \$2000 on behalf of the church to the Baptist World Alliance Ukraine Appeal. This will be used by the Baptist churches for the needs of refugees fleeing from the current conflict.

To watch a video clip about the work of Baptist churches in Ukraine during the conflict, see "A call to respond" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhaqTyI96jU>

Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in both Ukraine and Russia as their lives are torn apart by the war.

Pray that their faith in God will stay strong and that their hearts will know God's peace as they trust Him for their everyday needs, safety and a resolution to the present conflict.

House for rent – Maeroa, Hamilton – brick home, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, double garage, washing machine, fully fenced. \$550 per week. For more information, contact Sharon 027 669 3278

Honey is available – Adrian Carter has restocked supplies of his delicious honey, here in the office! It is still available in 1kg jars, for \$25, as well as a new size of 500g jars, for \$15.

Strength and Balance – classes will continue on Mondays at 9.30am in the church hall.

Walk and Talk – meet every Wednesday at Lake Te Ko Utu carpark at 9.30am and then at 10am at Columbus Café (at Mitre 10). Please feel free to join us on the walk or just for coffee. Feel free to bring a friend. For more info, contact Ann Hugill - 021 155 2023