

In the midst of the world's bad news,

THE GOOD NEWS!

Beautiful Savior's Weekly Worship & News

4/29/2020

PASTORS' PEN:

WEEK SEVEN of "ALL activity at Beautiful Savior - paused and postponed." With all the recent news there is some hope that in early, mid, late May, those of us who can or want will be able to resume limited church activities under "social distancing" guidelines! WAHOO! Until that time we continue to STAY IN, STAY SAFE, and STAY WELL! Continue to pray for protection and healing for all people around the world; pray for an end to this virus; pray that God brings fallen sinful creation back to Him through this crisis. Pray that all people reexamine their relationship with God. Only Jesus is LIFE, now and forever! Hear Him, believe Him, trust Him, share Him, live Him!

WORSHIP:

Until we resume our "normal" church activities, these weekly worship pages will be mailed and available on our website (bslcms.org) AND a corresponding weekly recorded worship will be available on our facebook page (a link is on our website). Again, everything is coordinated so that all of us will be united in the same worship even though we are separated. OPEN your BIBLE, catechism, and hymnal and hear and worship the LORD!

CATECHISM REVIEW: LORD'S PRAYER: 3rd Petition (for meditation and prayer)

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will."

WEEKLY WORD: ONE CHAPTER EACH AND EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK - LUKE 22-28

We ALL continue reading the exact same BIBLE chapter every day of the week! Wow, what a sense of unity and togetherness - perfectly joined in the LORD and His precious WORD! This week is LUKE, chapters 22-28, FINISHING Luke in just 4 weeks! Please include with your daily devotions. There is no greater blessing than being in Jesus Christ and His saving Word with our family of brothers and sisters in Christ!

SERMON/DEVOTION: Job 42:2-3 (read all of Job chapters 38-42) - "Who Knows?"

An interesting article last week compared predicting flu viruses to forecasting the weather - "In a lot of ways, it's very similar," said one doctor. The article continued, "To predict the future, both meteorologists & doctors start with the now . . . Looking into the future comes with challenges . . . Both weather and medical forecasters can use their experience paired with model data to decide forecast limitations . . . One thing is certain, it is tough to predict." In conclusion the doctor said, "We don't really know what's going to happen." Wow! That was one of the most honest, humble, accurate, and "real news" I have heard in a long time - no political spin, no bias, no foolishness, no "fake news!" Man - at least one - readily admits that with the weather AND flu models, "We just don't know!"

Other recent news reported that 94% of NY's coronavirus deaths involved people with additional health issues, and CA research suggested their infection rate was 50 times higher what was first reported. If true that means the death rate is not a tragic 4.5% but rather 0.1 to 0.2% - basically the same as any flu season - yet we have financially devastated millions of peoples lives! A year from now we will know a whole lot more, but right now - just like with the weather - we don't know! Even experts' "models" do not know! As even they say, "Good, accurate, and complete data in, good data out; but bad, inaccurate, or incomplete data in, bad data out!"

Certainly, as with any flu season, those with additional health issues need to be protected, and our nation has done what it thought best, but the fact remains we do not know! We know as much about this virus as we do the

weather - and how often is that accurate and reliable??!! AND if man's "models" about this virus aren't accurate, then what does that say about other of man's claims and "models" we are told are true and fact? What about man's "models" predicting that - due to man's activities - the earth is getting either colder or warmer? What about man's methods and models to determine the origin and age of the earth? What about carbon and radiation dating? What about man's assertion that this planet has always been and must always be just like it is right now? How about man's science and biology that confirms a baby in the womb IS human LIFE but still promotes abortion? What about man's view that sex anytime with anyone is good and should have no negative consequence whatsoever? What about manmade governments that steal from one citizen to give to another? What about man's assertions that there is no God, no Creator, no word of God, no sin, no heaven, no hell? Like the weather, wouldn't the most honest and truthful thing for man to say is, "We don't know," rather than claim "undisputed science?" As we're again learning right now, if bad, inaccurate, or incomplete data goes in, bad, inaccurate, or incomplete data comes out! Yet, we are all told daily to believe them, trust their words, and follow them! Yet, how many of us believe, trust, and follow - without question - the weather forecast? By definition a "fool" says and does "foolish" things; wise men and women don't heed fools but only chuckle. Jesus called it the blind leading the blind (Mt 15:14) - listening and following those who do not know!

Job had a similar debate with God (read chapters 38-42). When God finally entered the conversation He said, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?," and, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding" (38:2,4), then He speaks of His creation of the earth and the animals. Later He asks, "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it" (40:2), and then describes His creation of great beasts "Behemoth" and "Leviathan!" (dinosaurs? you decide). After God speaks, Job humbly admits, "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know . . . therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (42:2-3,6). Job honestly confesses some of the hardest but most true words for sinful humanity - "I do not know!"

BUT Job basically also says, "YOU, GOD, do know! For YOU are; YOU were there; YOU did; YOU are GOD, CREATOR, and LORD!" God's Word truly tells us ALL we really KNOW; EVERYTHING fallen man's science and wisdom discovers MUST align perfectly with God's Word when accurately understood - until then we just don't know! For God doesn't give us expert "models" but TRUTH! God - who was there - tells us the origin and age of the earth; God tells us this planet is ever changing; God accurately tells us the past and the future; God tells us that a baby - in or out of the womb - is His design for continued LIFE; God created sex for one male husband and one female wife in one marriage; God commands, "Thou shall not steal;" God reveals there is only one who knows - FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT!

God reveals much to us in His Word - CHECK IT OUT FOR YOURSELVES! - but the most important thing God wants us to know is His LOVE. In LOVE God created all things good, but man rebelled against God, His Word, and His gift of LIFE and died - eternally! In LOVE God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for all sin - to die in place of all sinners! In LOVE Jesus rose to conquer sin, death, and hell forever! In Christ's death and resurrection there is forgiveness of all sins - God's righteous punishment of death and hell is removed and His created gift of LIFE is restored! In LOVE God sends His Spirit to create faith and trust in Him bringing LIFE in Jesus Christ! This is no educated guess or theory up for vote; this is no experts' model or forecast of the weather - this is TRUTH, now and forever!

God Word declares, "The wisdom of this world is folly with God" (1 Cor 3:19), and, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Is 55:8-9). This is not man's "truth" that changes everyday with each new discovery or understanding - like the weather - but truth that NEVER changes! This is truth to hear, believe, and trust ALWAYS - through life, through death, to resurrection and everlasting LIFE! For who knows? Not man, but only God in Jesus Christ the LORD! AMEN!

*"The foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men." -- 1 Corinthians 1:25*