## Friday, March 22: Read Psalms 49-50, Proverbs 22

Sandwiched among the songs of the Sons of Korah is a proverb, recorded here in Psalm 49. What is the price for eternal redemption? Beyond human ability to pay! The truth revealed in verse 15 is that only God can redeem a life from death to eternal life. This truth cannot be bought with riches, wisdom or human endeavors. It can only be obtained by faith in God.

If the Sons of Korah were the temple singers (Levites), Asaph was the leader of the band. He will have further Psalms recorded later in the book. In this Psalm, Asaph declares the singular greatness of God and admonishes all to offer thanksgiving to him. He alone can save and deliver. He needs nothing from us, but rather calls us to look to him in all our needs and then to offer him thanks for all he does.

Read Romans 14 to preview this Sunday's sermon

#### Notes:

### **Pray for Our Missionaries**

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), David & Miriam Trott (Cochabamba, Bolivia), Mario Bloise (Argentina), Dan & DeAnn Gerard (San Antonio, TX), , Craig & Shelly Shafer (Sentani, Indonesia), Sue Saunders (Bosnia), Matt and Becky Kooi (Tijuana), Daniel Jezowski (Wycliffe), Andrew & Sara Williams (Ethnos360), Brad and Christa Babjack (University of West Virginia), Salomon and Megan Guzman (Tijuana), Alvaro and Rachel Garriga (Central Asia), William and Salma Garcia (Tijuana church plant)



#### Spiritual Disciplines Guide: Reading through Psalms and Proverbs

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advise or wisdom gleaned from your reading.
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- Think about what you're reading. Ask:
  - 1. How does this apply to me?
  - 2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?
  - 3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?
- Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.

# Monday, March 18 Read <u>Psalms 41-42, Proverbs 18</u>

Psalm 41 finishes the first of the five sections (books) of the book of Psalms. David extols the advantages of godliness, specifically being concerned for others who are "weak". The godly in turn can expect God to be merciful to them when they are weak.

Psalm 42 launches the second section of Psalms. The majority of these are written by David's contemporaries -- "The Sons of Korah", "Asaph", etc. Verses 5 and 11 are a good passage to refer to when you are tempted to doubt and get depressed. Use them to refocus on God.

\*Again we will read through Proverbs this week, reading one a day according to the date. Note the contrasts as you study each chapter. Mark passages that are personally applicable or helpful in your present life circumstances.

#### Notes:

**Pray for:** --- My relationship with God

- ---My life roles
- ---My personal needs/weak areas
- ---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, March 19: Read <u>Psalms 43-44, Proverbs 19</u>

Psalms 43 is a continuation of Psalm 42, asking God for vindication and relief. Psalm 44 is a Psalm written in defeat, calling upon God to once again bring victory to the armies of Israel. The Psalmist can find no explanation for their downfall and appeals to God on behalf of his mercy and love to act in their favor. The words hold true for us at times, as well as when we see no human reason for our failures or distress. A test of faith? Perhaps, and always an opportunity for God to gain glory, even in our weakness (*2 Corinthians* 12:7-10)

Tuesday: pray for family and friends by name.

# Wednesday March 20: Read <u>Psalms 45-46, Proverbs 20</u>

Psalm 45 is a Royal Psalm, a song to be sung at the wedding of a King. The metaphors carry to Christ the Messiah King, who will be one day wed his Bride, the people of God. Psalm 46 is an often quoted Psalm declaring the greatness of God and the stark confidence his people can have under his sovereign lordship. The Psalmist's conclusion ought to be ours as well -- be still (calm down), and know that the Lord is God (God is in control)

### Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- 1. <u>Leadership</u>: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest (*Matthew 9:38*)
- 2. <u>Worship</u>: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
- 3. <u>Fellowship</u>: Pray that God would deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship.
- 4. <u>Discipleship</u>: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
- 5. <u>Outreach</u>: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others, especially through the Kingdom Initiative.
- 6. <u>Future Faith Goals</u>: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

# Thursday, March 21: Read Psalms 47-48, Proverbs 21

Psalm 47 is a pure Psalm of praise. We are to sing, clap and shout to God because he is awesome and great! He alone is King over all the earth. He reigns over all nations. He is seated high above in glory. Praise him!

Psalm 48 extols the uniqueness and beauty of Zion, the city of God, Jerusalem! Isn't it interesting that three thousand years after the writing of this Psalm, Jerusalem continues to be one of earth's most popular visitation sites -- people the world over still marvel at that ancient city and at what God has done, and is yet to do for it! He will sustain it until the end of time!

#### **Notes:**

#### Thursday Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- Neighbors People who live around me.
- People at Work Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.