

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading For July 19:

1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30:

In chapter 28 David gives a charge to the leaders of Israel (1-8) and also to Solomon (9-21). The thrust of each charge is that they should remain faithful to the LORD and His covenant that they might experience His blessing and also they are to carry out the building of the temple for the ark of God and for right worship through the land.

Chapter 29 completes the first book of Chronicles by showing things are in good shape for Solomon and Israel to build the temple. Offerings for the temple have come in, David praises the LORD in the presence of the assembly of leaders to show His grace behind all that has happened, then we read of Solomon's anointing as king, and David's death.

These last two chapters close out the life of David—showing that both the LORD and David were faithful. The LORD has been faithful to carry out His promises to His people and David was faithful to follow the commands of the LORD. The way forward for post-exilic Israel is to do the same. What is more, the way forward is to look for the ultimate promises God made to David and Solomon which will ultimately be fulfilled through the coming anointed one (the Messiah). God will be faithful to establish His throne and His presence forever with His people and to bless them. Post-exilic Israel must be faithful to Him to play their part in preparing for that coming. New Covenant believers, as we read Chronicles today, should rejoice that the eternal temple of God has come among us and continues to be with us forever (John 1:14; 2:18-22; Revelation 21:3-7).

Romans 5:6-21:

Yesterday we read that Paul introduced us to the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. In today's passage, we learn of two reasons which stand behind that hope.

First, from verses 6-11 we know that in Jesus Christ God's future grace by which He will continue to work in us is certain based upon the past grace by which He has secured our justification and salvation. Our salvation does not depend upon our having first commended ourselves to God to be saved (if it did, this might also mean our future salvation depends upon us). On the contrary, God redeemed us through Jesus and demonstrated His love for us in that He sent His Son to die for us even in spite of the fact we were His enemies. Since He has done such a great past work, we know He will continue to do the future work of ultimately saving us.

Second, in verses 12- 21 it is revealed now that we are under the headship of Jesus Christ, instead of under the headship of Adam (sin entered into the world of mankind through him and Eve, yet, he is the head of mankind so Paul mentions him alone). Likewise, instead of facing the fruit of Adam's sin (death and judgment), we face the blessing of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is now ours. As a result of this, the grace in which we stand super-abounds and thus overcomes the sin under which we used to live. This super-abounding grace will result in eternal life for us (21), so we have great hope!

As we will see tomorrow, this certainty we have does not give us a license to sin. To the contrary, it gives us hope that we can overcome sin and do not have to be dominated by it. Grace is God's unmerited favor whereby we are saved and whereby we are transformed to be all God wants us to be. To understand the present and future aspects of the gospel (God's grace doesn't just forgive, but also transforms me) is one of the most revolutionary lessons each Christian must learn. It will comprise the foundation whereby the saint can grow in his/her walk with Jesus Christ, to say, "Yes," to God and "No" to sin.

Psalm 15:1-5:

In Psalm 15 we read one of the key ethical texts in the Old Testament. It asks of God the questions, "who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?" In other words who can approach God and dwell with Him in a way to experience His blessings, to have communion with Him? The answer is clear: Those who are blameless, do what is right, speak the truth, love his neighbor and friend, honor God worshipers, and watch out for the poor. We see shades of the Ten Commandments here. Such an emphasis not only unveils what is dear to God, but helps us to see that God's standard is perfection (Matthew 5:48). Yet, the only way we can attain this standard is to trust Jesus Christ as our Savior—to have His sin penalty payment applied to us and His perfection or righteousness credited to us (1 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18). In other words, holiness is the key which unlocks salvation's door, and that key is found only in Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 19:18-19:

Here are two often-repeated themes in the Proverbs: It is important to discipline our children, for if we do not, we will surely contribute to their destruction (18). Also, a man who struggles with anger will have problems again and again (19). Be careful trying to rescue such a person (from legal trouble, for example) and make sure you yourself are not filled with anger. The anger of man never produces the righteousness God requires (James 1:20).