

1) Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life

Week 5 of 7, John Kincaid, Summer, 2013

2) God's Circle of Protection – Titus 2:14

- The believer is God's treasured possession forever Rom.8:16; 1 Cor.6:19-20; Deut.7:6; 1 Pet.2:9; Eph.1:14
- Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people
- The Greek word translated peculiar means that God is around His people, like a circle around dots
- No temptation, no sorrow can reach you unless it passes through God's circle first
- God lets some of Satan's arrows through, then He gives you the grace to bear it, while He comforts you

3) God's Grace is Sufficient for You – 2 Cor.12:8-10

- Unbelievers laugh and scoff at God. 2 Pet.3:3-4
- Paul said he delighted in weaknesses. Why?
- God's power is made perfect in our weakness
- In our weakness, others see Christ more clearly in us
- We have this treasure (the Gospel) in jars of clay (our fragile bodies). Why? to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Cor.4:7

4) The Purpose of Suffering - 2 Tim.3:10-12

- God uses hardship to draw us closer to Him
- Paul said to Timothy, "You know about my sufferings, Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them."
- Rescued means that Jesus drags us to Himself
- God's main purpose is not to deliver us from danger; His main purpose is to draw us closer to God

5) The God of Hope – 1 Peter 1:3-9; Rom.15:13

- Suffering enables believers to demonstrate their faith
- Without trials we wouldn't have reason to use our faith
- A Christian's suffering ultimately produces hope
- Our inheritance is in heaven; we are heirs of God
- Have great endurance & patience; joyfully give thanks
- Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance

6) Our Response to Suffering

- God is glorified by our faith response to hardship
- Trials strengthen our faith. James 1:2-4; Rom.5:3-5
- They force us to the end of our resources, so that we can only cling to God. Psalm 63:8, 101:3; Jer.8:5
- God will not give us more than we can endure if we rely on His strength. Phil.4:13; 1 Cor.10:13; Psa.46:1
- If you see no way out, it means that God Himself has judged your faith is strong enough to continue

7) God permits trials

- Don't ask: "Why is God doing this to me?"
- Instead ask: "Why is God doing this to me?"
- During trials, we learn and grow the most
- God permits trials, but not so that God can determine if our faith is genuine (He already knows)
- Testing shows us whether we are ready to obey God

8) Choose this day whom you will serve - Josh.24:15

- When we choose God, regardless of circumstances:
- God is glorified; Satan the tempter is defeated;
 - Believers around us are encouraged;

- Unbelievers are drawn to our source of strength;
- Angels & demons can see God's wisdom worked out
- and we are changed into the likeness of Christ.
- God works for the good of those who love him.

9) All they that see him - Psalm 22:7

All they that see him laugh him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying:

He trusted in God - Psalm 22:8 = Matt.27:43

He trusted in God that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he delight in him.

10) Thy rebuke hath broken His heart – Psa.69:20

Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man, neither found He any to comfort Him.

11) Behold, and see - Lamentations 1:12 Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

He was cut off - Isaiah 53:8b

He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken.

12) But Thou didst not leave, Psa.16:10 = Acts 2:27

But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption

13) Slide to the middle

- Messiah was conceived and 1st performed for the Easter season, not Christmas
- On April 8, 1742 there was a public rehearsal, 5 days before the 1st performance in Dublin
- It was the 1st time anyone heard Handel's Messiah
- News spread like wildfire; a large crowd was expected
- To provide more seating, newspaper ads asked ladies to refrain from wearing hoops under their skirts, and men to leave their swords at home

14) Surprise

- Handel at age 25 was a court composer in Germany
- In 1712, he got permission for a short trip to London
- But he never came back. 2 years later, his former employer became King George I of England
- Handel was reconciled with his king through music
- Handel wrote a piece to be played as a surprise for the king's boating party on the Thames in 1717
- This piece was called "Water Music"

15) Doing brings the blessing – James 1:22-25

- Handel was known as a devout follower of Christ
- He gave over 30 charity performances of Messiah
- "Handel, throughout his life, manifested a deep sense of religion. He frequently declared the pleasure in setting the Scriptures to music." - Sir John Hawkins
- Handel comforted his brother-in-law on the death of Handel's mother: "It pleased the Almighty, to whose Holy Will I submit myself with Christian submissions."

16) Handel's Favorite Charity

17) He died as he lived

- James Smyth visited, hours before Handel's death
- Smyth wrote, "He died as he lived - a good Christian, with a true sense of his duty to God and man, and in perfect charity with all the world." Handel's epitaph:

- "The most excellent musician any age ever produced"
- Christians are the aroma of Christ. 2 Cor.2:14-16
- During Handel's finest moments, his neighbors caught the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ

18) Handel's House

19) Westminster Abbey, Founded 960 AD

20) My joy knows no bounds – 2 Cor.7:4

- Warren Wiersbe on God's amazing formula: great affliction & poverty plus grace = abundant joy
- 2 Cor.8:1-2 Example of the Macedonian churches
- In the most severe trial, they had overflowing joy
- Joy does not depend on our circumstances
- Peter was threatened, imprisoned and crucified
- But Peter never lost the joy he found when he confessed by faith that Jesus is Lord. John 16:22

21) I am in you – John 14:20

- Peter was the 1st to confess that Jesus was Messiah. Jesus replied that Peter was blessed. Matt.16:17
- Happiness results from God dwelling in you
- We can't bear fruit without Him. Jn.15:5; Gal.5:22-23
- Because of Him, you are fully satisfied. Phil.4:11-13
- We're filled with inexpressible / glorious joy. 1 Pet.1:8
- Christ endured the cross, for the joy set before Him.

22) His glory will be our light – Rev.21:23

- Christ is crowned with glory because He suffered death. He brings many sons to glory. Heb.2:5-10
- As heirs of God we share in Christ's glory. Rom.8:17
- Christ is the light of the world. John 8:12; 2 Cor.4:4-6
- You are the light of the world. Matt.5:14; Eph.5:8, 2:22
- The Word made his dwelling among men. John 1:14 In eternity, God will dwell with us. Rev.21:3, 23; 22:5
- We will not need the sun or the moon - the glory of God will be our light; the Lamb will be our lamp

23) Lift up your heads - Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

24) Unto which of the angels, Heb.1:5 = Psal.2:7

Unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?

Let all the angels – Heb.1:6b

Let all the angels of God worship Him

25) Thou art gone up, Psalm 68:18 = Eph.4:8

Thou art gone up on high; Thou hast led captivity captive and received gifts for men, yea, even for Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

26) The Sons of Noah - Gen.10:1

- Noah's sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth. Gen.10:1
- In Acts 7, we read the death of Stephen, the 1st martyr
- Persecution scattered the believers from Jerusalem
- In Acts 8, 9, 10 we find 3 remarkable conversions:
 - the Ethiopian eunuch (Cush), a son of Ham. Gen.10:6

- Saul of Tarsus, a Jew, a son of Shem. Gen.10:21
- Cornelius, a Roman, a son of Japheth. Gen.10:2-5
- The Gospel extends to all branches of the human race

27) To the ends of the earth – Acts 1:8, 13:47

- The Gospel goes forth to the ends of the earth
- God wants the whole world to hear the Gospel
- There are many people-groups and cultures, but only 1 race: the human race
- In Adam, all die. In Christ, all will be made alive
- "Red & yellow, black & white, they are precious in His sight." All humans are "one blood". Acts 17:26 KJV

28) The Gift of God – Eph.2:8-10

- God does all the work in salvation
- Now we are His ambassadors. 2 Cor.5:18-21
- We deliver His message of reconciliation. Luke 8:11
- God's Word will accomplish His purposes. Isa.55:11
- It is not our job to save people. Our job is:
 - to be a witness. 2 Tim.1:8; 1 Pet.4:16; Rom.1:16
 - to tell the truth about what Christ has done for us
 - to be a living testimony of His ability to save

29) Who do you say I am? – Matt.16:15-16

- Each person must answer this question about Jesus. This is life's most important question. Matt.27:22
- Jesus came to save; this implies that people are lost
- Each person needs to understand this crucial fact: they are eternally lost without Christ
- Each person has a desperate need for salvation
- Christ is the only way. Acts 4:12; John 14:6

30) But You Know Him - John 14:17

- Unbelievers live as if they are oblivious to God. But they know they are sinners. Jn.3:19-21, Rom.1:18-20
- Unbelievers can't see God, but they see us; what they see in us is often what they believe about God
- We know that the Lord could return at any moment
- We know that the unsaved face eternal death
- The world can't see the Holy Spirit
- The unsaved world doesn't know the Holy Spirit
- But we do. John 14:17; 1 John 2:20

31) That the world may know – John 17:23

- Paul Revere warned his neighbors. Matt.22:39
- Imagine our history if he had ignored the signal
- What if he decided to go back to sleep instead?
- We have spiritual discernment; we know the truth. Our unbelieving neighbors don't. 1 Cor.2:14
- They desperately need to know the truth
- If we don't tell them, who will?

32) The Lord gave the word, Psalm 68:11 The Lord gave the word, great was the company of the preachers

33) How beautiful are the feet, Rom.10:15 = Isa.52:7 How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things

34) Their sound is gone out, Rom.10:18 = Psal.19:4 Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world