

April 8th Readings

[EZEKIEL 18:1-19:14](#)

[HEBREWS 9:1-10](#)

[PSALM 106:32-48](#)

[PROVERBS 27:10](#)

Ezekiel 18:1-19:14

There is a truth that runs throughout the bible that is revealed in our reading today in Ezekiel. Chapter 18 verse 20 says, "The soul who sins shall die." This chapter goes on to tell us that we are all held accountable for our own sin. This is echoed in Romans 3:10 and 3:23. "None is righteous" and "all have sinned."

This certainty of sin hurts God. Ezekiel 18:23 says that the Lord has no pleasure in the death of the wicked; He wants everyone to turn away from sin and live. In the New Testament, Peter tells us that "The Lord is not wishing any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2 Peter 2:9)

God loves us so much that He did not leave us to die in our sin. He is so kind that He made a way for us to escape death. This kindness is meant to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4). When we turn away from sin, we can be saved by God through the blood of His Son. This is the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation. (Romans 1:16)

April 9th Readings

[EZEKIEL 20:1-49](#)

[HEBREWS 9:11-28](#)

[PSALM 107:1-43](#)

[PROVERBS 27:11](#)

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from the enemy
and gathered in from the lands,*

*from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.*

Psalm 107:1-3

Since he was born, my nine year old grandson has been tucked into bed every night with a book and a song. His favorite song is “The Steadfast Love of the Lord.” Before he could even say the words clearly, he would request this song at bedtime.

Psalm 107:1 reminds us to be thankful to God, for He is good and His steadfast love endures forever! Then in verses two and three, we see a description of the Church.

We are gathered from the four corners of the earth to praise our redeemer who has rescued us from the enemy. We must shout for all to hear what the LORD has done for us!

My young grandson has it right! The steadfast love of the LORD endures forever!

April 10th Readings

[EZEKIEL 21:1-22:31](#)

[HEBREWS 10:1-17](#)

[PSALM 108:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 27:12](#)

Hebrews 10:1-17

Hebrews 10 is such an encouraging chapter of the bible! There can be no misunderstanding; the writer puts it in plain language what Jesus has done for us.

Because He was willing to do the Father’s will, Jesus sacrificed Himself. By His perfect sacrifice, He did away with the first covenant (the Law) to establish the second covenant—a covenant that perfected for all time those that are being sanctified by His blood.

The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit bear witness to this truth. When we enter into this perfect covenant (through baptism), we, too, are perfected. This does not mean we are perfect but that we are complete. As long as we remain faithful to our covenant, we are not condemned for our sin. Our sin is so far removed from us that God no longer even remembers it.

This is such good news! We should shout it from the rooftops! Thank you, God, for what you have done for us through Jesus!

April 11th Readings

[EZEKIEL 23:1-49](#)

[HEBREWS 10:18-39](#)

[PSALM 109:1-31](#)

[PROVERBS 27:13](#)

Hebrews 10:18-39

Have you ever given someone a gift that cost you a lot? To be able to give this gift you had to sacrifice your time, or your money, or you traded something that was very dear to you. But you did this willingly because of your love for the receiver and you were sure they would recognize what it meant to receive this gift.

How would you feel if you later found out that the receiver didn't really appreciate your gift at all? Perhaps they traded it for something else that was worthless in comparison. Or maybe they just didn't take care of it. It could be that they just moved away and left your gift behind. You would come to realize that the receiver of your precious gift just didn't care about your sacrifice or what the gift really meant to them or to you. Would this make you feel disappointed, sad, or angry?

God gave us the most precious gift that was ever given. He sacrificed His one and only Son to give it to us. This gift was the redemption of our very souls from eternal death—what gift could ever compare?

April 12th Readings

[EZEKIEL 24:1-26:21](#)

[HEBREWS 11:1-16](#)

[PSALM 110:1-7](#)

[PROVERBS 27:14](#)

Hebrews 11:1-16

We want so much to have faith, don't we? Because we know that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Moreover, we want to have exemplary faith like those heroes listed in Hebrews 11. So how do we get this pleasing-God kind of faith?

It's simple, really. We do what those great heroes of faith did. They not only believed God existed, they believed God. They trusted the promises that the LORD had given them. Their trust compelled them into action, proving to God that their faith in Him was genuine. Their action was something different for each of them because of who they were and the time they lived in; but their action was really all the same: they all obeyed God's word! For their trust and obedience, they were commended.

I want to be commended by God, don't you? Every day I make it my aim to please Him; so every day I make the decision to obey God's word. I trust that God will reward me for my great faith.

April 13th Readings

[EZEKIEL 27:1-28:26](#)

[HEBREWS 11:17-31](#)

[PSALM 111:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 27:15-16](#)

Psalm 111:1-10

Psalm 111 in today's reading is a beautiful poem. From it, we see how those that love God grow in their faith and worship of our Creator and Redeemer.

Verse 10 says that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Many people first come to God out of fear—fear of death, fear of punishment, fear of Hell. Although fear may be a good reason to begin to seek God, our relationship with Him must not end there!

This psalm illustrates how as our knowledge of God increases so does our love, praise and worship of Him. As we study His mighty works, we come to know that He is righteous, gracious, merciful, powerful, faithful and just, holy and awesome! As we begin to see God for who He really is, we come to understand more fully what the LORD has done for us.

Praise the LORD!

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

Psalm 111:1

April 14th Readings

[EZEKIEL 29:1-30:26](#)

[HEBREWS 11:32-12:13](#)

[PSALM 112:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 27:17](#)

Hebrews 11:32-12:13

Did your parents ever discipline you when you were a child? Of course, the answer is yes; everyone was disciplined by parents or a parent-figure. I remember being disciplined as a child—it sure felt like punishment most of the time! That discipline would sometimes make me wonder if my parents really loved me at all.

Now that I am grown, especially with children of my own, I see that my mother and father loved me very much and only wanted what was best for me. I, in turn, raised my own children with love and discipline and always tried to do the best for them.

As much as we love our own children, we know that God loves us even more. Even though we may not understand the difficulties in our life, we must trust our Heavenly Father. What feels like punishment may actually be discipline, training us for even more godliness.

No matter what we're going through, we can be assured that our Father only wants what is best for us. He tells us so in His word. Thank you, God, for loving us so much!