

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
By Rick Hoover

Good News Daily

Volume XXIII - Number 22
May 28th to June 3rd

Sunday, May 28th

1 Corinthians 2:1-13 *We impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit...* (v.13 ESV)

In 2021 the Oxford Union hosted a debating event unlike any in its history. The speaker was the largest artificial intelligence computer of the time. Megatron Transformer debated itself, pro and con, on the topic “AI will never be ethical.”

Megatron had a database of more than 63 million news articles and 38 gigabytes of online AI discussions. On the one hand, Megatron said AI would never be ethical. It also predicted that the best AI would be embedded in a human brain (with access to human consciousness as an anchor for moral judgment). Megatron could assemble symbols and sentences of human language. But the machine had no soul, no absolute baseline for right or wrong apart from the data put into it.

Neither do we. That is why Pentecost is so important to Christians and such a great gift from God to all mankind. “Apart from me you can do nothing,” Jesus said (John 15:5). That includes knowing what to do in life, which way to go, or knowing what is right or wrong in God’s kingdom.

Isaiah 11:1-9; Psalm 118; John 14:21-29

Monday, May 29th

Deuteronomy 4:9-14 *Keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen... Make them known to your children...* (v.9)

A decade ago, I had some opportunities to give Sunday service homilies from time to time where I served as a deacon. I have videos of those services on my computer. Recently, I poked into that file to re-watch a few. I was surprised, listening to myself preach messages I had carefully prepared years ago. The same thing happened when I reopened books I had written years ago—books that had taken me months of concentration to write.

My own words had been completely forgotten by me. It was like hearing them for the first time.

Reading the Bible is vulnerable to the same leaky sieve of my memory if I don’t make an effort to reread and restudy it. I can easily forget my own words. Why would I expect people who have never heard the gospel even once to care what God has told us?

As His ambassadors, the Lord expects us—He expects *me*—to diligently remember what He has done and said, and to speak up about it.

Psalm 25; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Luke 14:25-35

Tuesday, May 30th

Luke 15:1-10 *“This man receives sinners and eats with them.”* (v.2)

Brendan Eich is the successful Christian computer programmer who invented the widely used JavaScript programming language. He co-founded Mozilla, the company that makes the Firefox internet browser, a major early alternative to the Windows Internet Explorer. Because of his expertise, Brendan Eich was chosen to be CEO of Mozilla in 2014. He resigned days later, forced out by employees who

objected to his donations to political causes like California’s ban on gay marriage.

Eich formed a new company and wrote a new internet browser that emphasized even stronger security and privacy. He gave his new Brave browser the logo of a majestic lion. Today it’s the Firefox browser that has lost the major part of its user base. The Brave browser has gained over 50 million new users and continues to grow rapidly.

There was another Lion (of Judah) who was also shunned by leaders in his family when he ignored their preferred rules. Loving your neighbors does not mean denying your commitment to the Lord’s desires. He blesses His witnesses when their priorities remain securely focused on Him.

Deuteronomy 4:15-24; Psalm 26, 28; 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

Wednesday, May 31st

Psalm 38 *I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.* (v.18)

I grew up in a Christian family that attended a non-liturgical Protestant church. I was aware of the elaborate ceremonial trappings of some other churches, including the existence of “confession booths.” I had a vague impression that some Christians went to them to admit their sins before the listening ear of a spiritual mentor or priest.

Still, I was stunned the first time I saw a picture of the Roman Catholic pope publicly kneeling, face to face before a confessor himself. The pope’s honored and important position in the Church did not excuse him. He admitted his need for the regular personal examination of conscience that God called for in every believer. It was a lesson and example of humility and obedience for me.

The psalmist also made his confession to God before witnesses. He wrote about doing so in a public record visible to all. There was no hiding or pretense about his personal

life. It is another lesson and example of humility and obedience for me.

Deuteronomy 4:25-31; 2 Corinthians 1:23–2:17; Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Thursday, June 1st

2 Corinthians 3:1-18 *Since we have such a hope, we are very bold....* (v.12)

For years I have taken a glowing, coaster-sized plastic box, poked it with a thumb, and given away access to my bank account to perfect strangers. I then calmly sit back and wait for strangers to bring food, books, and other household items to my front door. They show up in days, if not hours. I don't think of myself as having any great hope they'll show up. But that's what it was even the first time I took a chance on trusting those strangers. I didn't completely understand or control the powerful system at my disposal, but I gave away real, hard-earned money trusting that merchants and the delivery system servants would keep their word.

It was rather brave and bold of me. And it became easier as I gained experience in seeing the mysterious parts of the plan work as promised. I discovered trust was something I could act on and still end up happy.

“Do you believe I can do this?” Jesus asks (Matthew 9:28). Why should I not have just as bold a hope in him?

Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Psalm 37:1-18; Luke 16:1-9

Friday, June 2nd

Deuteronomy 5:1-22 *These words the LORD spoke...and he added no more.* (v.22)

A discussion group visitor said he'd gone to his favorite restaurant. A new waitress took his order and then read her notes back to him. The customer didn't listen, assuming the

cooks knew what he liked. The meal was wrong when it was brought to his table. The customer was complaining because the owners charged him extra to change the meal. Who was at fault? The discussion group concluded the impatient customer (too busy to listen as the waitress tried to double check her notes) was the one who was wrong.

Moses reviewed God's Ten Commandments for the Israelites twice (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5). Anyone with a question had a chance to get clarifications (Exodus 18). God was not going to change what He said, but He was ready to repeat things to make sure we got it right without needing to add extra rules to keep ourselves safe. Such extra rules would also keep us at a distance from the Father's heart. That was not the point of being called back into His family.

Psalm 31; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Luke 16:10-18

Saturday, June 3rd

2 Corinthians 4:13–5:10 *We make it our aim to please him.* (v.9)

When I first read Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, I almost didn't make it past the first sentence of the first chapter. That sentence was a warning, a wakeup call for readers who might have been expecting a warm, gentle devotional to encourage Christians in their daily lives. Pastor Rick was blunt: “It's not about you.”

I don't know how (and I'm embarrassed to admit that I don't recall anyone putting it so directly to me before then) but from then on, I couldn't help seeing that basic anchor point over and over in the lives of Bible characters and in the lives of saints through history, old and recent. I might have some personal goals and dreams, but they were of peripheral value if they did not line up with God's kingdom purposes. His purposes for me were more glorious than anything I could imagine, anyway.

Jesus has given each of us life. But their point is not about us. Thank God. And praise God!

Deuteronomy 5:22-33; Psalms 30, 32; Luke 16:19-31

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the
Extra-Provincial Churches

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Cathedral
Shrine, Shrine Mont

CURRENT PRAYER LIST

Christine, Dianne, Ellen, Gary, Harry, James, Johnny, Kathy, Latavia, Marlene, Penny, Steve, Walter, Susan Anderson, Janet Bailey, Joanne Beck, Mo Cowie, Jenny Grant, Liam Jackson, Ken Luehrs, Nancy Russler, Janice Lee Sealy, Marianne Simpson, Shirley Sumner, May Jane Tillman, Annette Trafacante, Anne Warlick, Pat Weber

BIRTHDAYS

May 28th - Jim Ripley
May 29th - Teague Meiers
June 2nd - Margaret Dix, Aiden Eckenrode, Ian Huffstickler
June 3rd - Ally Arendt
June 5th - Sam Burton
June 9th - Russ Kidd

ANNIVERSARIES

May 28th - Charles and Rita Meeks
June 2nd - Bruce and Sandra Davis
June 7th - David and Gail Conway

