

Genesis

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Ask Yourself—What are you twisting from a good thing to a thing to meet your needs rather than a thing to please God by faith?

Confess! Spend some time just talking to God about what's going on in your heart and why you *feel the need* to be _____ or do _____.

Rest in His Promise! Take a deep breath and remember He has promised our good and His glory will prevail.

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Coming to the Lord's Table today, let's prepare our hearts to sup with Him in faith.

- We eat and drink at Christ's command.
- He calls us to express our faith in Him by partaking of this meal.
- We see and taste His sacrifice for us in the bread and cup.
- In this sacred meal we fellowship with Christ and one another.

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
July 7th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 30: 1 – 25

Dueling Wombs

1. We Have an Incredible Capacity to Twist Good Things.
2. God Uses Even Our Sinful Actions for His Good Purposes.
3. The Lord Faithfully Keeps All His Promises.

Fueled by jealousy and envy the sisters, Leah and Rachel, race to outdo one another in childbearing for all the wrong reasons. They treat one another, their husband, and their servants terribly all in the name of a noble pursuit, but God is not fooled. He hears them and remembers them to bless them in spite of their sin. Why? Because God is faithful even when we are not.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 8: 1 – 13

Tabernacled With Us

1. Jesus Is the Ultimate High Priest.
2. Our High Priest Serves in the True Tabernacle.
3. We Are Called to Live According to This Reality.

We are called to live in the seen world according to the reality of the unseen world. To those without eyes of faith it appears as sheer folly. But in Christ we know it is actually the only sensible thing to do. The greatest reality of this unseen world is the Father's love for His children through Jesus Christ expressed in Christ's high priestly sacrifice for us.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Even obedience can be sin. This week we see a distortion of the good God called us to do in procreation through the twisting influence of jealousy. Instead of focusing on all the differences between us and them, let's consider how we too can twist God's commands.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 30:1-25; Second Timothy 2:8-13** (below). DISCUSS, How does the cultural mandate (God's command to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it) relate to what Leah and Rachel are doing? Why is this significant? How do they twist it? Can you relate? How? How is Christ enough for us? PRAY thanking God for His sure and certain promises in Christ.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 8:1-13**. DISCUSS, How does Christ's work for us in the true tabernacle address our needs? Why? PRAISE Christ for being our ultimate High Priest.

Monday

READ **Genesis 29:15-30:25**. DISCUSS, How does this dysfunctional family point us to Jesus? PRAY for God to reveal how He alone can see and hear us to restore what we have twisted. EXTEND His grace in the confidence of Christ's love by blessing your neighbors and coworkers as you have been blessed. PRAY for our neighbors.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 30:1-3**. DISCUSS, Have you ever felt like Rachel? What have you wanted so badly that you thought you would rather die than to live without it? How does the gospel help us see clearly? PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for ways that we put other things before You. Train our hearts to love You more than anything else."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 30:1-8**. DISCUSS, Why is Rachel so intent on prevailing over her sister, Leah? What does she do? What should she have done? PRAY, Ask God to reveal ways that you (we) are desperate for more than just Christ. Take those things to God and ask Him to show you how Christ is enough.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 30:1-13**. DISCUSS, How do Rachel and Leah use their servants? How are they trusting what they can see rather than trusting God? How do we do the same with our struggle to trust Christ? PRAY, "Jesus, help us to trust You."

Friday

READ **Genesis 30:1-25**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from this passage this week? PRAY, Lord thank You for loving us so fully in Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 30:1-43**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together.

Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area.

Second Timothy 2:8-13

"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

'If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.'"