

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:

Check Your Heart—What are ways that you trust your own ingenuity, wit, strength rather than God's blessing at work?

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.

Notes:

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 14th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 30: 25 – 43

Dueling Livestock Husbandry

1. Our Work Has Been Corrupted By Sin.
2. We Face Unrelenting Opposition in the Workplace.
3. Christ Can Establish the Work of Our Hands.

The gospel says something different about our work. It is given to us by God as a joint project. We are supposed to labor in faith. By trusting Christ with our work (and family life like we saw last week) we are free to labor in love as Jesus establishes the work of our hands for His purposes.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 9: 1 – 10

Shadows and Symbols of Sanctuary

1. The Earthly and Heavenly Sanctuaries Contrasted
2. Access to the Most Holy Place Is Limited.
3. Christ Has Brought Open Access and Enduring Presence.

The earthly sanctuary provided shadows and symbols of the true Sanctuary in which Christ labors as our High Priest. This section of Hebrews spells out some of those contrasts to show how the old wasn't able to bring us to a clear conscience, but that the new order in Christ brings us into the Holy Place of God's enduring presence.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Toil. Back-breaking work. How do we handle the crushing pressures of work? Self-reliance? Deceit? Industry? Work smarter? This week let's consider how we too can rely on ourselves rather than on God. Let's work together to trust Christ with our labors.

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 30:25-43; Psalm 90:1-17**. DISCUSS, How does the cultural mandate (God's command to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it) relate to what Laban and Jacob are doing? Why is this significant? How do they twist it? Can you relate? How? How does Christ establish the work of our hands? PRAY thanking God for His sure and certain promises in Christ.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 9:1-10**. DISCUSS, How does Christ's work for us in the true tabernacle provide us access? Why? PRAISE Christ for being our ultimate High Priest.

Monday

READ **Genesis 30:25-36**. DISCUSS, How does the same pattern of desperation show up at the work place as we saw last week in the family (30:1-25). How have you seen these same dysfunctional patterns in your work and family life? How does this point us to Jesus? PRAY for God to reveal how He alone can see and hear us to restore what we have twisted. PRAY for our neighbors.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 30: 25-36**. DISCUSS, Does Laban's abuse of Jacob justify cheating? What does it mean to use what you know in the service of God? Why does God bless Jacob? PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for ways that we prioritize other things before You. Train our hearts to love You more than anything else."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 30:37-43**. DISCUSS, How does God bless Jacob? Why? What would faithfulness to Christ look like in your workplace? How can you encourage this in your children, grandchildren? PRAY, Ask God to reveal ways that you (we) are desperate to make it on our own. Take those things to God and ask Him to establish the work of our hands.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 30:37-43**. DISCUSS, Good practices are commendable and are often awarded, but what is our ultimate goal? How do you most often struggle to trust Christ in your workplace? PRAY, "Jesus, teach us to trust You in the work that we do. help us to trust You."

Friday

READ **Genesis 30:25-43**. 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 31:1-55**. 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.

Psalm 90:16-17

"Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!"