

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 35

“Idols Made By Men”

Study: Isaiah 44:9-20

Reading: Matthew 6:19-34

Memory: Romans 8:16

I had a friend who would post things on social media about these complex diagnoses she had of herself and her mental conditions she was experiencing. She used the complex articles that she would find online to help her make sense of herself and what she was experiencing. It appears that those things helped her feel better. Though these things were not wrong and were probably somewhat helpful to her (at least they would make her temporarily feel better), her main problem that was clear and obvious to me was that she was anti-God. Many of the problems and difficulties she described having were the results of sin and trusting in men rather than God. Yet, in her mind she could not see that or understand that. Her god, the medicine and complex diagnosis made up by men, was what she was looking to deliver her from her problems.

Today, we are going to see how men ignorantly follow where the world leads, rather than taking time to think through the importance of following God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Those who choose to make idols and delight in spreading false hope will experience the opposite results of those who follow God as mentioned in the previous verses. They spend a great deal of time making idols and promoting these idols, but these idols have no power or ability. These craftsmen often led the charge for trusting in idols because it was profitable for them and they often believed in what they were doing. Though physically they could profit from their trade, they would be put to shame. Even if they banded together, they were weak because they were simply humans and did not have the supernatural power of God (vs 9-11).

An ironsmith used his tools, heat and human power to form an idol. All of this work would leave him hungry and tired because He was simply human. A carpenter would use his pencil and woodworking tools to carefully shape pieces of wood to look like human beings. He would

carefully pick the finest wood and select the best part of that wood to use for his idol. With the rest of the tree that he cut down, he would make a fire for cooking and a fire for warming his house. This same wood used for heat and cooking would also be set up in his home somewhere and they would bow down and worship it. They would call on this piece of wood to deliver them (v 12-17).

They do all of this without taking time to think through what they were doing. After all, this is what all society around them did. They were just following the patterns and practices of everyone else. Instead of logically thinking through the situation and asking themselves what good it would do to worship a piece of wood made by men, they choose to believe a lie. They exalt this idol and the place the idol has in their life and community. They choose to be willfully ignorant by not choosing to examine what it is they are doing or why they are doing it (vs 18-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

In the culture of the Bible, idols made by the hands of men were a big deal. They still are today in certain regions of the world, but this is not something you are directly tempted with today. This does not mean that human nature has changed, it simply means that the way we worship man made idols has changed. What is it that people trust in today to help them in their daily lives to deliver them through the problems they are experiencing? Some trust in money. If you think about it, money is simply paper made from trees and other earthly products. People worship the “almighty dollar” even though the byproduct of this same wood is used to heat homes. The same would apply to more valuable things like gold coins. They are forged and fashioned by the hand of men, just as idols were. It is very easy to worship the god of money. It is very easy to act like the unbelieving world around you and live for what you can make and what you can buy with it. It is easy to fall into the trap into thinking that money will make you happy and fulfilled. There are other idol today a well like science and medicine that is looked to for help. Instead of asking God for help and deliverance from problems, it is easy to trust in medicine. God has given man the wisdom to make medicine and learn about healing. The medical field does provide powerful help and should be used when needed, but placing your trust in the medical field rather than God is very dangerous. The point being made in this passage is that God is not a man. He is not made by fallable humans as idols, money and medicine are.

What is said about those who fashion idols (vs 9)?

What does not bring true profit (vs 9)?

What question was asked in verse 10?

Why was this question asked?

What was going to happen to those who made idols (vs 11)?

Even though the maker of idols would band together, what would still be the outcome (vs 11)?

What process was described in verse 12?

What point was being made by Isaiah when he declared that the idol maker would get tired, hungry and thirsty (vs 12)?

What process is described in verse 13?

What images were idols made into (vs 13)?

What did an idol worker take great care in (vs 14)?

What would happen with the extra wood not used for the idol (vs 15-16)?

What does verse 16 emphasize?

How does verse 17 point out the great folly of man-made idols?

Why do people who worship idols choose to do so (vs 18)?

What do people not choose to think about (vs 19)?

Why is this person led astray (vs 20)?

What do you think are some idols in today’s society?

Do you think it is still easy to be led astray by idols today?

“Destroying Man’s Wisdom”

Study: Isaiah 44:21-28

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Memory: Romans 8:16

When Covid-19 first came onto the scene in 2020 it took the world by storm. The lives of most people in the civilized world were completely changed as we listened to the predictions of the so-called medical experts. There were some things they were completely right on, but there were many things that were completely inaccurate. Over and over again, when the medical experts thought they had everything figured out, God would step in again and change plans. Sadly, most people failed to see the fallacies of human predictions and turn to the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Today, we are going to see how God was going to cause the predictions of the wise men of the world to be like foolishness, and be confronted with the fact that He keeps His Word.

What Does the Bible Say?

In the previous portion of Isaiah 44, we were reminded how foolish it was for man to fashion an object and then choose to worship that object. Verse 21 tells Israel to “Remember these things” that were just said and remember that they were the servants of the Most High God. God would not forget them, even when they chose to sin. He was willing to forgive them and blot out their transgressions. He compared His forgiveness to a thick cloud or a deep fog. The picture was one of not being able to see something because a cloud was in the way. In His grace, God was going to choose not to remember their sin if they returned to Him. He wanted to be their Redeemer. He wanted to recuse them from their sin and the pain and misery it caused (vs 21-22).

This choice of God to redeem His people was a cause for great rejoicing. The heavens and earth would shout His praise and the mountains would sing of His greatness. Every tree would exalt the name of God because He chose to redeem Israel. This redemption would bring great glory to God. This did not mean that nature would actually sing,

but was more of a picture calling on creation to rejoice in God (vs 23).

Once again, God was referred to as the Redeemer as the people were reminded that it was God who made them and formed them to be the way they were. Since the beginning of the nation of Israel, God directed what they should be like. This also applies to all individuals because God formed each person the way He desired before they were born. He not only made all men, but He made all things. He was the One who had the ability to stop the wisdom of the world. He was the One who was wiser than the wisest man and had the ability to foil the plan of any man He wanted (vs 24-25).

Though the wise men of the day often had their plans fail, the words of the prophets of God would always come true. When the prophets predicted that Jerusalem would be inhabited, even after destruction, that prophecy came true. When the prophets declared that Judah’s fortune would return, that Word could be counted on. God could stop rivers and cause them to flow. He could destroy a city, yet restore it again. Though He was going to destroy Jerusalem (around 100 years after Isaiah was dead), He was going to raise it up again under Cyrus the Great who would not only allow Jerusalem to be rebuilt, but would help finance some of it. When Isaiah made the prophecy, no one would have known who Cyrus was. It was over 150 years after this prophecy was made that Cyrus told the Jews to go back and rebuild Jerusalem (vs 26-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the predictions and prophecies of men can be fooled by the power of God? We live in a world of analytics and charts where people plug in numbers into a computer to calculate what will happen in the future. Sometimes they are right, but many times they are wrong. In their earthly wisdom they make predictions that sometimes come true, but only if God lets them come true. One of the big areas today where “wise men” of the world make predictions are in the science and medical field. The epitome of this was seen with all the wrong predictions by medical experts about Covid-19. They would make proclamations and declarations only to have God do something different. For years, scientists have done the same thing. They predict the end of the world because of things like climate change and yet many of these predications never come true. Perhaps they would have come true if God didn’t change the plan. The point is simple. The only think you can truly believe is the Word of God. It is the one thing that will never fail.

What did God challenge Israel to remember (vs 21)?

What did God call Israel (vs 21)?

Why do you think He called them this?

What did God mean when He said that He formed them (vs 21)?

What would God not do (vs 21)?

What does it mean to have sins blotted out (vs 22)?

Why is this such an encouraging thought?

What does it mean to be redeemed?

What was called on to give praise to God (vs 23)? Why?

What does God call Himself in verse 24?

What else did God declare about Himself in verse 24?

What does God do (vs 25)?

How have you seen this verse to be true?

What does God choose to fulfill (vs 26)?

What predictions had the prophets of God made (vs 26)?

Why do you think many people thought these would not come true?

What does God have the ability to do (vs 27)?

Who was God going to use (vs 28)?

Why was this such a bold prophecy to not only say what was going to happen, but name the man who would do it?

“Using A Pagan King”

Study: Isaiah 45:1-13

Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-23

Memory: Romans 8:16

Have you ever watched artists at work creating something and in the middle of their creation, they do something that you think is going to completely destroy their work. Perhaps it was a painter who added a color that didn't seem to fit, or a woodworker that brought out a tool that you though would ruin the masterpiece. Though they did something that seemed to be contrary to what they were trying to accomplish, as masters in their trade, they knew what they were doing. Those things which seemed to be a mistake or problem in the untrained eye would actually enhance the finished masterpiece.

Today, we are going to see how God is the Master of the human race. We should simply trust Him to work without questioning why He does what He does.

What Does the Bible Say?

The last verse of chapter 44 described how God was going to use Cyrus to fulfill His purpose. Chapter 45 expounds more on what was meant by this. He called Cyrus his anointed, simply meaning that God had appointed Him to be king to accomplish His purpose. The reference to the right hand indicated that God had given them great power and this power was going to allow him to uproot the king and open the door for conquests. God was going to go before Him and help prepare the way for victory to be easier. All along the way they would grow wealthier as they took the treasures of those they conquered. They would experience supernatural victories and it would be evident that the God of Israel was on their side. Cyrus was not going to be a godly man and the nation of Persia was not going to be a godly nation, but God was going to make this happen because He loved the nation of Israel. Even though many of the Israelites did not know God or recognize Him, He still loved them and was working on their behalf. He also wanted all the people of the world to know that there was no other God like the God of Israel. He was the One who made the earth. He was the One who caused great victory

or great calamity. He was the God who was in ultimate control of all things (vs 1-7).

Eventually, God will cause His righteous plan to happen on the earth. There may be periods of time where the ungodly appear to be winning and those who do what is right are on the losing side, but God always steps up at the right time and in the right way to accomplish His plan. God was going to allow His children to be in captivity for 70 years, but would raise up Cyrus to send them back to Israel to re-establish Jerusalem (vs 8).

Though the righteous will see God do amazing things, a warning is given to those who fight against God. The people of earth were compared to clay and God was compared to the potter. The clay vessels have no right to tell the potter how to make them and have no say in what they are made to be. In the same way, a newborn infant can't be upset at His parents for conceiving him and bringing him into the world (vs 9-10).

The Israelites had no right to tell God what He should do in the future. He was the One who created the earth and created men. God had every right to use the king of Persia to carry out His plan to rebuild the city (vs 11-13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

When this message was first delivered by Isaiah, it must have stirred up a great deal of anger among the people of Judah. The fact that God would use a pagan king to accomplish His plan by giving this king great power seemed so opposite of all they thought and believed. Yet God reminded them that He was the potter and they were the clay. They could not argue with the plans and methods of God, but needed to realize and understand that God was in control. The same thing applies to you and I today. Sometimes it is hard to believe that God would allow certain evils to take place. Yet, just as God was going to use an ungodly king to accomplish His plan, God can use ungodly men to carry out His plans today. Your responsibility is to simply trust God and believe that God knows what He is doing.

Thought for the day

Who does God call His anointed (vs 1)?

Why do you think God was going to use a pagan king who didn't care about righteousness?

What was Cyrus going to have the power to do (vs 1)?

What was God going to do for Him (vs 2)?

Why was it important that God helped Cyrus (vs 2)?

What was God going to give Him (vs 3)?

What did God want Cyrus and the other nations to realize (vs 3)?

Why did God say He allowed this to happen (vs 4)?

Why is it comforting to know that God is always working on behalf of His children?

What did God declare about Himself (vs 5)?

What did God want all men to know (vs 6)?

What do you think verse 7 was meaning to portray?

How can the righteousness of God be seen through His use of a pagan king (vs 8)?

Who was the warning in verse 9 directed to?

What illustration was used in verse 10?

What were God's children not able to do (vs 11)?

What had God done (vs 12)?

What was God's plan (vs 13)?

“Man-Made Religion”

Study: Isaiah 45:14-25

Reading: I Corinthians 10:1-23

Memory: Romans 8:16

The local newspaper in our small town had a religious column. I am sure some thought it was nice that a paper would still honor and respect religious ideals, but I personally didn't like it. There were two main writers of the articles in the religion sections and neither of the authors truly believed in the Bible. They used some biblical principles and mixed human ideas in the middle of them. Basically, they promoted man-made religion based on the Bible. Reading these articles drove me nuts because they were close to the truth, but missed the truth of God's Word and promoted man's thoughts over the mind of God.

Today, we are going to be reminded that man-made religion was futile. Only the trust given by God could be counted on.

What Does the Bible Say?

It appears that the events recorded in verse 14 point to a time during the millennial reign of Christ. It pictured the powerful, rich nations submitting to Israel and offering up their wealth as a tribute. They would recognize that their gods were nothing compared to the God of Israel and feel they would have no choice but to offer themselves as servants to the Israelites (vs 14).

Verse 15 stated that God works in amazing and mysterious ways. This working puts to shame his enemies and causes great confusion in the lives of those who fight against Him. When the enemies of Israel struggle, God brings great salvation and deliverance to His people. Those who put their trust in Him will not be shamed or confounded for all eternity. Basically, all those who follow God will find so much more fullness in this life and in the life to come (vs 15-17).

God has the ability to do this because He is the One who created the earth and made everything in it. He filled the earth with all types of plants and animals and set up everything to work correctly and properly. He was not a God who was hard to find or that hid Himself from men. He made it clear who He was and what He desired from the people that

He made (vs 18-19).

All the people of the earth were challenged to meet together and worship the one true God. The gods of this world made out of wood and carried around in pockets had no power to save. If people were to take an honest look at the world from the beginning of time, they would recognize how all the gods of this world had failed them. The God who created all men was the only God who had the power to consistently carry out His plan. He was a righteous God and a Savior of all men (vs 20-21).

God wanted all men to turn to Him to find their salvation. Whatever God has spoken is right and will always come true. God will not go back on His word. One day, every knee shall bow before Him and those left alive will declare their allegiance to Him. The people will look to God as their source of righteousness and strength. Those who choose to fight against God will be destroyed. The millennial kingdom will be a period of time where Israel and all men of the world will live for God and find their boast in Him (vs 22-25).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Over and over Israel was challenged to look to God and trust in Him. They were reminded that He was the one true God and that all the false gods of the world could not save or deliver them. The false gods were really not gods at all, but idols and ideas made up by men. Many people liked the idea of these false gods because they were often more appealing to men because they were made by men to appeal to their human nature. They took on many forms and often involved worship practices that appealed to the flesh. The same thing still happens today, but on a more deceitful level. Many times, this false worship appears in the form of false religion. False religion could also be a mainstream religion. It is a religion made by men to appeal to men, which many times will take a portion of the truth and distort it with the ideas of men. God has given you His Word to reveal His truth. His Word is the only thing you can count on because the ways of men will fail you.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you follow only His Word.*

Thought for the day

Who would be ruled over (vs 14)?

Why was this significant?

What would these nations recognize about God (vs 14)?

What do you think verse 15 means?

What happens to those who look to idols (vs 16)?

What would God do for Israel (vs 17)?

How long would He do this?

Why do you think verse 18 points out that God is the Creator?

Why do you think our society wants to attack the idea that God is the Creator?

What did God not do (vs 19)?

Why is it so good to realize that God makes His Word and will known to men (vs 19)?

How are those who worshiped idols described (vs 20)?

What are ways that people worship idols in our day and age?

How does God describe Himself (vs 21)?

What did God want all men to do (vs 22)?

What will everyone do one day (vs 23)?

What will happen to those who do not follow God (vs 24)?

What will happen to those who follow God?

Why do you think these simple truths are presented over and over again?

“Objects of Burden”

Study: Isaiah 46:1-13

Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Memory: Romans 8:16

When I was 18 I bought a Dodge Daytona that was only four years old. This was a sports car and for a short time, was my pride and joy. I would wash that car inside and out and driving it made me feel so cool. I enjoyed it for a short while until I tried to make the car payments and go to college at the same time. On top of that, I paid my own insurance which was simply outrageous for an 18 year old with a sports car. It didn't take long for the elation to turn to misery as I found myself in bondage to that car, attempting to make car payments and insurance payments. I soon realized the futility of having a nice car and the cost that I had to pay at that stage of my life. God used that to teach me a valuable lesson about the cost and entrapment of worldly goods.

Today, we are going to see how men often worship objects. These objects are good things in the right time and place, but we as people often make far more of these objects than we ever should.

What Does the Bible Say?

The false god “Bel” of the Phoenicians and the false god “Nebo” of the Babylonians were two of the main gods that were worshiped around the region of Israel and would be some of the false gods the Israelites would attempt to worship. These gods were represented by idols that were images of livestock. The futility of this is pointed out as the people were reminded that these idols were simply animals used to carry burdens and plow fields. These animals didn't even have the ability to put their own packs on their backs. They ate grass and couldn't talk. They were simple animals and yet the people thought that idols that represented these animals could deliver them. Animals that were in captivity themselves had no way to deliver people from captivity (vs 1-2).

Instead of worshiping these types of idols, the Israelites were challenged to worship god. God is the one who called them from the very beginning of their nation. He formed their nation, just as a child was formed in her mother's womb. Even though they were no longer a young nation because they had been around for several hundred years, He was

going to continue to be their God and cared deeply about them. He wanted the people to live long, prosperous lives. He would carry them through their trials and save them from their enemies (vs 3-4).

There was no one or no thing that could compare to God. He certainly could not be compared to an idol that was formed by man from gold and silver bought by man. Though people would worship these idols, they were powerless. Once an idol was placed on a shelf, it could do nothing. It was stuck there on a shelf until someone decided to move it. It was an object that had no power to answer a person's cries for help or deliver that person from trouble (vs 5-7).

God wanted the Israelites to remember what He was compared to what idols were. He wanted them to remember the power that He had displayed to His people and how He had always kept His word to them. He was going to raise up Cyrus the great from the east and carry out His plan to bring the Israelites back to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity (vs 8-11).

The stubborn people of Israel were called to listen to God and choose to live in righteousness once again. God was the only One who could save them and He did have a plan for their salvation. He was going to receive the glory for this deliverance as He fulfilled His Word to them (vs 12-13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you think you are way different than the Israelites? It is hard to think about idols and put that understanding into your daily life, but think about the idols that were mentioned here. They worshiped the "beasts of burden." The animal they used to get around and do their work. What do we use to get around and do our work today? We often use cars, trucks and tractors. Do people put images of cars, trucks and tractors on their shelves? Are there images of these things on calendars and decorations hung on the wall? Though our society may not physically bow down to these things, we do often worship them. Our society often ties themselves down with monthly payments for these objects and have little left over to help the poor and needy. Our society counts on these things, honors these things and yes, even worships these things. Just as there was nothing wrong with having animals to help work, there is nothing wrong with having cars and trucks. Yet, it is also easy, just as the world around you does, to worship these things and let the things of this earth suck your time and energy that could be used for eternal matters.

What two gods were referred to in verse 1?

What were these idols images of (vs 1)?

What could these animals not do (v 2)?

What was the state of most of these animals (vs 2)?

What had God done for Israel (vs 3)?

Why did God say Israel was old in age (vs 4)

What did God want to do for His people (vs 4)?

What question was asked in verse 5? What was the point of this question?

How were idols made (vs 6)?

What happened to an idol once it was set in place (vs 7)?

What did God want them to remember (vs 8)?

What else did God want them to remember (vs 9)?

What does it mean that God declared the end from the beginning (vs 10)?

What was going to stand (vs 10)?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 11)?

How did God describe Israel (vs 12)?

How can you fit that description at times?

What was God going to bring (vs 13)?

What was God going to do for His glory (vs 13)?

“God’s Grand Plan”

Study: Isaiah 47:1-15

Reading: Genesis 50:1-21

Memory: Romans 8:16

A few years ago one of the large churches in Traverse City was in the news because it was discovered that their pastor had been embezzling money from the church. Though people are arrested for embezzling on a regular basis, it is always sad to hear about it happening in a church setting. When someone chooses to embezzle money, they are choosing to trust in themselves rather than in God. For those who do it and experience the extra wealth, it may appear that they are winning for a short time, but in many cases, they are eventually caught and when that happens, their fall is sudden and swift.

Today, we are going to see how the fall of Babylon was going to be sudden and swift. Though for a short time they thought they were getting away with their wicked ways, God was not going to let them get away with it for long.

What Does the Bible Say?

The beginning of chapter 47 pictures Babylon as a “virgin daughter.” This is because at this point, she had never been conquered and was a young and vibrant nation. Yet, this would no longer be said of Babylon. The throne would be taken from them and they would be forced to leave their privileged positions and become slaves. Their fancy garments would be ripped from them and they will be humiliated and disgraced once God chose to pour out His judgement on them. God was going to take this step to redeem His people from the judgement He had caused them to experience (vs 1-4).

Instead of revelry in their riches, the people of Babylon would be forced to sit in silence and would no longer be exalted as they once were. God was going to use Babylon to judge His people, but Babylon would be judged because they did not treat the Israelites with mercy and kindness. Babylon did not realize that God gave them their power and they exalted themselves thinking that they would be great forever. They had declared that they would never be a widow and they would never

lose their children. Yet, as a judgement, God was going to cause both things to happen to them in a very quick manner. Though they would try all their enchantments and sorceries, they would not be able to stop what God had put into motion (vs 5-9).

The nation of Babylon felt secure in their position thinking that they had no God to be accountable to. They had been able to avoid disaster with their sorceries, strength and charms, but this one they would not be able to avoid. Their ruin would be sudden and swift. Though they would trust in the sorceries that enabled them to become powerful, those things would be no match for God. They would be like stubble, the dry leftovers from the wheat, which would be burnt quickly and easily. They wouldn’t be like a slow burning coal that took a long time to die out, but they would burn quickly and be destroyed in a short matter of time. No one would step in to help Babylon. Even their trade partners who they had established alliances with would go their separate ways allowing Babylon to face destruction alone (vs 10-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The book of Revelations compared the system of the world to Babylon. Just as Babylon was destroyed, so will the system of the world be destroyed by Jesus Christ. This is a good reminder for you today because sometimes it appears that the world’s system is winning. The society around us boasts in their wisdom, scientific and technological abilities. They trust in their earthly power and strength, yet all of this will come to an end at one point. The world system portrays the idea that they are in control and they have things all figured out, yet they do not realize they are subject to the power of God. Let this be a reminder to you at times when it appears the world is winning and the ways of God are losing. Though the world, like Babylon, experienced temporary success, the end result for the world will be failure.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Ask God to help you trust His plan.
- * Thank God because He is always in control.

Thought for the day

How was Babylon described (vs 1)? Why?

What was going to come to an end (vs 1)?

Why was Babylon going to have to ground flour (vs 2)?

What do you think it meant that Babylon was going to be naked (v 3)?

How is God described in verse 4?

What will Babylon not do (vs 5)?

What had God used Babylon for (vs 6)?

What had Babylon thought (vs 7)?

How is Babylon described (vs 8)?

How can you see the modern system of the world fitting into that description?

What two things were they going to face (vs 9)?

What did Babylon feel secure in (vs 10)?

How was God going to prove them wrong (vs 11)?

What were the Babylonians trusting in (vs 12)?

What are things that people trust in today?

What was big in the Babylonian society (vs 13)?

****They used the stars to predict the future, just like people do with computer models today.*

What were the Babylonians compared to (vs 14)? Why?

Who was not going to help Babylon?

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, In 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.