

WHAT'S WRONG?

9/19 & 9/20

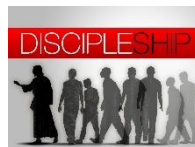
[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) – When you read Ezekiel, you see that the Spirit moves him to different places so that he can experience God. Ezekiel is a prophet, someone who hears from God and shares what is heard so the people will change their ways. In our reading, Ezekiel is taken to a valley filled with bones. He is asked if these bones can live? Ezekiel doesn't know and is told to be prophesy to them. When he does, the bones are put together, and muscle and skin are added to the bones, but there is no life. Then Ezekiel is told to prophesy that they come to life, and God's breath fills the bones, and they live. This is a great vision for us to understand in light of our spiritual journey. God breathes life into us when we accept him as our Lord and Savior.

How do we like dry bones?

How does God breathe life into us?

What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for September 14 – September 20, 2026

When you hear the word empty, what do you think of it? Does the word nothing come to mind? The definition of empty is to remove all content. There is nothing left. What if we put the word death with the word empty, are they similar? We might be tempted to say, "Yes," but we would be wrong. Death and emptiness are not similar. One of the struggles we face is death. What do we do about it? We are scared of dying, yet throughout the Bible, we see that death is a transition from one place to another. It is not emptiness, nothingness. As disciples of Jesus, we believe Jesus rose from the dead. If death is emptiness, then how was Jesus resurrected? It takes faith and trust to believe in Jesus' resurrection; it also takes faith and trust to believe we will be resurrected with him when we die. Which happens when we die, emptiness or life? ~ Pastor Seth

A CAREFREE LIFE

Mon. 9/14

[Psalm 73](#) – Priorities play an important role in our lives. They dictate what we focus on and can change over the course of our lives. When we were young, our priorities were to eat, sleep, and play. As we aged, our priorities shifted to taking care of our families. When Jesus became Lord of our lives, our priorities shifted from our desires to God's heart. We focused not on what we could get away with, but on what God is calling us to do. In Psalm 73, we see this reprioritizing happening in real life. The psalmist is struggling because some people have not prioritized God. They say they are following Him, but their words and actions indicate that life is about what they can get out of it. The psalmist realizes what will happen to them if they stay on this track, life far from God. The psalmist understands God's call on his life, which is to follow Him.

How does this psalm resonate with you?

What do you need to do in response to this psalm? Do you need to confess and repent? Do you need to give God thanks?

BE CAREFUL...

Tue. 9/15

[Genesis 4:1-16](#) – Two children from the same family with different outlooks on life and different directions that their choices took them. Cain and Abel give us an example of the choices that we make. They want to honor and worship God. They do so in their own way, but there is something different about how they feel after worship. Cain notices the difference and dwells on it. There is something inside of him that he cannot reconcile, which is that God enjoys Abel's offering more than his. We may see it as petty, but if we look deep in our souls, we see that we wrestle with a similar issue. We compare what we have and what we do with those around us. We end up like Cain if we are not careful. When God spoke to Cain, He started by saying, "If you do what is right, you will be accepted." Cain didn't change. Will you?

What was Cain's punishment? What was Cain's reaction?

How are you like Cain? How are you different?

REAPING WHAT IS SOWN

Wed. 9/16

[Hosea 10:1-15](#) – One of the lessons taught in seminary was to make sure that hope is given each time you preach. I try to bring that same lesson into the devotionals, but sometimes we need to hear something different. The prophet Hosea shares God's words with people who choose to follow their own truths rather than God's. They created and worshipped idols. They are mistreating their neighbors. They are living lives without God at their center. God's judgment is being poured out. There isn't much hope in this part of Hosea until verse 12. This is the only hopeful piece of this chapter. Sow righteousness for yourselves. It is not saying be self-righteous, but plant God's righteousness in your lives and receive God's unfailing love. It is not saying that we are righteous on our own, but that we should turn to God's grace and follow His ways.

What is God's righteousness?

How do we plant God's righteousness in our hearts?

WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?

Thur. 9/17

[Matthew 25:14-30](#) – Some gifts are hard to figure out what they mean. Some tasks are hard to understand why we should do them. Jesus tells a parable that looks into both difficult gifts and tasks. He says a rich man is going on a journey and gives three servants different amounts of money to handle. The first two servants handle their responsibilities very well and double what they receive. The third one does not handle it very well. He gets nervous and buries about it. When all three are called to account for their responsibilities, the first two are rewarded, and the third one is punished. We struggle with the third servant, but there are times when we are that person. We wrestle with what God is doing and what we see, so we end up doing what we want rather than following God's lead.

How does repentance fit into the third servant's life?

What are you doing with the life God has given you?

ALIVE IN CHRIST

Fri. 9/18

[Romans 6:1-14](#) - There is something about Romans 6 that gives hope. It might be that we have life with Jesus. Paul claims that we will be resurrected because we were buried with Christ. We are dead to sin through Jesus' death and brought to life through his resurrection. What an amazing truth to live out! We give in to sin so easily, but the truth of the matter is that sin is not part of life anymore. Jesus gives us the victory over sin. We don't have to obey sin; we can choose to obey Jesus. It is hard to understand this until we actually live in it. There are times when we are tempted to use words that tear others down. We can justify those words because of the other person's actions and words. After we say those words, we don't feel better or righteous. The next time, we fight temptation, and there is something different about us.

How do you feel when you don't give in to temptation?

What does it mean to be "alive in Christ"?