

## Morning Worship

February 9, 2020

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading		Romey Keith Davis
Hymn # 537 <i>I Will Sing the Wondrous Story</i>	Romey/People	
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Hymn # 540 <i>Saved, Saved</i>	Romey/People	
Hymn # 531 <i>Redeemed</i>	Romey/People	
Offering Prayer		Fred Kerns
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Chorus Book # 20 <i>We Bring the Sacrifice</i>	Romey/People	
Hymn # 324 <i>Have You Been to Calvary</i>	Romey/People	
Special Music		
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 275 <i>I Surrender All</i>	Romey/People	
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Hymn # 384 <i>The Bond of Love</i>	Romey/People	

## Jeremiah: Broken Cisterns

Jeremiah 2:9-13

God's charge against the nation of Israel, through Jeremiah, was two-fold. His disappointment was doubled also. First, they have left springs of living water, and second, they have dug cisterns for themselves, which cannot hold water. Let's look more closely at these accusations to see if God's charge against Israel is a valid charge against us as well.

### 1. The Seriousness of the Charge.

#### a. When the Lord Contends with you. Verses 9, 29

Verse 29 in this same chapter records God asking the same question of them that He could easily ask of us today: "Why do you contend with Me?" The word 'contend' means to strive against or to complain against someone. "What complaint do you have against Me? You are the ones who have been unfaithful."

If you follow this passage to verse 35, you'll see that ultimately God wins the argument. "Yet you say, 'I am innocent; surely His anger is turned away from me.' Behold, I will enter into judgment with you. Because you say, 'I have not sinned'."

Fellow believers please do not be found contending against God. Often when someone has just suffered a loss in the family, or some other tragic turn in their lives that they don't understand, it's not uncommon to hear words of anger or resentment

or disappointment expressed against God. In those times, we must remember that this person is in grief or emotional turmoil, and gently lead them through with prayer and assurances.

This is not a counseling session today. The word of God admonishes us to not be found contending against God. He deserves our uninhibited praise and our unconditional surrender to His will. He does NOT deserve our criticism or our unbelief.

But here is the more serious warning; watch out, when you give God cause to contend against YOU. In this New Testament dispensation, the believer's sins are paid for and all under the blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. If you have placed your faith in Christ's work on the cross of Calvary, you stand before God justified, accepted forever in His Son.

Do not say that you have no sin. And when you sin, do not call it what it is not. God still calls sin today as He did then. The New Testament writers agree that God has not changed in the way He looks at sin OR our owning up to it.

"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." (I John 1:8, 10).

Be careful not to give God cause to contend against you. When the religious elite of His day rejected Jesus, He quoted Psalm 118 to them, saying, "The stone which the builder rejected, this became the chief cornerstone." Then He followed with this warning for them: "Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter them like dust" (Luke 20:17, 18).

This is the Corner Stone we serve. He is the Stone which the builders rejected; and even though we haven't rejected Him as Savior, we do reject Him as Lord, when we serve sin; and He can still crush into powder. When, in our thinking and our behavior and our witness to the world, we fall on the truth of His Word, we are broken to pieces; Christian or non-Christian. But when the truth of His Word finally falls on us, in our unbelief, in our complacency, in our presumption, we will be scattered like dust; for He cannot deny Himself!

### **b. The Pagans judge you. Verses 10-11**

God begins to address His contention against them by drawing their attention to the pagan cultures around them. "Take a little trip" He says. "Go over to the coastlands of Kittim (Cyprus) or go the other way, to Kedar (in the Northern part of the Arabian Desert) and study what you see there."

You won't even find there, among heathen tribes, this spiritual adultery that you perform against Me. God is incensed, and rightly so. They worship gods that are not gods in that they are dead idols; and they are faithful to them. But God says My people have the glory of the immortal, invisible God, and happily exchange that glory for darkness and spiritual poverty.

"Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures" (Romans 1:22-23). God has cause to contend against us today, Christians. The pagans themselves are judges against us in their devotion, just as the pagans of Kittim and Kedar judged the people of Judah.

### **c. How God sees it. Verse 12**

Do you want a glimpse of how God sees this apostasy; both theirs and ours? Read verse 12 in our text. "Be appalled, O heavens, at this..."

The earth itself is too corrupted by sin to notice. But be astonished, you stars and moons and planets, some of the things these people turn to in worship. Be embarrassed that these people have exchanged the glory of the incorruptible to pay you homage.

## **2. Our Own Broken Cisterns.**

Let's talk about some of the broken cisterns we've hewn out for ourselves in this age.

### **a. As a Nation .**

As a nation, the United States of America, the broken cisterns we've carved out for ourselves should be pretty obvious to us by now. Our nation was founded upon Christian principles with a bold declaration of belief in a Creator God. We have slowly at first, but with ever accelerating deliberateness, abandoned springs of living water to hew out the cisterns of:

- Evolution
- Science
- Finance
- Philosophy
- Religion (and by that I mean the worship of religion itself)
- And the lesser gods of apathy, indifference, political correctness, hedonism, and more.

Some say we have had our final warning. Shortly after WWII ended, General Douglas MacArthur, addressing the student body of one of our largest universities, warned that Armageddon is at our door. He predicted that if our nation did not return to God in repentance and humility and reverence, we would soon cease to exist as a free nation. His words have not been heeded any more than the words of Godly preachers and public servants over the decades have been heeded, and now it may be too late. Judah didn't heed the words of the prophets either, and judgement was inevitable.

God declaration that the people are depending on broken cisterns is as much for the United States in the 21st century, as it was for Judah in Jeremiah's day. Tell me which ones these broken cisterns can hold water or can quenched the insatiable thirst of our nation: Evolution, Science, Finance, Philosophy, Religion, and the lesser gods; apathy, indifference, political correctness, hedonism, whatever we can find to take the place of God on the Throne over our country.

### **b. As a People .**

As individuals, as citizens of a republic, we hew out our own cracked cisterns. That's why the larger problems exist, because we have taught our young to do this, then they grow up and become the nation's leaders and they only continue what they've been taught.

In our homes and businesses; in our own private lives, we've not drunk from the living springs. We've left them for that which disappoints.

Sit quietly at Perkin's or at IHOP some morning and eavesdrop on what people are discussing. Glance at the magazine covers and best sellers racks. Notice the main focuses of commercials and the stock market reports. Check into the money and effort business has put into training its people to be politically correct in all their dealings, even at the compromise of moral or religious values. Listen to politicians and legal experts talk, and earmark the things they refer to with confidence and trust

and a twisted sort of love, to solve our nation's ills and you'll get a glimpse of the cisterns that our country has dug for itself, one person and one family at a time.

### **c. As Christians .**

Are we innocent in the church? We are far from it. We are guilty of it all. We have the truth. We who believe have the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. We have His warnings and His promises at our fingertips in the Scriptures that we profess to hold as Holy and unchangeable. But when we are cast into trial; when adverse circumstances come our way, do we run to the fountain of living waters? Seldom.

We grab our picks and our shovels and boy, do we commence to digging. We run to the self-help books. Never mind if their advice is Biblically unsound; as long as it's sold in a Christian book store or recommended by a church member, or endorsed by a celebrity. And if someone makes a movie of it; why, that's the final stamp of approval on any work.

## **3. God's Provision for the Repentant.**

Well, it's time to talk about this One whose constant call through the ages, whether in the form of warning or pleading, has always been a call to repentance, sweetened with divine promise.

### **a. Who is this Fountain ?**

Well, I think we all know the answer to that one, but it's fun to look anyway. In Isaiah 55:1, the prophet cries out to get the attention of the people. "Come!" He is about to make a proclamation of hope and joy for the one who heeds and comes to receive.

"Come! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come; buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

Then, in John 7, Jesus echoes the sentiments of the prophet; and to the educated Jewish ear, He would have been proclaiming Himself as fulfillment of the prophet's words.

Jesus also, cries out with a loud voice, as Isaiah did. And He gives His invitation: "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'." (verses 37,38)

So Jesus is the fountain of living waters, as He referred to Himself through the prophet, Jeremiah. He confirms this also in the fourth chapter of John, in his discourse with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life" (verses 13-14).

So it is well established for us, and the Holy Spirit confirms to our hearts, that this 'fountain of living waters' referred to in Jeremiah 2 can be no other than Christ Himself. He was that to His people, even before His incarnation. He has always been the source of life for His creation.

There's more to say about this, but before we go on, let's talk for just a minute about whether it's too late for us or for our nation, to turn from broken cisterns to the Living Fountain.

### **b. Is it too Late ?**

The Lord does not criticize His people for thirsting; He brings charges against them for how they are seeking to satisfy their thirst. "They have forsaken Me...for broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Is it too late for our nation? Fellow believer, if you've been turning your back on your Lord to pursue the things that do not satisfy; worldly pleasures that are putrid at best, and in the end always empty; is it too late for you?

Let me answer this way. A natural spring bubbles up out of the ground. Its source which is some mountain lake higher up will not dry up simply because you've brought bottled water to your nearby camp. You are not taking advantage of it, but your neglect does not affect the spring. It is there, flowing, clear, cool, fresh, and constant.

No, it is not too late for the repentant sinner, or a repentant nation, to turn from futility and once again own the Fountain of Living Waters. From my own experience, and what I've witnessed in others, that sadly and too often, people have to be crushed by the consequences of their sin; poisoned by the putrid water in their own laboriously hewn cisterns, before they turn back to the Living Fountain in repentance and faith and receive His grace and mercy and healing.

But it doesn't have to be that way. He is not as far from you, erring Christian. He is not as far from our ailing and dying nation as it feels when we're steeped in disobedience and sin. He is so close to you and to our country, that if you, if we as a people, if we as the church, would turn around and turn away from futility to Him, we'd find Him so close that we'd already be in His arms just from the turning.

### **c. Spring up, O Well !**

Psalm 63:1 says, "O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

We could all have this same yearning for the Lord that the psalmist had. There is one difference between physical water and the Living Water that Jesus is; that difference is that it is lack of physical water that makes us thirsty and thirstier; whereas, the more we have of Jesus; the closer we are to Him, the thirstier we get for His kind of water.

Psalm 143 says "...I meditate on all Thy doings; I muse on the work of Thy hands. I stretch out my hands to Thee; My soul longs for Thee, as a parched land."

What keeps the soul longing for God? Our meditation on His works, stretching the hands toward Him like a loving child, wanting to be closer to our Daddy-wanting Him for Who He is and not for what He can do for us. That is the kind of relationship with God that both satisfies and makes us thirsty for more.

### **Conclusion:**

Going back to John 7; after Jesus shouts out His invitation to come and drink of the living waters, the gospel writer explains this:

"But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified" (verse 39).

Fellow believers in Christ, you know that He has been glorified. The Spirit has been given, and if you have recognized your sin and repented of it, and turned to Christ through faith in His shed blood, then the Spirit does indeed live in you. Verse 38 is referring very specifically to you.

"He who believes in Me, as the scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'."

Turn from your broken cisterns. Whatever form they've taken, no matter how impressive they look, they hold stagnation and disease, and in the end, they will leave you dry and empty.

Recognize that within you, if you are His, spring up the waters of eternal life. Not only do they nurture and refresh you, but as any flowing stream, they are meant to flow out to others, so that they might have life.

Our land can be healed. But at this point the healing will have to begin within the true church, and come from the true church, because all else in which our nation has placed its trust and confidence is just broken cisterns.

You can be healed, Christian. Turn back in repentance to the Fountain of Living Waters and let the flow begin again. You can know the freshness and the cleansing that come with repentance and properly placed faith; and you can, today, find yourself singing a new joyful song to Him.

## ***Turn to The Living Water!***

### ***Jeremiah: Faithful to the Mission***

I can't wait to get started on our January Bible Study today. It's such a good book with so much personal insight into the life of the prophet. I must say, I'm a little disappointed in the LifeWay materials. Sure, the book of Jeremiah the prophet is rather lengthy and you can't cover it all in a few short lessons. But the decision to leave out Jeremiah's sermons in chapters 2 to 24 – It seems to me there's so much in them that they should have at least been mentioned. So my decision has been to preach on those messages that Jeremiah proclaimed to the people of his day. We'll cover the material given to us through the LifeWay study during our Sunday afternoon times. But I feel that we all need to be exposed to the sermons.

There are messages like we find in chapter 7, when Jeremiah compares the people's loyalty to God and to the Temple. And of course there's his observation at the potter's wheel in chapter 18. The prophet's words are certainly noteworthy. We must not forget his exotic demonstrations with the ox yoke and Jeremiah's own loincloth. These are only a few of the many sermons Jeremiah preached. His messages have great importance and need to be studied. With each we must not miss the comparison of the people of Judah to the people of our day.

The following paragraph is copied from the Expository Notes from the Leader's Guide. It seemed like a good summary to me of what the book of Jeremiah is about.

*Jeremiah identified four areas in which God is active. First, God is active in the lives of individuals. He calls them to serve Him in specific roles. God's activity in the prophet's life is apparent by the many verbs God used with the first personal pronoun "I." Second, God is active in the life of His covenant people. He chose them to reveal God to the rest of humanity. Essential to Jeremiah's message concerning Israel was its choice as the people of Yahweh. The prophecy depicted the relationship between Yahweh and Israel as that of a potter and his clay. Third, God is active in the history of the nations. God is sovereign over every nation. He controls events that form their history. He could use Nebuchadnezzar to punish Judah. Jeremiah comprehended that Yahweh orchestrated the events shaking the world of his day. Fourth, God is active in His creation. God created the earth and all the creatures that inhabit it. Therefore, the world is His to govern as He wills.*

Again, since Jeremiah is one of my favorite prophets, I'm looking forward to this study. I hope you will enjoy it and it will enlighten all of us. Make plans to be at the Bible Study sessions. Over the next few weeks, don't miss a Sunday morning worship time. Open your Bible and read through the book of Jeremiah. Maybe read it twice. Let God's Word speak to your heart and mind concerning the times.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

## **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Dillon Burgess, Fred Kerns,

Don Sharp, Gary Yarbrough

Alternate: Joe Coats

Lunch / Bible Study ..... Noon

No Evening Worship .....

### **Wednesday, February 12**

Prayer Warriors ..... 10:00 am

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

### **Friday, February 14**

Happy Valentine's Day!!!!

### **Sunday, February 16, 2020**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Bill Schottel, Joe Coats,

Ken Nice, George Burgess

Alternate: Gary Yarbrough

### **Wednesday, February 19**

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

### **Thursday, February 20**

Food Pantry Day .....

## **Up-Coming Events .....**

**February 9 & 23 — January Bible Study @ Noon**

**February 12 — Lincoln's Birthday**

**February 14 — Valentine's Day**

**February 17 — President's Day**

**February 22 — Washington's Birthday**

**February 29 — Enjoy the extra day this month**

## **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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## **Sunday Night**

We will not have Sunday Night service tonight.

Plan to stay after the morning worship service for lunch and January Bible Study.

## **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

We are enjoying our study  
entitled “The New Testament You Never Knew.” It’s not too late to join. Won’t you  
please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

## ***January Bible Study***

This year our study is on the Old Testament book of  
Jeremiah. We’ll begin our study this afternoon with the same schedule as in  
the past. Light lunch at noon—  
Study to follow.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers while I was sick. They helped me a lot. I could feel God's presence with me.

I'm feeling much better now. I really appreciated your prayers. Thank you again.

Friends in Christ,  
Dorothy Post

Dear Calvary Baptist Church,

Thank you for your generous gift. It is donations like yours that enable us to minister to our MO Missionaries and their families.

You're so kind. We're so thankful.

Missouri WMU  
Madge Truex Committee

The community of St. James Parish/School gratefully acknowledges your recent gift of prayer in memory of Fr. Evan Harkins. Your prayers are a wonderful gift. Thank you and God bless you all.

St. James Parish

Prayer Warriors  
10:00am  
February 12  
February 12, 2020

## For the Record-

### Attendance: February 2, 2020

Sunday School.....	32
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	34
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	49
Sunday Night .....	N/A
Children's Worship .....	10
Wednesday Night .....	4
Missions Study.....	11

### Financial Record:

Weekly Budget ..... \$ 2,286.39

Offering Received ... \$ 3,646.00  
Long Family – January \$ 125.00

**Offering Received by Mail:**

Eric and Shelly Thompson

**February Counting Team:**

Larry McKahan and Jordan Lane

**February Van Driver:**

Joe Coats

Remember to call 232-3747  
before 8 am if you need a ride.

**February Member Birthdays:**

05...Matthew Mayse

06...Eileen Smith

06...Romey Keith Davis

16...Karen Shirley

**February Anniversaries**

George and Brenda Burgess

February 25, 1995

***Prayer Requests ...***

The family of Betty Campbell

Alice Coats—cast off this week!

Stanley Wilson and family

Nancy Baker— Bro. Allan's sister

Nellie Reynolds

Jim and Brigida Winans-Jim is home

Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister

Gary Hurst—cancer

Carl Conard—Jack's cousin

Mike Green—ankle recovery

Jack and Flo Conard

Sharon Russell—George's sister

June Fritchle

Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys

Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!

Romey Keith Davis—Music

Marcia and Don Hart—blessings

Arlette Duty—strength

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Chuck and Gloria Stewart

Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance

Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister

Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim

Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
Doris Richardson      Elmer Mayse  
Kevin Duty              Tim Izer  
Bill Dunn              Shirley Wilson  
Ann Riddle              Kenny Duty  
Keon McKahan              Buddy Means  
Jozy Winans              Curtis Conard  
Pat Means              Seth Long  
Bill & Juanita              Brenda Burgess  
Pat Puckett              Sharri Duty  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service Women and Men  
Terrorism in our world

**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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