

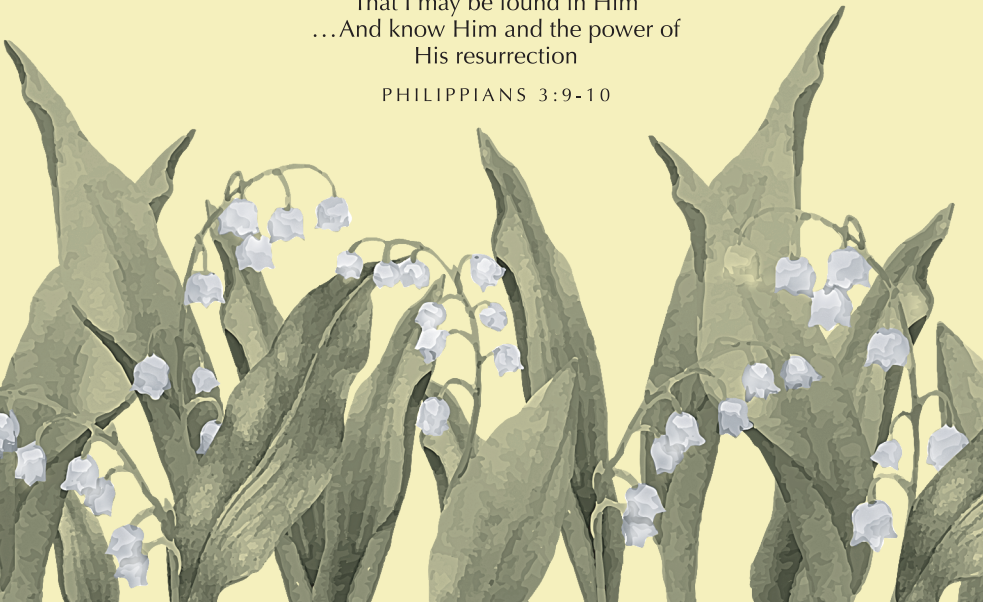
PANTAI BAPTIST CHURCH PETALING JAYA

REFLECTIONS FOR
GOOD
FRIDAY &
EASTER

2022

That I may be found in Him
...And know Him and the power of
His resurrection

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-10



"IT IS THE WHOLE JOB
OF THE WHOLE CHURCH
TO PREACH
THE WHOLE GOSPEL
TO THE WHOLE WORLD."



Charles H. Spurgeon

"I am the Lily of the Valleys."

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:1

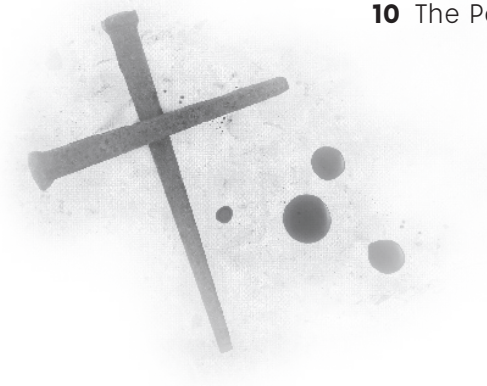
The cover of this booklet is adorned with graphic images of the lilies of the valley. The Lord Jesus is our Lily of the Valleys, the fairest of them all.

We understand from this, that Christ is lovely. Whatever there may be of beauty in the material world, Jesus Christ possesses all that in the spiritual world, only in a tenfold multiplication. A high esteem of Christ is very necessary to our comfort. When you esteem Christ highly, the things of this world become of small account with you, and their loss is not so heavily felt. If you feel your losses and crosses to be such ponderous weights that His love cannot lift you from the dust, surely you have made too much of the world and too little of Him.

Christ's people have been more than conquerors through Him who has loved them. When His love has been shed abroad in our hearts, we have elevated thoughts of our Lord.

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1

Man's Fallen Nature

as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one."

ROMANS 3:10

Something very serious happened to the human race as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The entire human race fell and our nature as human beings since the Fall has been influenced by the power of evil. David said, "I was born in sin.." (Psalm 51:5). He acknowledges the human condition of fallenness which he himself came into the world.

Original sin marred our nature. We sin because we are sinners. Does it mean that every human being is as wicked as they can possibly be? No, it means that the Fall is so serious that it affects the whole person. It affects our minds and our thinking. We still have the capacity to think but the Bible speaks about the way the mind has been darkened and weakened (Romans 1:21). We still are able to choose what we desire but our desires remain chained by our evil impulses (Augustine).

Men know that they are guilty. When men get alone, if in their loneliness the thought of death forces itself upon them, they boast no more of goodness. It is not easy for a man to plead his self-righteousness then. Let the whole world stand guilty before GOD. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. There is none righteous, no, not one. The moment a man says "I have no sin", he commits the sin of contradicting his Maker and making GOD a false accuser of His creatures.

Who would dare declare himself to be just and holy before the Living GOD?

Today many Christians are turning back to the puritans to "walk in the old paths" of GOD's word and to proclaim old truth that glorifies Jesus Christ. "He loved me and gave Himself for me." There is no new theology.

REFLECTION

Am I partially self-righteous? Do I think that I am no worse than my neighbour, and in fact a great deal better because I do not drink, smoke or swear and my virtues exceed my vices?

2

My Kingdom is not of this World

He said to them, "you are from below, I am from above. You are of this world, I am not of this world."

JOHN 8:23

Two Kingdoms: One is GOD's, the other is Satan's. One is the Kingdom of Light and the other the Kingdom of Darkness. One is Heavenly, the other is earthly. One is spiritual, the other is flesh. One is marked by truth, the other by lies. One exalts Christ, the other exalts the Anti-Christ. One is clean, the other unclean. One is godly, the other is demonic. One is eternal, the other is passing away.

Those two Kingdoms are separate. They cannot mix. They have nothing in common. What fellowship has Light with Darkness? What harmony has Christ with

the devil? What agreement has the temple of GOD with the idols? What partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

Does that mean we become monastics and go live in caves? No, No. Jesus in John 17 prayed to the Father, "Father, I don't ask that You take them out of the world, I ask that You keep them from the Evil One. They have to be here to fulfil the Great Commission. Don't let them get seduced by Satan. Don't let them get pulled over into the kingdom of darkness."

Christians, we are the temple of the Living GOD. We belong to the Kingdom of Light. The Kingdom of Light needs no help from the devil. John says, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world because the world is passing away.*" It has no future.

REFLECTION

Has the world come into our hearts? Jesus stands at the door and knocks. "*If any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...and sup with him, and he with me.*"

- Revelations 3:20

3

What is Eternal Life?

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

JOHN 10:28

Many Christians think eternal life is just living forever in Heaven when you die. That is a poor understanding of what is eternal life. It is defined in the Bible in John 17: 3 *"And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true GOD, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."* GOD is spirit. We can only know GOD if His Holy Spirit is within us, and we can only know Jesus Christ if the same Spirit makes us alive unto Him.

Spiritually dead people cannot know GOD.

The life that Jesus gives us is the life that comes from GOD. John 3:16 tells us that GOD so loved that world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting

life. Not “*will have*” but present tense “*have.*” Eternal life begins when the Holy Spirit works that miraculous change in our heart that quickens us from the realm of the spiritually dead to the spiritually alive unto GOD. It will be a mystery to yourselves, a wonder to your own hearts. It is all Divine work and has nothing to do with you. Just as when you were born, you had nothing to do with your physical birth. Your life was given by GOD. So also it is with your spiritual rebirth.

The new spiritual life is a heavenly life, a holy life, an energetic life and a blessed life. It will conflict at once with the old nature but with Christ we can sing, “we shall overcome.”

REFLECTION

Do you have this eternal life given by Jesus Christ? Do you believe with all your heart and mind that Jesus is the Son of God and that GOD sent Him from heaven to die for your sins? If you do not believe, you cannot enter heaven.

4

The Way of Salvation

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

JOHN 14:6

Salvation is of the Lord. It means the whole plan of salvation whereby men are saved from their natural estate of sin and ruin and are translated into the Kingdom of GOD and made heirs of eternal happiness, is of GOD and of Him only. And the only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD.

Sinners cannot enter Heaven. Man has forfeited every claim to personal righteousness since the Fall. The Bible says none is righteous, no, not one. All men have evil hearts although their hearts may not all be equally inclined to the coarser vices in which some indulge. Yet there is in every sinner the black spot of alienation from GOD, the forgetfulness of GOD and the love of sin. And to get that out of the heart requires a Divine operation, the work of GOD's Holy Spirit, *in every case*.

No man can make his heart clean. There is no bath that can take away a single stain of guilt except that “fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel’s veins.”

In the work of salvation, no human intellect and no created intelligence assisted GOD. This doctrine of Salvation by Grace alone is a great battering ram against man’s pride. Self-righteousness is born in the house of folly and nursed by human fancy. The man who counts himself righteous because of his good works, worships himself. He has a crown on his forehead that must come down.

Self-righteousness and faith in Christ are diametrically opposed.

There is no special stairway or private path to heaven for intellectuals and the upper classes. There is no price you can pay to get there, only one Royal highway which is open to all sinners, the greatest sinner or the greatest saint.

REFLECTION

Has your heart seduced you to the delusion that you are not as bad as the tax collector? Do you have any partial self-righteousness arising out of your works for the church or charity organisations? Examine your heart. Repent if you do.

5

Genuine Repentance

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

MATTHEW 3:2

Repentance is gift of Grace given to a sinner by GOD. It is the marvel of Divine mercy that it not only provides the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, that it not only invites men to receive the Savior, but it positively makes men want to be saved.

There is no one who seeks after GOD. It is GOD who draws us near to Him. Jesus said, *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."* (John 6:44) The way to repent is by GOD's grace. If you want faith, remember He gives it. If you want repentance, He gives it. GOD can make you feel your great sin and cause you to repent by the sight of Calvary's Cross.

True repentance makes a man feel that all his tears cannot wash away his guilt and sins. Only Christ and

Christ alone can save him. The change which GOD works in a man is neither a transitory nor a superficial change, not a cutting off the top of the weed. Sincere penitence which Divine grace works will make a penitent go from strength to strength in holiness until he shall hate and abhor sin. It is not "I will renounce this sin and the other but there are certain sins I will keep and hold." If you indulge in but one lust, like a leak in a ship, it will sink your soul.

When a man repents with that grace of repentance, he repents not of the punishment which is to follow the deed but of the deed itself because it broke the Saviour's heart. The sin grieved GOD. If there were no unquenchable hell fire, he would still hate sin. It is such repentance which everyone of us must have.



REFLECTION

When was the last time you repented of your sins?

6

He is the Bread of Life

"I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall not thirst."

JOHN 6:35

Jesus was obviously not talking about cannibalism when He said *"he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."* The carnal mind pervert the Lord's spiritual word and looks no deeper than that of its outward letter. Jesus in the flesh made manifest becomes our soul's bread. Jesus' bleeding on the Cross, a substitute for sinners, is our soul's drink. Our Lord has taken metaphors of a very common character to teach profound truths.

Food is useless unless it is eaten. Bread when not eaten will not stay our hunger. So also, spiritual truth does no good if it is not internalized. Mere knowing the truth profits nothing.

Eating is prompted by hunger. Those who are satiated with their sin have no hunger for spiritual things.

The food that people eat becomes part of them through the digestive system. People may admire Christ and His teachings and even bemoan the great tragedy of His death on the Cross but they who say they believe in Him do not become one with Him. People believe a lot of things simply as facts.

Eating involves trust. No one knowingly eats tainted or spoiled food. The very act of eating implies faith that the food is edible. The metaphor of eating the Bread of Life implies believing and trusting in Jesus.

Finally, eating is personal. No one can eat a meal for another. The Lord Jesus is to be received by each one of us personally for himself.

Jesus declared that His flesh is true food, and His blood is true drink, the sustenance that provides the very life of GOD to the believer. His words are truths that must be digested daily so that our new spiritual life has all it wants and we no longer hunger for the world and its vanities. GOD grant us the grace to live on Christ forever more.

REFLECTION

Are you feeding your soul daily with the Word of GOD?

7

The Offence of the Cross

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of GOD.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

People mock us when we tell them the truth of hell and the devil, the doom of the wicked and Judgement Day. It is as in the days of Noah when the mockers laughed at him for building the ark when no rain ever fell before. But when the great floods came, the terror was unimaginable. We are to be faithful in warning men of the wrath of GOD against sin. How few there are in this age who solemnly tell people of the Judgement to come. Let us not forget our duty to do so.

We should not be surprised that the Cross is an offence to the world because it puts down human wisdom, opposes all notions of human ability, and is contrary to men's ideas of merit. Self-righteousness or pride is the

greatest sin since the Fall. The philosopher considers the Cross foolish, a religion for simpletons. Modern Pharisees who rely on good works to get into heaven find the Cross repugnant and undignified. The morally self-righteous refuse to accept that there is nothing good in them. How can they be lumped together with murderers, liars, robbers, and adulterers?

Whether men like the truth or not, it is written, "*GOD is angry with the wicked every day.*" (Psalm 7:11). Once ministers faithfully proclaim the plain, simple gospel, we shall soon hear the laughter, scorn and jeers. It will be a sad day for the Church when the world speaks well of it, and everybody commends it. For then people can no longer tell the difference between the world and the church of GOD.

The Apostles turned the world upside down. Today, God calls us all to be unashamed of the Gospel. The church of Jesus Christ is marching forward and "*all the powers of hell will not stand against it.*" (Matthew 16:18)

REFLECTION

Are you afraid or ashamed to share the gospel?

8

Justified by GOD

GOD is the one who justifies.

ROMANS 8:33

The sinner says, “I deserve to die. Jesus, the Son of God stands in my stead and suffers for me.” When a sinner by faith believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of GOD whom GOD sent to atone for his sins by Christ’s death on the Cross, GOD immediately pardons him and justifies him – declares him Not Guilty.

Justification is an act of GOD’s free grace. We don’t deserve it. Grace is unmerited Divine favour. GOD accepts us as righteous in His sight only because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to us when we by faith believe in Him as Saviour and Lord. We cannot earn justification. We have offended GOD so much that His wrath is upon us forever unless He wills to make

us just and lifts us out of the dunghill of our sins. Justification now comes as a priceless gift from our gracious GOD.

This great mercy of justification is instantaneous. The dying thief was immediately justified after he had trusted in Christ at the Cross. O how blessed is this truth: justified in a moment and justified completely!

If I am justified, then I have peace with GOD. I can claim Jehovah's protection and I shall have it, for He will not suffer the just man to perish. If I am justified, I may come before GOD and ask for heaven as my right, for He will never deny to a justified person the fulness of joy which is at His right hand for evermore. Oh, what a blessing to be justified!

REFLECTION

Ask yourself whether you have been justified. "Well," you may say "perhaps I have been, and do not know it." My dear brother and sister, if you have any doubt, go to Christ again. Go to Him just as you are, with nothing but the plea of His blood at the Cross. He has said, *"him who comes to me, I will not cast out."*

Sanctified by GOD

"Now the GOD of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, ... make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

HEBREWS 13: 20, 21

Sanctification begins once you are born again. The Spirit of GOD infuses into man the life of GOD so that the believing man becomes spiritually alive. In him is now a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. The born-again Christian is made to abound in good works unto the praise and glory of GOD.

The word "sanctify" in the Old Testament has the meaning of setting apart. It means the taking of something which was common before and setting it apart for GOD's service alone. It is to be regarded,

treated, and declared as a holy thing. True believers should be a separate people sanctified from all the rest of mankind.

Brethren, have we ever realized this truth as we ought to do? It is a great sacrilege for the Christian to live for himself, or to live for the world. I fear nine out of ten of professing Christians have never recognized this. They think if they were to devote a part of their substance or a part of their time to GOD, that will do. Christ did not buy a part of you with His blood.

It was a crime which brought destruction upon Babylon when drunken Belshazzar cried, "Bring forth the cups of the Lord of the temple at Jerusalem." They filled the cups with wine and as the sacred vessels touched his lips a hand was seen mysteriously writing out his doom: *"you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting."*

REFLECTION

Will you and I be found wanting if the Lord weighs us in the balances today?

The Power of His Resurrection

"That I may know Him, and the power
of His resurrection."

PHILIPPIANS 3:10

Beloved, it needs the same power to make us holy that it needed to bring our Saviour from the dead. That same power which enabled the risen Lord to ascend to heaven must be exercised in living saints to make them rise from one degree of holiness to another, till they shall be presented without spot or wrinkle before the Father's presence.

The Apostle Paul longed to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. Paul already knew the Lord Jesus by faith. You may know the Lord and have an idea that He is powerful. But to know Him and His power over you, is a stage further. Paul desired intimate acquaintance with the

Lord Jesus to such a degree that he should feel Christ's power at every point in his life.

Jesus said of his life, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."* He entered the grave as a captive but left it as a conqueror. Death had no power over Him. It is this resurrection power that quickens to life spiritually dead souls. As a true believer, you possess this day that same life which is in Christ Jesus.

The secret to an energetic victorious Christian life is daily communion with the Lord and drawing Divine power from the truths in the hallowed pages of His word. *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."* (John 15:4)

There are many Christians sadly, who do not know the power of the resurrection. They profess to be Christians and have a form of godliness but are like the walking dead.

REFLECTION

How long have you been a Christian? How is your walk with the Lord? Do you desire to live a resurrected life in Christ Jesus?
Ask Him.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

You are encouraged to read and meditate on the sermons below.

- ▶ R.C. Sproul. *Total Depravity (Part 1) and (Part 2)*.
www.ligonier.org
- ▶ Dr. R.C. Sproul. *Depravity, Augustine and Pelagius*.
www.apuritansmind.com
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Soul-Satisfying Bread*.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *The Best Bread*.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Jesus Only*.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ R.C. Sproul. *Self-Righteous Snobbery*.
www.ligonier.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Life Eternal*.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *My Lord and My GOD*.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *None But Jesus*.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *The New Nature*.
www.spurgeon.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

You are encouraged to read and meditate on the sermons below.

- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon.
The Fullness of Christ, the Treasury of Saints.
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *The Way of Salvation.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *The Way.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ John MacArthur. *Finding the Narrow Way to Heaven.*
www.gty.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Salvation of the Lord.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *There is No Difference.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *The Repentance Unto Life.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Turn or Burn.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *The Mission of the Son of Man.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Life from the Dead.*
www.spurgeon.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

You are encouraged to read and meditate on the sermons below.

- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Immeasurable Love.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ John MacArthur. *GOD's Kingdom is Not of This World.*
www.gty.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Flee from the Wrath to Come.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Justification and Glory.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Justification.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Perfect Sanctification.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Three-fold Sanctification.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ C. H. Spurgeon. *The Power of His Resurrection.*
www.spurgeon.org
- ▶ Monergism. *Nothing is More Deadly than Self-Righteousness.*
www.monergism.com
- ▶ C.H. Spurgeon. *Judgements and No Repentance: Repentance and No Salvation.*
www.spurgeon.org

EVERY
CHRISTIAN
HERE IS
EITHER A
MISSIONARY
OR AN
IMPOSTER.



C.H. SPURGEON

**DON'T EVER
WATER DOWN
THE GOSPEL.**
IF THE TRUTH OFFENDS,
THEN LET IT OFFEND.
**PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN LIVING THEIR
WHOLE LIVES IN
OFFENSE TO GOD.**
LET THEM BE OFFENDED
FOR A WHILE.

JOHN MACARTHUR

THE BIBLE
DOES NOT HAVE
ONE NICE THING
TO SAY TO
ANYONE WHO
DOES NOT
FEAR GOD.

STEVE LAWSON

LORD JESUS,
YOU ARE MY
RIGHTEOUSNESS,
I AM YOUR SIN.
YOU HAVE TAKEN
UPON YOURSELF
WHAT IS MINE
AND
GIVEN ME WHAT
IS YOURS.

MARTIN LUTHER

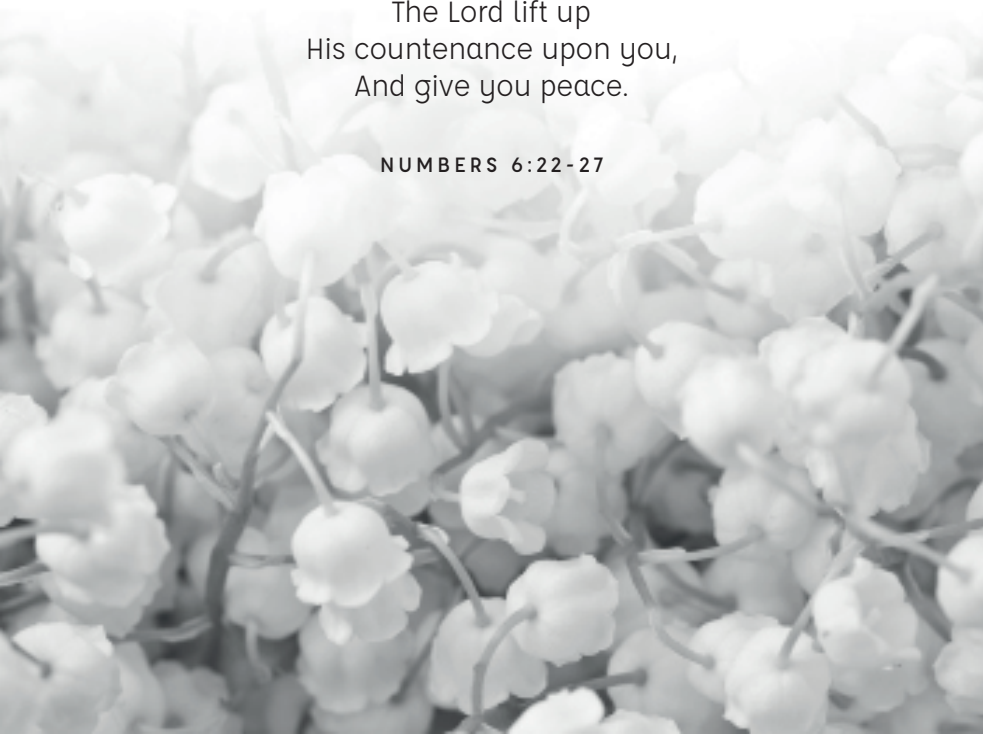
IF YOU BELIEVE
WHAT YOU LIKE
IN THE GOSPEL,
AND REJECT
WHAT YOU DON'T LIKE,
IT IS NOT
THE GOSPEL
YOU BELIEVE,
BUT YOURSELF.

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU

The Lord bless you,
and keep you;
The Lord make His face
shine on you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up
His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:22-27



GOOD FRIDAY *Service*

Date: 15 April 2022

Time: 8.30pm

EASTER *Service*

Date: 17 April 2022

Time: 10am

V E N U E

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