

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”
2 Timothy 2:22

July 25, 2021 - The Theology of Exile

The Bible begins with Adam and Eve’s sin and exile from God’s presence in the garden. From then on, mankind follows their example of sin and feels the same consequence of exile from God’s presence. For the rest of the Bible, God uses examples of physical exile from the Promised Land of Canaan as a metaphor for our spiritual exile from Him in the garden.



After man built the great tower in Babylon, God exiled them by dividing their languages and scattering them throughout the earth (Gen. 11:8). Now watch: God calls Abraham out of exile and brings Him to the Promised Land! But there’s a problem; Abraham still doesn’t feel at home there! He described himself as a “stranger and a sojourner.” (Gen. 23:4). Why? Because even though he had a good relationship with God in the Promised Land, he knew it wasn’t his true home in the garden of God’s presence. He “desired a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” (Hebrews 11:16)

This pattern continues throughout the rest of the Bible. Exile to Promised Land, Promised Land to exile, exile to Promised land, and no one is ever truly at home. The Israelites are exiled from the Promised Land under Egyptian slavery for 430 years. God rescues them from exile and brings them to the Promised Land, an Eden-like place.

But they still don’t feel at home there; the nations keep attacking them and influencing them to sin until God exiles Israel again from the Promised Land in 722 BC and exiles Judah in 586 BC. 70 years pass, and God rescues Judah from exile and brings them back to the Promised Land again, but they still don’t feel at home! The temple isn’t as glorious as it was under Solomon (Ezra 3:12) and the evil nations are still threatening their existence (Ezra 4:4). Why does this keep happening? What’s the real problem? Sin!

The Old Testament prophets explained in order to truly come back from exile, they don’t need to come back to the physical Promised Land, they need to spiritually come back to God so He can bring them to their true home in the garden of His presence (Heaven). Ezekiel said they needed spiritual cleansing, God’s Spirit, and new hearts; only then would “this desolate land become like the garden of Eden.” (36:35)

Hundreds of years later, John the Baptist comes to prepare people for what Jesus is coming to do. John calls them out of spiritual exile. He brings them out to the wilderness to cross/be baptized in the Jordan river to the spiritual Promised Land. This is what Jesus came to accomplish! He saves us from our spiritual exile, brings cleansing, pours out the Spirit Ezekiel promised, builds His church in Jerusalem in the Promised Land, and explains that the new Promised Land isn’t just Canaan, but the entire earth (Romans 4:13)!

So now, spiritually speaking, Christians can live anywhere on earth and be in the Promised Land! The church is the new temple of God, we’re his royal holy priests, and He dwells with us, but there’s a problem: we still don’t feel at home here! Why?

Because like Abraham and all the faithful before us, we know we’re still not back in the fulness of God’s presence in the garden of Heaven! The spiritual temple of the church is amazing, but it’s still not as glorious as the full presence of God. Plus, the evil nations are still a thorn in our side, attacking us, tempting us and threatening our existence. So even though we’re no longer spiritually exiled from God, we’ll never feel fully at home until we’re back with God in His presence forever, and sin has been removed forever. We hope and long for that day! It’s beautifully described in Revelation 21:1-4 and 22:1-5. In the meantime, we live like all the men and women of faith before us: “All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, they confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.” (Heb. 11:13). - BM

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord’s Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Emory VanCleeve

Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.



1 Peter 2:11-12

Stage 1: Modernism - science and reason are truth, no _____ for religion

Stage 2: Post-modernism - there is no truth, religion is all about _____

Stage 3: Post-post-modernism - if you don't validate my truth, you're trying to _____ me

Effective exiles have _____ that they _____ be effective even in exile.

1. Don't Be _____!

- **1 Peter 4:12-13** - What's surprising is how long American culture has _____ Christianity!
- **2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20** - Surprise leads to fear, which leads to _____ and negativity. We don't need the culture to support us for Christianity to flourish!
- **John 16:32-33; 1 Peter 3:14**

2. _____ People with Love and Respect

- **1 Peter 2:12, 17; 3:8-9**
- Live the blessing ethic! (**Jeremiah 28:11; 29:4-7**)
 - Be an empathic listener, invite non-Christian neighbors over for a meal, let them know you're praying for them, disagree _____ (**1 Peter 3:15**)

3. Set _____, but Pick your Battles

- **Daniel 1:7; 1 Peter 4:3-4**
- Draw the line at participation in sin. But draw too many lines and you'll have to _____ from everyone!
 - **1 Peter 2:9** - Focus on proclaiming God's excellencies, not jumping on every issue.

4. Lean on Your Brethren

- **1 Peter 1:22; 4:8-9**
 - The more exiled we become, the more we'll cherish our brethren because we'll need a place to call _____.
- Don't wait for a crisis to build a home here at PSD.

Questions for H2H Discussion

1. What gives you the most confidence we can still be effective as exiles? What, if anything, causes you to doubt it?
2. What are some loving, respectful ways to point people to Jesus in our conversations?
3. What are some loving, respectful ways to disagree if non-Christians attack us or God or Christianity?
4. How can we react in a more positive way on social media, at work, and at home when Christians lose ground politically?

Announcements

Sunday, July 25th, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

MEMBER HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Jack Thomas** is back home now from rehab. He has very much appreciated all the cards, calls, and visits by the family at PSD.
- **Joy Thomas** is still struggling with laryngitis.
- **Carol Van Cleef** had a procedure this week to break and up and remove all kidney stones. It was successful, and they're making arrangements to get her into rehab at Village on the Green before she can go back home to her apartment.
- **Brian Messerli** had such low spinal fluid pressure they couldn't even draw enough to test. He has an appointment with the neurologist on August 2nd to determine next steps.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Cindy V's cousin Janice** has leukemia and finds out this week if she'll need hernia surgery.
- **Cindy V's aunt Inez** is being treated for c-diff. She's 89, is very tired and sleeps all the time.

TRAVELING:

- **Matt and Amy Hinely and kids** will be leaving tomorrow to travel around the Western U.S. for a few months. They're planning to return on October 20th.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **H2H starts today!** Sign up sheets are in the back if you've not joined a group.

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson, Geny Harrison, Peggy Hunt, Thurman and Lynna Davis, Patsy Holt, and Pat Steele**

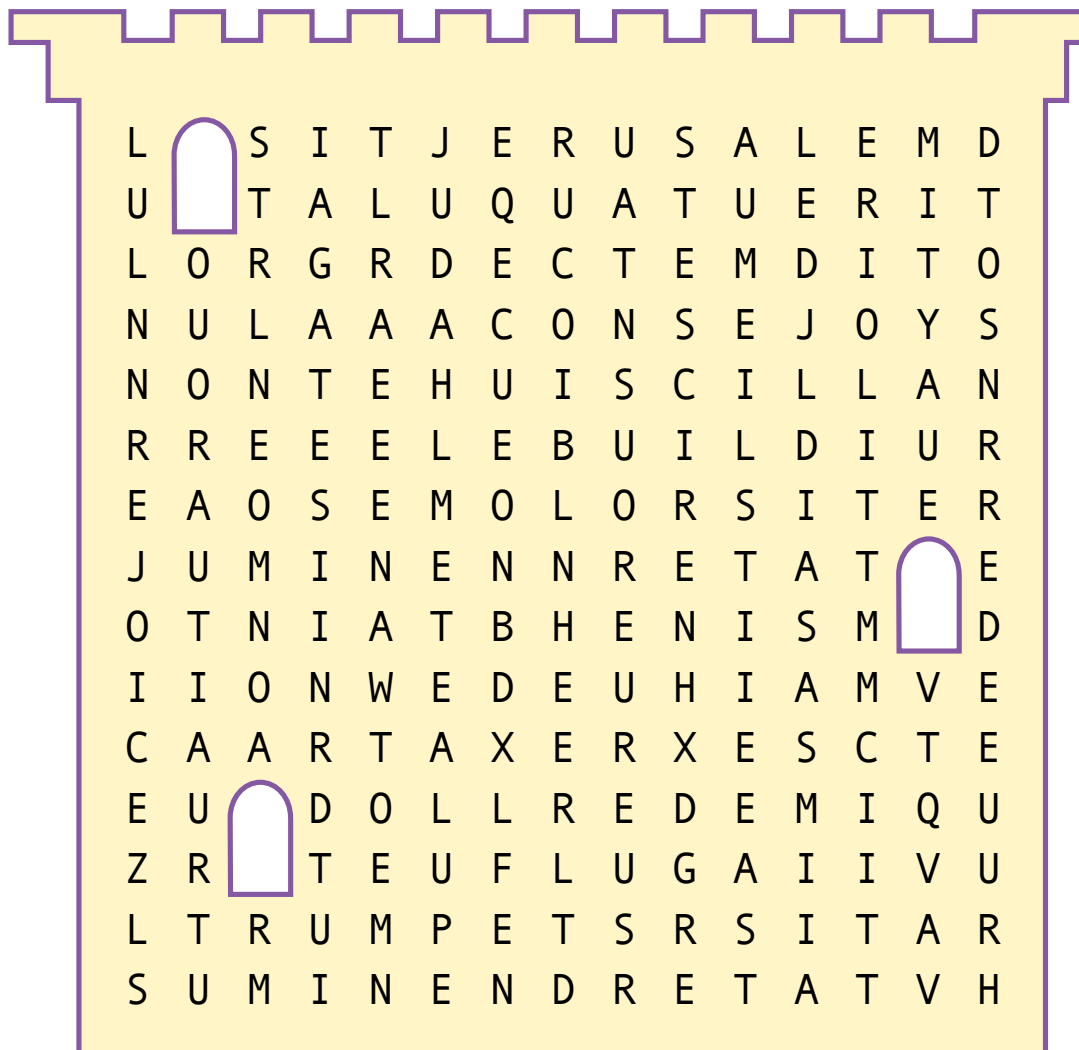
DATES TO NOTE:

Today	New H2H Session Begins, 6 weeks: July 25-September 4th
Sunday, August 1	TEEN NIGHT at the Tokash's 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 11	Bible class curriculum workshop: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Friday, October 1-3	Singing Workshop with Matt Dow, Fri, Sat, Sunday
Sunday, October 10	Next H2H Begins, 5 weeks: Oct. 10-November 20th



Nehemiah and the Wall Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



ARTAXERXES
BUILD

GATES
JERUSALEM

JOY
JUDAH

NEHEMIAH
REJOICE

TRUMPETS
WALL