

We are saved – only through faith in the work of Jesus Christ, God's Son, for us at Calvary. In John 19 we see God at work at Calvary:

SALVATION is a **FINISHED WORK** (John 19.28-30)

Jesus cried out on the cross, "It is finished!" – the work he came to do as a sacrifice for our sins was offered.

SALVATION means we can **REST** in **CHRIST'S FINISHED WORK** (19.42b)

He was laid to rest in the tomb – but the resurrection brought life for you and me – through our faith in Jesus as Lord over sin and death.

SALVATION brings eternal **BLESSING** (20.19)

Jesus' followers have the Lord with them bringing peace to their hearts

SALVATION means we are counted before God as **HOLY** and set apart for His purposes (20.21) – Jesus commissioned His followers to spread the good news.

In Philippians 1.3-6, Paul speaks about God's work of

SANCTIFICATION which is "a work in progress" – that will be a **FINISHED WORK** (v6) with the coming of the day of Christ.

We can **REST** in the work of His **BLESSING** through and by His Holy Spirit. His Spirit sets us apart to be a **HOLY** people (v5). This is God's blueprint in **creation, salvation, and sanctification**.

God does not change (Malachi 3.6) Hopefully, we, His people, are changing – becoming more like Jesus and his likeness.

Jesus – our Great High Priest – carries on doing what He is doing for us before the Father, making intercession for us. (Hebrews 1.12; 7.24-25) I'm so glad my future is safe in my Lord's hands, aren't you?

If things were left to me – I am sure to mess things up – but God in His wisdom has made plans so I can rest in my saviour's work.

God has brought us to this point – as His Church in His world in 2021. All God's work is purposeful – and our lives should be too! The holiness God has blessed our lives with is to be a witness to the world – to your family, friends, colleagues, and community (See 1 Peter 2.9)

So, rest in Jesus' finished work – but work in partnership with Him by His Holy Spirit to see His work fulfilled in and through your life.

No Birthdays this week

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday 1st August 2021

The Final "Church at Home" Notes

Hymn & Chorus *to sing or read*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer,
be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside:
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee.

I am a new creation,
no more in condemnation,
here in the grace of God I stand.
My heart is over-flowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God I stand.
And I will praise You, Lord,
yes I will praise You, Lord,
and I will sing of all that You have done.
A joy that knows no limit,
a lightness in my spirit –
here in the grace of God I stand.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for leading us over the last 70 weeks through the Church at Home notes. Thank you for all the blessings and the strength your Word has given us through this challenging time. Once more, feed us on our journey today. Help us to overcome fear with faith and press on into all you have ahead for us. Thank you for being so faithful. Bless all who join with me in seeking to worship You today. Forgive our sins and draw near to all in need at this time. Lord Jesus be glorified in and through Your Church, Amen.

You might like to say **the Lord's Prayer** at this point.

Bible Verses for Today

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5.17-18)

"Lord you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us." (Isaiah 26.12)

Read: Genesis 2.1-3 and Philippians 1.3-6

"Our Unchanging God"

Certain numbers appear again and again in God's Word. As a result a whole area of study known as Biblical Numerology has resulted. You cannot read the Bible without noting the significance of the number 7 and 70: There are seven days of creation and seventy years of Exile for example. When Jesus tells us to go on forgiving he suggests 70 x 7 – until we have completely forgotten when we started, i.e. don't keep records of wrong (see 1 Corinthians 13.5b) Seven and seventy are symbolic of **completion**. Creation was finished, the Exile for God's people was over after 70 years in Babylon. This is the 70th Church at Home – the final one – such provision has been necessary but is now complete – as we are able to return (from

our 70 week exile) and worship like we did, before lockdown changed things.

God is faithful. He has been good to us – enabling us to feed on His Word – week by week – in this way. Like Manna in the wilderness God has delivered every time (through the Pastors and "postmen" of these notes – a big thank you to them for their help!).

I am not suggesting everything will return to normal, immediately in the days ahead – but as we carefully come out of lockdown we have the freedom of being with God's people in our (promised) land.

As I was looking at Bible numbers, especially the 7's, I was once again drawn to God's ways revealed in Genesis 2.1-3. Here we see:

1. GOD FINISHES HIS WORK (2.2a)

Do you always finish what you start? What a comfort to know that God finishes what He starts. God is a God of order – as well as power and incredible imagination! Have you seen some of the amazing creatures in our world?

2. GOD PROVIDES REST FOR HIS WORK (2.2b)

People are so busy and restless generally but we read of how God takes time to enjoy what He has made! He has given us order in our weeks, months, and years to find time to enjoy Him and His creation.

3. GOD BLESSES HIS WORK (2.3a)

God is interactive with His creation. Daily, God oversees His work – blessing all He has made with gifts, like sunshine and rain. He hasn't just wound up the world like a clock and walked away. He has timings for things but He watches over all He has made.

4. GOD MAKES HOLY HIS WORK (2.3b)

What God has made is rightfully his. He shares what He has made with each of us. Only when we acknowledge Him as Creator, Provider and Lord do we really "distinguish" and discover what life is all about. When life is too busy – we lose out. God made us and He knows how we work best – we need to follow God's Instructions in the Bible.

God is perfectly consistent in all His ways. God's work in creation reminds me that God is unchanging in His ways and you can see the same pattern in His New Creation – the work He does in the lives of His people, preparing us for eternal Life in Heaven.