

Daniel 05-09-25a

This is the 25th of September, 2005. We continue this morning our worship by turning our attention to the scriptures. Our scripture reading this morning is from Jeremiah chapter 27.

We're going to pause as we address ourselves to the Word of God to ensure that we have personally exercised our priesthood. It gives us the opportunity to cultivate the ministry of God's Holy Spirit that is essential at every stage of our dealing with the Word of God, whether it is the intake, the meditation and understanding or the application. All of that is powered by God's Holy Spirit and if we miss and deny ourselves the grace that is expressed in that ministry at any of those points, our life before God fails.

The plan of God is not accomplished in human strength, ever. No part of God's plan has ever been accomplished in human strength. Even the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was sustained by God's Holy Spirit.

You cannot use the energy of the flesh to accomplish the divine purpose. So whether it is hearing the Word of God, understanding it, meditating on it, remembering it or perceiving the way that it applies and then actually putting it into practice, there's about five different decision points and five different places where our souls and our hearts have to make use of the Word of God. God's Holy Spirit is essential at every single point.

This is why it is important for us to acknowledge our sins so that there are not obstacles and impediments to our hearing of the Spirit. It is important to realize that our sins, our headstrong running away from the straight path does not impede the Holy Spirit. It impedes us.

He is still there. He is still active. He is no less powerful.

He is undiminished as deity. But we are unable to hear. We deafen ourselves.

We blind ourselves. We callous ourselves to His work. And so there is no more important thing that we do.

In some ways our time of prayer is more important than the hearing of the Word of God because ensuring that we have unbroken relationship with God, that we are in the light as He is in the light, is essential to any further claim on divine righteousness that we are going to make by faith, whether it is hearing the Word or any other function of the day. So let's take a moment to go to the Lord in prayer. Father, we are grateful for another opportunity to spend time together and learn from the vast treasure house of truth that we find in Your Word.

We thank You for the faithfulness of those who initially recorded it, for all those who have worked and in some cases given their lives to preserve it and give us the chance to study it for ourselves. We thank You for the freedom and the opportunity that we have to nourish our souls and build ourselves up under the ministry of Your Holy Spirit. We thank You for the nation in

which we live.

We pray for our leadership, especially those believers who are trying to do their job to the best of their ability and meet great opposition, satanically inspired opposition, opposition from those who love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. We pray that You will confuse and confound their efforts and continue to preserve our nation as a place where God-fearing Christians can live life in accordance with Your will. We ask Your blessing on us as we study Your Word together.

May each of us find in Your Word this morning truth that will correct, rebuke and instruct us in every good path. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our scripture reading, as I said, is in Jeremiah chapter 27. This is titled in your New King James, The Symbol of the Bonds and Yokes. I think everybody, this is yokes, there's no L in there.

This is not the whites in the yokes or the eggs in the yokes or anything like that. Bonds and yokes has to do with burdens, doesn't it? With impediments. A lot of things exist in the world that block our progress, that slow us down, that are a weight.

We try to run the race and we have to try to lay aside the sin that entangles us and the weight that bears us down. So, symbol of the bonds and yokes. We need to refresh our minds just very briefly.

This is in the book of Jeremiah. This is in the period before Daniel and Ezekiel have their experiences with Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon and captivity, but not long before. This is a period of time.

This is the latter portion of Jeremiah. This is a period of time. This is a period of time.

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