Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

01/18/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

Enduring Beliefs of the Christian Faith

Grace and Reconciliation

- **1/4: 1 John 1:5 – 2:6**

When we CHOOSE to follow Christ, one must recognize that we are sinners who need forgiveness while at the same time we CHOOSE to be humble and strive to be obedient. We lie when denying either

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Grace and Reconciliation

- **1/11: Luke15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39**

The parable of 'The Prodigal Son' teaches us that when we become self-aware of our need for God and our own peril, He openly accepts us back into His fold. God is calling all of humanity back to Him

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Enduring Beliefs of the Christian Faith

Grace and Reconciliation

Prayer and Humility

Genesis 18:25 – 27;
Luke 18:9 – 14;
1 John 5:14-15

*Anchor Text

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (NIV)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

*Bonus Text

GENESIS 18:17 – 18 (NKJV)

17 And the Lord said, "Shall I hide
from Abraham what I am doing, 18
since Abraham shall surely become
a great and mighty nation, and all
the nations of the earth shall be
blessed in him?

*Bonus Text

GENESIS 18:20 (NKJV)

20 And the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

*Bonus Text

GENESIS 18:21 (NKJV)

21 I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

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Lesson Text

GENESIS 18:25 (NKJV)

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Lesson Text

GENESIS 18:26 (NKJV)

26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

Lesson Text

GENESIS 18:27 (NKJV)

27 Then Abraham answered and said, “Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

*Bonus Text

GENESIS 18:32 (NKJV)

32 Finally, Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?” And the Lord replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

COMMENTARY – JUDGEMENT

- The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are often used as case against immorality – in particular, homosexuality. It is often cited by ‘Christians’ when condemning actions of the nation, state or city

COMMENTARY – JUDGEMENT

- Many warn that we as a nation will become as they were if we do not turn from our wicked ways as well as allowing certain actions or laws to persist in our nation. But the reason God punished them is more complex

*Bonus Text

EZEKIEL 16:49 (NKJV)

49 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had **pride**, **fullness of food**,and **abundance of idleness**; neither did she **strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.**

*Bonus Text

EZEKIEL 16:50 (NKJV)

50 And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; **therefore I took them away as [a]I saw fit.**

COMMENTARY – JUDGEMENT

- In Genesis 19, God sent angels to Sodom to visit Lot, but the men of the city are so depraved, that God decides to destroy the city and to spare Lot from the carnage

COMMENTARY – COMPASSION

- While many focus on the judgement, many more miss on the compassion that Abraham had on the cities. He did not want them destroyed and petitioned God not to destroy the city if only 10 righteous men were found

COMMENTARY – COMPASSION

- Abraham's compassion is even more profound because Sodom's fate had nothing to do with his blessing. God would make him a great nation regardless, but he had compassion on those not of his house

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Lesson Text

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

LUKE 18:9 – 10 (NKJV)

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

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Lesson Text

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

LUKE 18:11 – 12 (NKJV)

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus
with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I
am not like other men—extortioners,
unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax
collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give
tithes of all that I possess.’

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Lesson Text

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

LUKE 18:12 (NKJV)

12 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

COMMENTARY – 'CHRISTIAN' PRIDE

- Many boast that they are 'proud' to be a Christian, but do we as what such pride is based on?
- What did we do to earn the grace that God provided us? Is grace something that can be earned?

COMMENTARY – 'CHRISTIAN' PRIDE

- If such grace could be earned, then did Christ have to die for us?
- Has our pride become a turnoff to many who would otherwise be persuaded by our humility and our compassion?

COMMENTARY – 'CHRISTIAN' PRIDE

- What many would label as pride is conceit, which leads to arrogance – traits that do not belong to one who calls themselves a Believer

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Lesson Text

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

LUKE 18:13 (NKJV)

13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

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Lesson Text

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

LUKE 18:14 (NKJV)

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be [a]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Lesson Text

1 JOHN 5:14 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us.

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Lesson Text

1 JOHN 5:15 (NKJV)

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

COMMENTARY – HIS WILL

- Many will cite these verses, but the emphasis is on His will, not ours. Do we know what His will is?
- The first 2 sections of this lesson focus on humility and compassion

COMMENTARY – HIS WILL

- When we ask God for anything, are these at the core of what we are asking for? Or are we only thinking our benefit and selfish desires?

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Scripture References

LUKE 14:7 – 14

Be Humble or Get Humbled

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

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Church School Benediction

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN