

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

04 July 2021

# Pastoral Notes

#### Dear Cornerstone Family:

Along with Rev. Ben Griffith and Rev. Tony Giles, and ruling elders, Mr. Jim Smith and Mr. Jim Payne, I had the privilege to serve as one of your representatives at the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church in America. Though a very long week of business, the spirit, deliberations, and decisions of the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly give us reason to give thanks to God for our beloved denomination.

As always, there were a number of weighty matters before the General Assembly this year. The matter that garnered the most attention was sexuality. As some of you might recall, two years ago at the 47th General Assembly (we didn't meet last year due to COVID), a study committee on human sexuality was erected to explore the Bible's teaching on this subject and provide guidance on a number of disputed issues relating to homosexuality, same sex attraction, transgenderism, and other such matters. The excellent study committee report was presented and received affirmatively (nearly unanimously!) by the GA. I have no doubt that this report will be a tremendous resource for years to come in our denomination.

In addition to the study committee report, a number of presbyteries sent overtures (items of business) to the GA this year in an attempt to clarify whether a man who experiences same sex attraction is qualified to hold church office. There is simply no way I can adequately relay the complexity and nuance of this discussion in the time and space provided here. Suffice it to say that godly men committed to the Scripture's teaching and the doctrine of the Reformed faith labored long to craft language that would bring the PCA together on this matter. Though not everyone could sign off on the language in the end, a significant majority of the GA voted to approve the statement below:

"Officers in the Presbyterian Church in America must be above reproach in their walk and Christlike in their character. Those who profess an identity (such as, but not limited to "gay Christian," "same sex attracted Christian," "homosexual Christian," or like terms) that undermines or contradicts their identity as a new creation in Christ, either by denying the sinfulness of fallen desires (such as, but not limited to, same sex attraction), or by denying the reality and hope of progressive sanctification, or by failing to pursue Spirit-empowered victory over their sinful temptations, inclinations, and actions are not qualified for ordained office."

The passing of this statement is the first step in a three-step process. Over the next year, this statement will be voted on by the eighty-eight presbyteries of the PCA (including the Nashville Presbytery of which we are a part). If it passes 2/3 of the presbyteries, it will come before next year's General Assembly for final approval. If it passes next year's GA, it will be included as a part of our Book of Church Order—our official manual of governance.

When the time is right, I will highlight some of the key points and recommendations coming out of the report on human sexuality. I'll also find a way to update you on other important matters that came out of this year's GA. Until then, keep praying for the peace and purity of the PCA. We have much to be thankful for!

Your servant.

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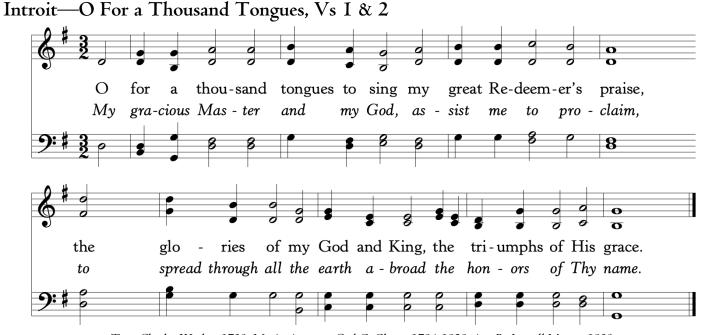
Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

### Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829, Arr. By Lowell Mason, 1839.

# Call to Worship—Based on Psalm 84: I-3, 4, I0-I2

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts!

All: Our souls long, yes, faint for the courts of the LORD.

Pastor: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young at your altars.

All: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

Pastor: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

All: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

Pastor: O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

#### Hymn of Praise—All People that on Earth Do Dwell



Text: Psalm 100 William Kethe 1561; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551.

#### Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 56:6-8

6 "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane in

everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

<sup>8</sup>The LORD God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

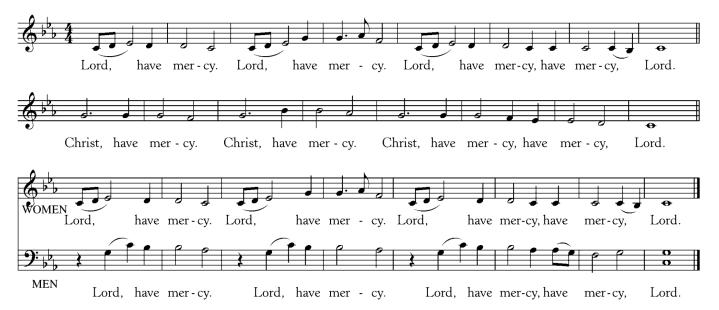
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

# Sung Response—Lord, Have Mercy



Text: Luke 18:13; Music: Franklin Kyrie, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

# Congregational Prayer of Confession—Based on Daniel's Prayer from Daniel 9

Pastor: O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments

All: We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.

Pastor: To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, because we have sinned against you.

All: Because of our sins, your people have become a byword among all who are around us.

Pastor: O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your people

All: Open your eyes and see our desolations, see the people that is called by your name.

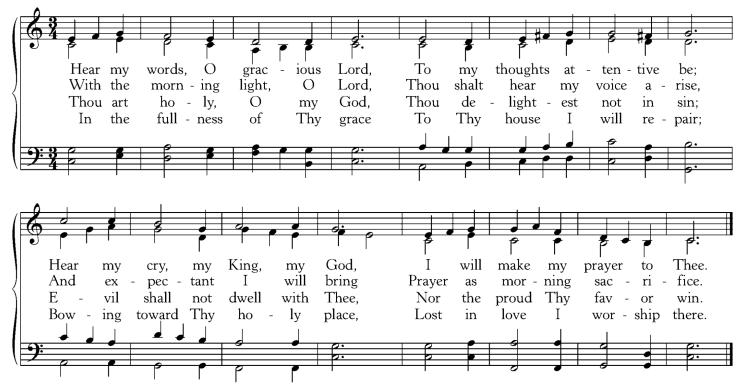
Pastor: For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

# Silent Prayers of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

# Hymn of Praise—Psalm 5: Hear My Words



Text: Psalter 1912; Music: GDW, Adapted from Keine Schonheit hat die Welt by Johann Scheffler, 1657

#### GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

# The Reading of the Word—Mark II:12-24

<sup>12</sup>On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. <sup>13</sup>And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup>And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

<sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>16</sup> And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup> And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." <sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. <sup>19</sup> And when evening came they went out of the city.

<sup>20</sup> As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

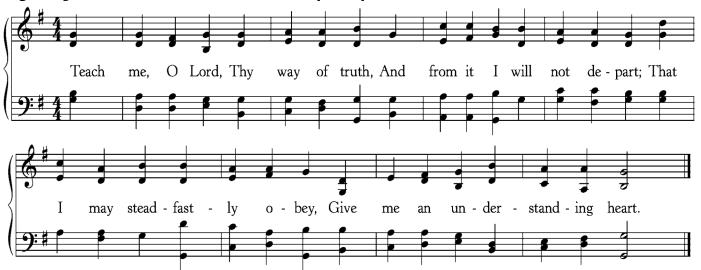
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 38

Cleaning House: Recovering the Temple's Mission

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

# Sung Response—Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Way of Truth, Vs I



# Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# Sung Response—Let Glory Be to God



CCLI #11121087 Text: From the Liturgy of St. James & an 8th Century manuscript (Gloria in excelsis Deo); Music: Greyfriars Press, 2018.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

#### Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

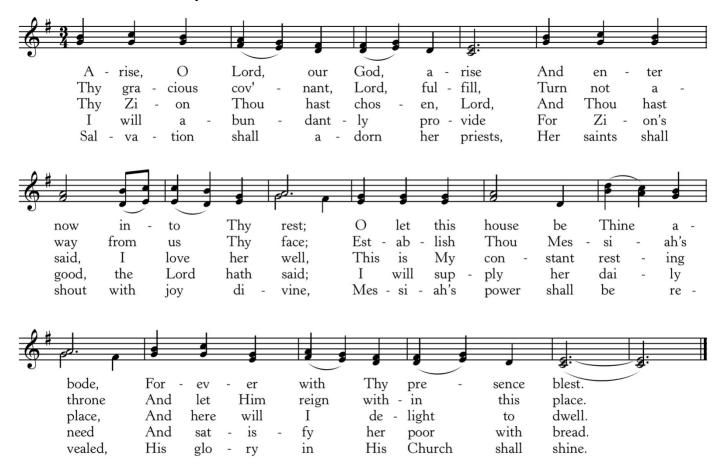
#### Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

# Psalm of the Month for June—Psalm 132: Arise, O Lord



Text: The Psalter, 1912; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2012. Used by Permission.

#### Hymn of Communion—Give Me Jesus



#### Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen

# Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

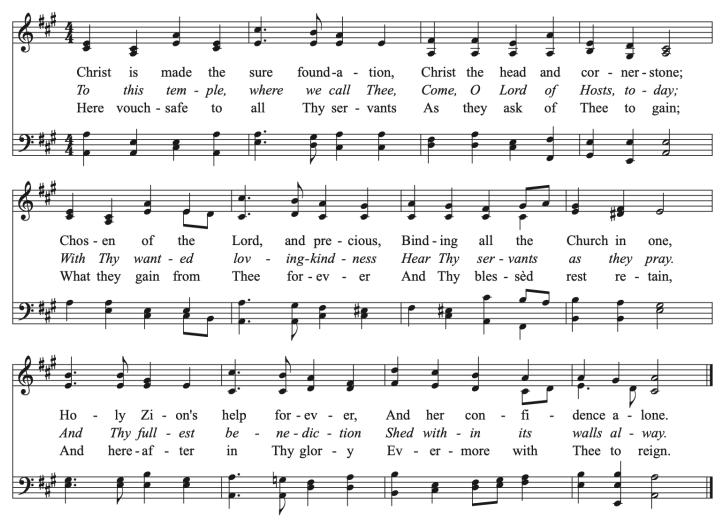
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

# Hymn of Praise—Christ is Made the Sure Foundation



Text: Unknown Author, 7th Century, Trans by John M. Neale, 1851; Music: REGENTSQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

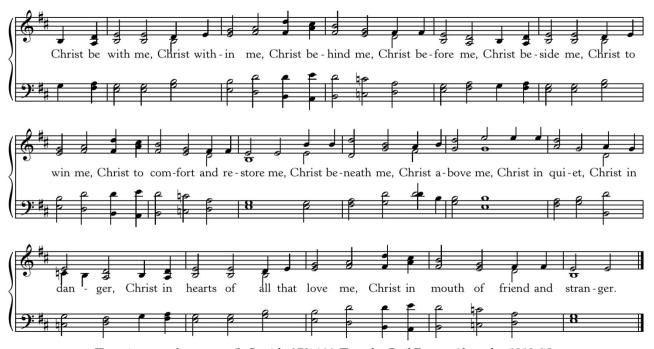
#### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

#### Benediction—2 Peter 2:9-I0

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. *Amen.* 

# Sung Response—Christ Be With Me (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



Text: Atomriug indui niurt tren, St. Patrick, 372-466, Trans by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95; Music: St. Patrick Clonmacnoise, Traditional Irish Hymn Melody.

Mission Prayer Focus—Harvest Prison Ministry (HPM) was founded in 2002 as an outreach of Hickory Grove Presbyterian Church, Mt. Juliet, TN for the sole purpose of preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the men behind the walls, and for "the equipping of the saints to do the work of the ministry." Its vision is to see more men reconciled to God and their families, and to aide them both prayerfully and financially to re-enter society enabled by the grace of God to live godly and productive lives. Rick Allen and Richard Jennings, from the Nashville Presbytery, currently minister at both Riverbend Maximum Security Institution (RMSI) and Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility (DSNF) six days a week. And, HPM is the only reformed ministry at those facilities. Rick Allen has asked us to pray for the following:

- Daryl met the Lord three weeks ago and is enjoying his newfound faith. Pray for his continued growth as we seek to disciple him.
- Our new class in 7A—part of the psych ward. These men have special needs and are grateful to have a bible study.
- Robert—he is paralyzed but is regaining some movement! He loves the Lord.
- Rick—he is blind and part of our study in 7A. He is a dear brother and really loves to talk about Jesus!
- James—an older brother that has cancer. He likes to roll his wheelchair down the hall and pray for each man, laying his hand on their door!
- James—he says he follows Mohammed, but really enjoys our bible study. May God open his eyes to the truth of the Gospel!

# Focus on Church Ministry

#### Women's Summer Study/Youth Fundraiser

Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation

Bible study will continue on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. through July 20. No registration; just show up! \*\*Bring a few dollars to support the Senior High Youth Group—they will be selling drinks in the courtyard to raise money for their trip to the Reformed Youth Ministries Conference.\*\*

#### Women's Fellowship Supper

Join us for a catered supper before our last Bible study of the summer on Tuesday, July 20. We will gather on the third floor at 5:00 p.m. You can sign up and pay online.

#### Coffee with Calvin

Brothers, join the men of Cornerstone this summer as we study the short Christian classic, *The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*, by John Calvin. Our next gathering is Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 a.m. at the Franklin Mercantile. No RSVP needed

# Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Team meets weekly, in person and via Zoom, to lift up the needs of the church. The meeting has moved to Monday evenings throughout June and July. To submit a prayer request or receive an invitation to join the Zoom meeting, contact prayer@cstonepres.org.

**Summer Chapel Class:** Standing on Their Shoulders: Portraits of Faithfulness from Church History

Church history is filled with compelling stories of men and women God used in mighty and surprising ways. Come join us during the Sunday School hour as we explore some of these stories and see how these voices from our past continue to encourage us today. July 4: For God's Glory Alone: The Cosmological

Legacy of J.S. Bach

July II: Lessons from Northumbria: Aiden,

Cuthbert, and Oswald on the Love and Mission of

#### Cornerstone Youth

God

The Youth Group meets every Wednesday, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Allens' for worship, study, and fun. Dinner is provided. All rising 7th-12th graders are invited! Don't forget a towel if you plan to swim. Questions? youth@cstonepres.org

#### Young Marrieds Fellowship and Lunch

Join us on Sunday, July II after second service at the Allens' house. Lunch is provided. Let us know you're coming! johnsonhannahruth@gmail.com

Today's message, "Cleaning House: Recovering the Temple's Mission" is taken from Mark 11:12-24. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- In a sense, the cleansing of the table and the cursing of the fig tree are focusing on the same problem. What is the problem?
- What does the story of the cleansing of the temple teach us about (I) Christ's zeal to reach the nations and (2) the purity of the worship of God?
- Why did Jesus refer to the temple as a "house of prayer" and that true prayer be recovered (v.24-25)?
- How did you see the glory of Jesus Christ on display in today's message?

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org Assistant Pastor: Ben Griffith (601-606-2687) at ben@cstonepres.org

Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org
Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org

Office: (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org

Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org

**Home Fellowship Information:** HFG(*a*)cstonepres.org

Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org

Men's Ministry: Ron Moffat or men@cstonepres.org

Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org

Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) \*Jim Payne (615-497-0613)
Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) John Millard (423-443-8852) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)
Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

#### Deacons

\*Mark Elliott (615-477-1041) Wes Pittman (615-393-0365) Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

Matt Faulk (714-801-7596) Brent Roberts (615-394-0662) Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) \*Jim Robinson (615-587-0442) Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

Kevin McClung (615-243-9228) Todd Russell (615-319-4803) Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

Mike Payne (615-579-6453) David Steffens (615-557-5316)

\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

