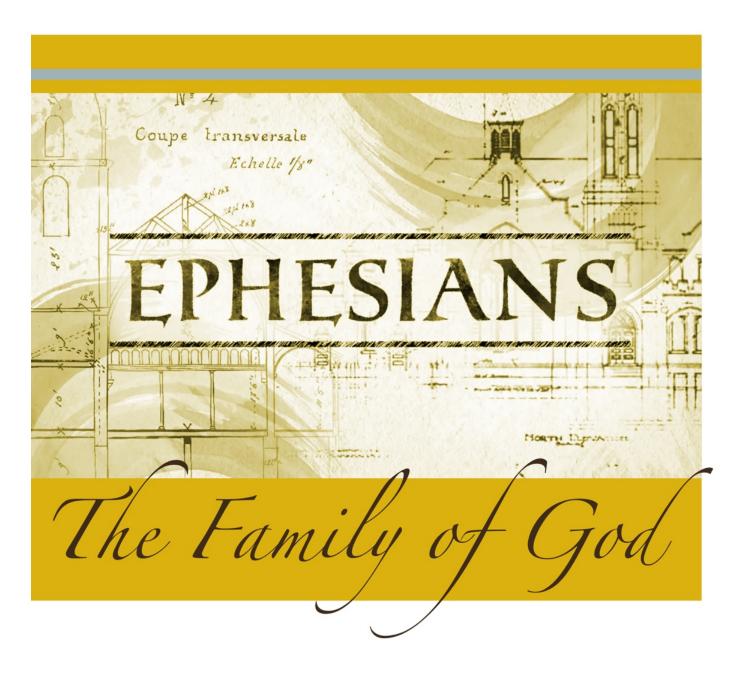


# CORNERSTONE

# Presbyterian Church



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal Sixth Sunday of Easter

14 May 2023

# Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

For nearly four years, Mr. Todd Russell has served as chairman of the deacons. In that time, Todd has been a servant's servant, organizing and mobilizing the deacons for the physical care of the church and the wider community. Under Todd's leadership, the diaconate has grown in health and effectiveness. In a word, Todd has been God's man of the hour for us, and I can't begin to express how grateful I am for his example of Christ-like leadership.

Todd's term as chairman is drawing to a close at the end of this month. Given his long and faithful service as an officer, the session was pleased to extend Todd an officer sabbatical. It is customary at Cornerstone for officers to be granted sabbaticals in order to be freed from any regular officer responsibilities for a season in order pursue rest and spiritual renewal. Todd will go on sabbatical June 1, 2023 until July 1, 2024.

Looking ahead, the time has come for one of our other qualified deacons to take the helm. I'm pleased to announce that Mr. Wes Pittman is that man. Wes has a wealth of ministry experience in a variety of churches and leadership roles. Wes served as an officer previously in other PCA churches before being installed as a deacon at Cornerstone two years ago. Wes possesses the necessary leadership skills to carry the mission of the diaconate forward, building on the already strong foundation laid by previous deacon chairman. Please pray for Wes as he steps into this new role on June I, 2023.

In other news, the long-anticipated renovations will begin this week! We're starting with small augmentations to the platform in the chapel to slightly increase seating capacity. In addition to the platform changes, a number of other changes, including sound upgrades and new carpet, will be made over the next couple of weeks. Please pray that everything goes smoothly and according to plan!

Your servant,

State

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.

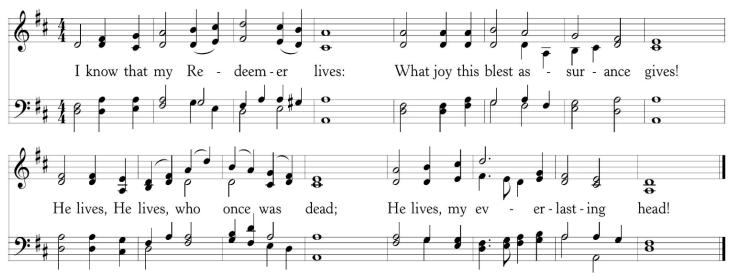
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

### 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.

# Introit—I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Vs I



Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

#### Call to Worship—Psalm 138:I-5, 8

Pastor: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

All: for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

Pastor: On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

All: All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

Pastor: and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

All: Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

#### Hymn of Praise—Glory be to God the Father



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1868; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011. ©2011 Greyfriars Press. Used by Permission.

## New Testament Reading—Romans 8:9-11

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

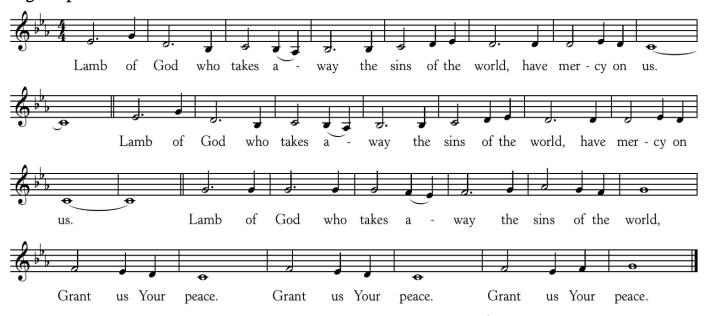
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—Lamb of God



Text: John 1:29; Music: Franklin Agnus Dei, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

# Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Romans 12:9-12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You call us as Your followers to let our love be genuine and to abhor evil and to hold fast to what is good.

All: Father, we allow our love to be directed by self-interests, and we excuse or ignore evil.

We do not hold firmly those things that are good.

Pastor: You call us to love one another with brotherly affection and to outdo one another in showing honor.

All: Too often we pay no attention to those around us.

Instead of love, affection and honor,

we disregard our brothers and sisters.

Pastor: Lord, You tell us to not be slothful in zeal, to be fervent in the Spirit, and to serve You.

All: Father, You know our wasted hours and affections, our inaction, and our failure to act on Your spiritual guidance.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, work in our hearts that we may rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and to be constant in prayer.

# Silent Prayers of Confession

# Assurance of Pardon—I John 3:1, 2, 5

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

+++New Arrivals are Welcome to be Seated+++

# Hymn of Praise—Christ the Lord Is Risen Again



Text: Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534, Tr Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78; Music: CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN, German Carol, 12th century.

# Honoring Graduates:

**First Service:** Highschool: Hannah Finch, Tyler Pittman, Timnah Roberts, Elias Roberts, Hudson Russell, Levi Steffens, Ada Zecher

College: Jonathan Crampton, Maxwill Shell

**Second Service:** Highschool: Tristan Bankes, Audrey Driskell, Sadie Beth Eby, Morgan King, Peter Raymond College: Tucker Alexander, Caleb Groves, Katie Jo Groves, Ethan Vroom

# The Reading of the Word—Ephesians 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades;

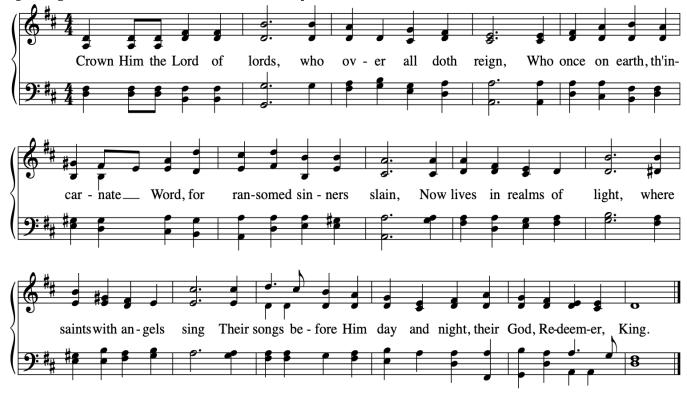
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—The Family of God: A Study in Ephesians, part 12

To Know the Love of Christ

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

## Sung Response—Crown Him with Many Crowns vs 8



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

# 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.

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



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

#### Pascha Nostrum—I Corinthians 5:7-8, Romans 6:9-II

Pastor: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

All: therefore let us keep the feast.

Pastor: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

All: death no longer has dominion over him.

Pastor: For the death he died he died to sin, once for all,

All: but the life he lives he lives to God.

Pastor: So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin

All: and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

#### 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.

#### Hymn of Communion—Christ is Made the Sure Foundation



7th Century Latin Hymn Tr. J. M. Neale 1861 Ad. lyrics by Noah Aikens, Music Noah Aikens

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

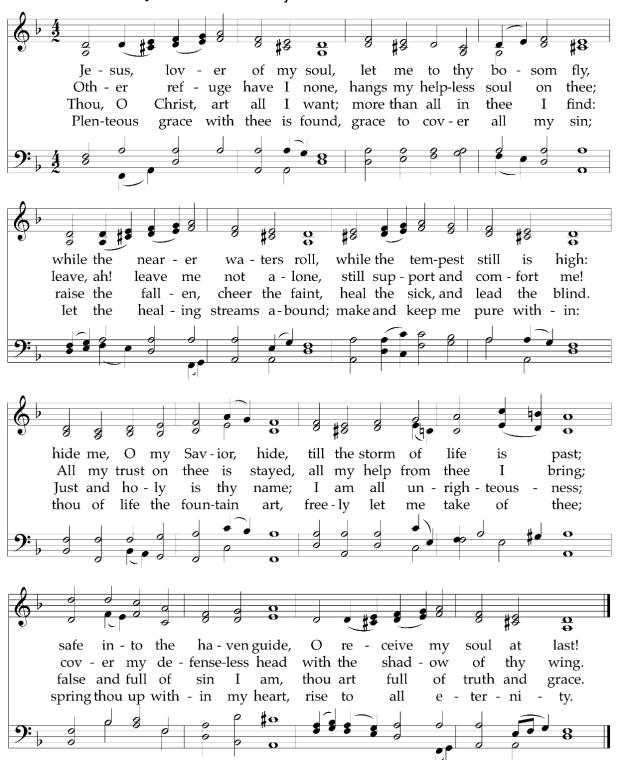
If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

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

# Hymn of Communion—Jesus, Lover of My Soul



Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1879.

# 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—Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1747; Music: HYFRYDOL, R.H. Prichard, 1831.

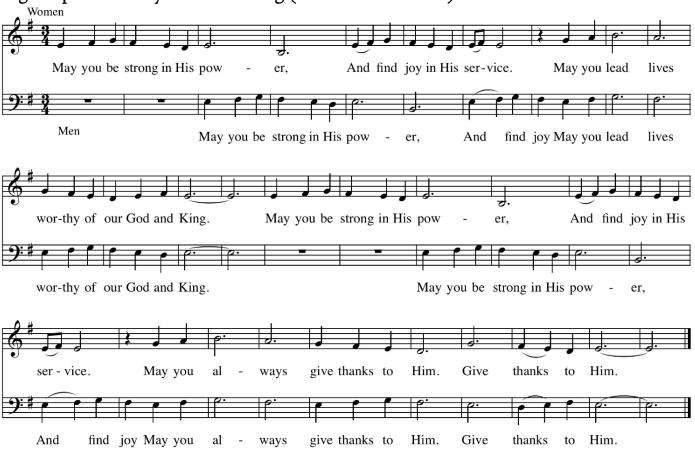
#### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. *Amen.* 

# Sung Response—May You Be Strong (Colossians I:10-11)



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Missions Prayer Focus—Ben Griffith, a former assistant pastor at Cornerstone, and the new Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) minister at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

- Pray for our family as we prepare to move to Birmingham at the end of May. Pray for a smooth transition, and for wind in our sails as we step into this next season of life and ministry as a family.
- Pray for fundraising efforts, and for me as I seek churches and individuals to partner in this ministry.
- Pray for Maggie (campus staff) and Joy (intern) as they fundraise and gear up for the school year.

Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out the visitor card available in the pew in front of you.

Please drop it in the offering boxes at either chapel entrance as you leave.

# Focus on Church Ministry

#### **Exploring Cornerstone Class**

If you're interested in learning more about Cornerstone or uniting in membership, please join Pastor Nate and other Cornerstone leaders on Sunday mornings throughout June for the Exploring Cornerstone Class. In this class, you will learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries at Cornerstone as well as meet key ministry leaders. The class will be held in The Chapel on Sundays in June at 9:45 a.m. Please register on the church website or app.

# Vacation Bible School – "The Wind and the Waves"

Mark your calendars for May 30 - June 2 for VBS at Jim Warren Park. Go to the church website or app now to register your children (rising K- rising  $6^{th}$  grade) and view all the ways you can serve, from praying to dropping off snacks to leading a group of our covenant kids that week. You can also scan the QR codes on the bulletin boards around the building to easily access wish lists and registration.

#### The Cornerstone School of Discipleship

The Doctrines of Grace: Exploring the Five Points of Calvinism

In this four-week course, we will wrestle together with the Bible's teaching on some often-debated questions like, "Does God really choose people for salvation? Did Christ really die for everyone? Can we really be assured of our salvation if we must persevere to the end?" Don't miss this opportunity to plumb the depth of these important topics! Join us in The Chapel at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays in May.

#### Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms at both entrances to The Chapel, or you may give safely and securely online through the church website and app.

#### Prayer

The Prayer Team meets at Cornerstone on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. to lift the needs of the congregation to the throne of grace. You're invited to come pray with us or have your needs prayed for in person. You may email prayer requests to the team. They will be prayed over and kept confidential. Contact: prayer@csonepres.org

#### Floating into Finals

All Cornerstone Youth are invited to take a study break on Wednesday, May 17 at the Brookses' (1020 Lumsden Lane). We will have yard games, chick-fil-a, and ice-cream floats. Come recharge as you head into the final week of the school year! 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., come and go, or come and stay. Contact: youth@cstonepres.org

#### Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Group will be serving July 15 - 20 at a Joni and Friends family camp in Dayton, TN, buddying up with a child or teen with special needs for a fun week at

camp! The cost for each of our youth to attend is \$450. We are currently taking donations towards the trip through the church website and app, or you can scan the QR code to go straight to the donations page.



#### Women's Summer Bible Study

Sisters, mark your calendars for Tuesday evenings in June and July! We will meet together in The Chapel at 6:30 p.m. for Saved: Experiencing the Power of the Book of Acts. You can find an introduction letter from Nancy Guthrie on the Women's Ministry page of the church website, and personal Bible study questions will be posted there soon. The Youth Group will be selling Acts scripture journals and bottled and sparkling water during the first several weeks of the study to benefit their upcoming mission trip. Bring your friends and invite your neighbors!

#### Sew for Hope with Servant Group International

Cornerstone's Women have been invited to go to SGI's offices on Tuesday, June 13, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and be treated to a traditional lunch prepared by refugee women, following which we will help SGI prepare for sewing classes by assembling sewing kits. No sewing knowledge is required! This is a great opportunity for youth-aged ladies to serve as well. Space is limited; reserve your space online through the website or app. (times are approximate and will be firmed up closer to the date)

Today's message, "To Know the Love of Christ," is taken from Ephesians 3:14-21. The questions below are drawn from The Cornerstone Congregational Devotional from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Please take time to discuss the questions, sharing what you may have considered previously on you own with your family, friends or Home Fellowship Group.

- Once again, as he continues his thought process, Paul uses a connecting phrase, "For this reason." How do verses 14-18 connect back to verses 1-13?
- How do you recognize the strength that the Spirit gives in your inner being? (vs 16)
- What does it mean to be "rooted and grounded in love"? (vs 17)
- How can we "know" the love of Christ that "surpasses knowledge"? (vs 19)
- In verse 20, Paul reminds us that God is at work in us in ways that are "far more abundant" than all that we could ask or think. What evidences of that do you see in your own life?

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@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 Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org
Church Life Coordinator: Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or danfiedler01@gmail.com
Teacher in Residence: Nathan Johnson (423-285-9099) or njohnson@newcollegefranklin.edu
Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org
Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org
Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org

Women's Winnistry: Martina brooks (613-391-1663) or women@cstonepres.org

Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

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Young Adult Ministry: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youngadults@cstonepres.org
Acting Youth Director: Preston Brooks (615-838-0359) 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

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 Wes Pittman (615-393-0365)
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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

