

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
Wednesday April 10, 2019

ARE WE THERE YET?

Most of us have heard that question, probably WAY too many times. It usually begins to ring out from the back seat of the "Family Truckster" during a long journey; shortly after it begins. I just endured another "Are we there yet?" moment as I fired up my home PC this morning to compose this Wednesday update. Our friends at Microsoft graciously decided it was high time to provide us with a massive software update, which resulted in a "boot-up time" of roughly 30 minutes. I initially didn't intend to include this information in my missive, but if Microsoft was to be so kind as to chew up 30 minutes of my day I feel I should offer credit where credit is due! Alright...I'm okay now. "Are we there yet?" That's a question that can be applied to our 2019 Lenten Journey. The answer of course is no, but we're getting pretty close. We have been journeying with Jesus toward Jerusalem for five weeks now, and come this Sunday, Palm Sunday He will enter this Holy City...triumphantly for now. The location of Jerusalem takes center stage in the Bible from Genesis through the Book of Revelation. Abraham is directed to Mt. Moriah to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God. God provides a lamb instead. King David acquires this very same space in order that his son Solomon may erect God's temple there which would be the place of the Old Testament sacrifices. And Our Lord Jesus is crucified and dies on this very same ridgeline...a spot called Golgotha; the Place of the Skull, as the ultimate final place of sacrifice for all the world's sins (the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world). Finally, in the Revelation a new heaven and a new earth, along with a new Jerusalem are given by God to His triumphant people forever and ever. Jerusalem represents the place of God's presence with His people, and the place of sacrifice; which centers on Christ's sacrifice for us. All the other sacrifices point to this one world and history changing event. As we enter Jerusalem with Jesus this Sunday, Palm Sunday, we will also exit the city with Him next Friday; Good Friday, stumbling toward Calvary...toward death on a cross. As the disciple Thomas says in John 11:16 *"Let us also go, that we may die with him there."* Referring to going with Jesus to Jerusalem and to the tomb of his friend Lazarus, and then into the city itself. Yes, we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem to die with Him there, but even more importantly to rise again with Him from death to life; ETERNAL life. Jerusalem is our goal, our target, and we're almost there!