

Going Ten Rounds with God

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 23 January 2022

Preacher: Rev. Murdo M Campbell

[0 : 00] But if we could, with the Lord's help and the Lord's enabling this morning, if we could turn back to that portion of Scripture that we read. The book of Exodus, Exodus chapter 7.

Exodus chapter 7. If we read again at verse 14. Exodus chapter 7 at verse 14.

And so on.

Whenever you say a particular name, you immediately associate them with a particular sport. For example, if I was to say Cristiano Ronaldo, you would all think about football. If I mentioned Tiger Woods, you would immediately think about golf. If I mentioned Roger Federer, you'd probably think about tennis.

[1 : 46] If I mentioned Michael Schumacher, you'd think about Formula One. If I mentioned Ronnie O'Sullivan, you'd think about snooker. And if I mentioned Usain Bolt, you'd probably think about athletics or running.

And as you know, the list is endless. But if I mentioned names like Muhammad Ali or Mike Tyson or Chris Eubank or Lennox Lewis, you would immediately think of boxing.

Now, I've never really been into boxing. Although I can appreciate that you need physical fitness and also mental strength before you enter a boxing ring with your opponent.

And no doubt, many of these boxers that I've named and many others, they've encountered many opponents. They've experienced many matches. They've endured many rounds. They've achieved many victories.

They've accomplished many knockouts. They've been awarded many accolades and many titles. But the thing is, none of these boxers have ever gone 10 rounds with God.

[2 : 50] None of these boxers have ever gone 10 rounds with God. But Pharaoh did. Pharaoh went 10 rounds with God.

Pharaoh went 10 rounds with God. And I say that because the word plague, the word plague that's repeatedly used in the story of the Exodus in order to describe these 10 plagues, the word plague literally means blows.

It literally means blows in the sense of coming to blows. You're coming to blows with God. But you know, the fight here, it wasn't actually between Moses and Pharaoh.

The fight was between those standing in their corner, supporting them. Because in Moses' corner, he had the strength and the support of the Lord.

In Moses' corner, he had the creator and the covenant God of Israel. But in Pharaoh's corner, Pharaoh had the gods of Egypt.

[3 : 53] He had all the gods of Egypt on his side. And these two sides, these two teams, you could say, they're going to come to blows.

They're going to go 10 rounds with one another. They're going to go 10 rounds with God. And so we have Moses' corner, we have Pharaoh's corner. But this is where we come into it.

This is where you come into it. You have to ask yourself, as someone who is standing ringside of this boxing match, you have to ask yourself, whose side are you on?

Whose side are you on? Who are you supporting in this great fight? Who are you supporting as they go 10 rounds with God?

Because as we'll see, this clash, this is a great clash between gods. And this morning, I want us to think about, first of all, the contender, then the champion, and then the conflict.

[4 : 54] So the contender, the champion, and the conflict. There are three headings this morning. The contender, the champion, and the conflict. So first of all, the contender.

The contender, look at verse 14. It says, Then the Lord said to Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened. He refuses to let the people go.

So Pharaoh already had a champion in his life. He already had a king upon the throne of his heart. He already had a God that he was devoted and dedicated to.

But Pharaoh's champion wasn't the Lord. Pharaoh's champion wasn't the Lord. Because as we discussed, and as we discovered last Lord's Day, Pharaoh had a heedless, and a hollow, and a hardened heart.

You remember last Lord's Day, we were asking the question. We were asking Pharaoh. We were saying to Pharaoh, Pharaoh, how's your heart? Pharaoh, how's your heart? And we saw that Pharaoh was someone who had a heedless heart.

[5 : 57] Pharaoh was unaware of the Lord. He was uninformed about the Lord, and he was unacquainted with the Lord. And we know that because when Moses and Aaron preached and proclaimed God's word to Pharaoh, when Moses and Aaron said to Pharaoh, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, Let my people go.

With his heedless heart, Pharaoh responded by saying, Well, who is the Lord? Who is the Lord that I should listen to his voice and let Israel go?

I do not know the Lord, said Pharaoh, and moreover, I will not let Israel go. So my friend, Pharaoh was someone who was unaware, uninformed, and unacquainted with the Lord.

He had a heedless heart. But he also had a hollow heart. Because when Aaron's staff turned into a snake, and swallowed up all the other snakes that were slithering along Pharaoh's floor, Pharaoh should have then acknowledged and admitted defeat.

He should have accepted that the Lord is God. He should have submitted and surrendered his life to the Lord. Pharaoh should have conceded at that moment and confessed that the Lord is champion.

[7 : 14] But he didn't. Instead, Pharaoh, we're told in verse 14, He hardened his heart. And as we've said before, in the story of the Exodus, we're repeatedly given this report on the condition of Pharaoh's heart.

That it was not only a heedless heart, and it was not only a hollow heart, but it was also a hardened heart. In fact, we're told more than 15 times throughout the story of the Exodus that Pharaoh had a hardened heart.

Dear, what a thing to be written about you. That's the thing that we remember about this man,

Pharaoh. Throughout the centuries, we have been told that this man had a hardened heart.

And Pharaoh hardened his heart by stubbornly rebelling and resisting and refusing and rejecting the Lord. And that's literally what it means to harden your heart.

It's to stubbornly rebel, refuse, resist, and reject the Lord. And so, Pharaoh, we know he had a heedless, he had a hollow, and he had a hardened heart.

[8 : 21] But the Lord now stands as contender. The Lord is the number one contender for the position of champion in Egypt. Pharaoh had refused, he had rebelled, he had rejected, he had resisted the Lord as champion.

But now the Lord is standing here as number one contender for the position of champion in Egypt. And my friend, this is important to understand. Because the Lord isn't second to anyone.

And that's what we're reminded in the story of the Exodus and these ten plagues. The Lord is not second to anyone. He will give his glory to none other, nor his praise to graven images.

He is second to no one. Because as you know, the Lord, he is the creator. The Lord is the creator. He is the king of creation.

He's the one who spoke this world into being at the creation. He's the one who spoke this world into being at our very Genesis. He said, let there be and it was.

[9 : 29] And he saw there was very good. And as the creator, well, as the creator, he's in control. He's in control of all the seasons and the storms and the seas and the streams and the sunshine and even the snow.

The Lord God made it all and he's in control of it all because he's the creator king. But more than that, as the creator king, he has made you.

And he has made me. We are made in his image and in his likeness. We are formed and fashioned in his image and likeness. We have been fearfully and wonderfully made and shaped by him.

We have been created to give him glory. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

And as his creation, the wonderful thing is, my friend, and you might not know it or even believe it for yourself, but you are loved by him.

You are loved by the God who made you. And the wonderful thing about this God who loves you and made you is that he knows everything about you.

[10:33] He knows your name. He knows your address. He knows your age. He knows all the anniversaries that you celebrate. He knows your family. He knows your friends.

He knows your character. He knows your conduct. He knows your conversation. He knows your sins. He knows your stresses. He knows your sicknesses. He knows your sufferings. He knows your sorrows. He knows your life.

He knows your length of days. He knows the number of hairs upon your head. He knows the number of burdens in your heart. He knows you better than you know yourself. So face it, my friend, the Lord knows everything there is to know about you.

And even up until today, like Pharaoh, you might have been someone who rebelled and refused and resisted and rejected the Lord as the champion in your life.

You know, the wonder of wonders is that the gospel says to you this morning, yes, you are lost, but you are loved by Christ.

[11:33] Yes, you are lost, but you are loved because he has declared and demonstrated his love towards you by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The Lord is reminding and even reassuring you this morning that he's not only the creator king who made you and loves you and knows you, but he's also the covenant king.

He's a covenant-making and a covenant-keeping God. He's one who makes promises and keeps his promises. And what that means is that he promises to you on the pages of Scripture, trust me because I will never leave you and I will never forsake you.

Trust me because if you confess your sin, I am faithful and just to forgive you your sin and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Trust me, he says, because if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, then you will be saved.

Trust me, he says, because I'll never leave you and I'll never forsake you. I will be with you to the end of the world.

[12:45] Trust me. And you know the wonderful thing about this God who made you, knows you, loves you, and has made promises to you? You read his word. He has 7,000 promises for you in this book.

7,000 promises in this Bible where the Lord is making promises to you and he assures you that he will keep every single one of them.

That's why he's champion. He's the creator king. He's the covenant king. He's the number one contender for the throne of your heart. And he wants to be on the throne of your heart.

He wants you to abdicate the throne of your heart. He wants to be champion in your life. And you know, my friend, surely you can see that there's nothing and no one in life who can compare or even compete with the Lord.

Because as he says himself, he is the king of kings. He's the Lord of lords. He's the God of gods. And that's what we were singing and even that's what we'll see in this passage, that all the other gods are but idols done, which blinded nations fear.

[14:00] But our God is the Lord by whom the heavens created were. And so you've been called and even commanded in the gospel this morning to submit and surrender your life, to abdicate the throne of your heart and give the throne of your heart to the champion who is the Lord.

Give the throne of your heart to the champion who is the Lord. But of course we see here that Pharaoh, Pharaoh hardened his heart.

Pharaoh said no. He stubbornly rebelled. He refused. He rejected. He resisted the Lord as the champion. Because in his mind, he already had a champion.

He had a champion in his corner. And he wasn't going to submit or surrender anything to the Lord. And so let's consider secondly, Pharaoh's so-called champion.

There's the contender who is the Lord. There's Pharaoh's champion, secondly. So the contender and the champion. The champion.

[15:08] Look at verse 15. It says, Go to Pharaoh in the morning and as he is going out to the water, stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent.

And you shall say to him, The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, Let my people go that they may serve me in the wilderness. But so far you have not obeyed.

Thus says the Lord, By this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, with the staff that is in my hand, I will strike the water that is in the Nile and it shall turn into blood.

The fish of the Nile shall die and all the Nile will stink and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile. Do you know, what you do first thing in the morning should assert and affirm to you who is in your corner and who is your champion?

What you do first thing in the morning should assert and affirm to you who is in your corner and who is your champion. For Pharaoh, the first thing he did every morning was go down to the River Nile.

[16:23] But Pharaoh didn't go down to the River Nile to wash. He went down to the River Nile to worship. And that's because Pharaoh's champion was called happy.

Pharaoh's champion was happy. Not happy, H-A-P-P-Y, but happy, H-A-P-I. Pharaoh's champion was happy, the Egyptian god of the River Nile.

And as you know, the River Nile, it's the longest river in the world. It's over 4,000 miles long. And Egyptians, they've often considered the River Nile to be a god because it provides this promise of fertility.

And like many pagan cultures, Egyptians, they worshipped a variety of nature gods. There was the god of the River Nile, there was the sun god, the god of crops and livestock and flies and frogs and health and life.

And in fact, all of these plagues in Egypt that we're going to see, God willing, in the weeks to come, all of these blows in Egypt, all of these plagues that we're going to witness, they are demonstrations and declarations of the Lord's promise and power in comparison to the impotence and the ineffectiveness of the gods of Egypt.

[17:40] All of these plagues are different gods that are going to stand up and go into the ring with the Lord and go to blows with the god, the covenant king of God's people.

But for Pharaoh, his champion, the one on the throne of his heart, was this god called Happy, the Egyptian god of the River Nile. Because Happy, he was said to flood the River Nile each year.

And as Happy flooded the River Nile, he would deposit fertile soil onto the river bank that the Egyptians could gather and then spread onto their crops in order to help them grow.

Happy was said to provide the power and promise of fertility to their crops. And needless to say, Happy was the source of Egypt's social and economic growth.

The River Nile was literally the lifeblood of Egypt. The River Nile was the lifeblood of Egypt. But it was, as we see here, it was very quickly going to become a river of blood.

[18:53] But you know, this wasn't the first time that an Egyptian pharaoh had received a demonstration and a declaration that Happy was an impotent and ineffective god.

If you remember 400 years earlier, we looked at this a number of months ago. Joseph was in Egypt. Joseph was in Egypt, and you remember then 400 years earlier that the pharaoh who was on the throne in Egypt, he had a dream.

And in his dream, he saw seven fat cows and seven thin cows, and they were all standing at the banks of the River Nile. And the seven fat cows, they represented seven years of plenty.

But the seven thin cows, they represented seven years of poverty. And of course, the pharaoh's disturbing dream, it was in that dream that he realized that this God, Happy, was impotent.

He was ineffective when it came to providing food and preventing famine. Which is why Joseph, way back then, he explained to the pharaoh that it's not happy, it's not this God, Happy, who provides food and prevents famine.

[20:04] It's the Lord, he said. It's the Lord, the covenant God and creator of the world. He's the one who provides food and prevents famine. And now here we are in Exodus chapter 7, 400 years later.

And here's another Egyptian pharaoh. And all we see here is that he hasn't listened and he hasn't learned from the past. He is still putting his hope and his happiness in Happy, the God of the River Nile.

And you know, my friend, you look at ourselves, we're no different. Nothing new under the sun.

Because how often do we fail to listen or learn from past encounters or past experiences?

How often do we return to the same darling sins and worship the same dead gods? How often are we reminded even by sudden death that we need to be ready for our own death?

How often do we put self before the Savior? How often do we seek first the throne of our own heart than His throne? How often do we build confidence in our strength rather than in God's sufficient

grace?

[21 : 23] And yet we're being reminded here in the desire and the determination of Pharaoh that what you do first thing in the morning should assert and affirm to you who is in your corner and who is your champion.

What you do first thing in the morning should assert and affirm to you who is in your corner and who is your champion. And for Pharaoh, the first thing he did every morning, regardless of what had happened in the past, the first thing he did every morning was go down to the river Nile, not to wash, but to worship this Egyptian God called Happy. Which, of course, raises the question for all of us this morning, who is your champion?

Who is your God? Which side are you on? Which corner are you supporting? Who is seated upon the throne of your heart? And you know, my friend, you can work out who your champion really is. You can work it out very, very simply by asking yourself the question, who do I live for? What is my motivation in life? What gets me up in the morning? What is my desire? What are my dreams? What is my passion?

Who's on the throne? Is it self? Is it work? Is it money? Is it family? It's always good to have family, but who's on the throne? Is it applause? Is it appreciation? You know, as Christians, we're called to live for Christ, he's to motivate us. Christ is to drive us. He is to be our passion.

He is to be our pursuit in life. He is to be the reason we get up in the morning. And you know, reading this, you know, as Christians, in many ways, we should be like Pharaoh, that before we wash, we worship our champion, King Jesus. Before we wash, we should worship our champion, King Jesus.

[23 : 35] Before we wash, we shouldn't just listen to the TV or the radio or stick it all on, all the noise, or check emails and messages, or scroll Twitter or Facebook. No, before we wash, put our face in the book, the book of 7,000 promises. Before we wash, put our face in the book and worship our champion, King Jesus. Before we wash, we should begin our day by worshipping King Jesus.

You know, I read a brilliant book recently. I actually mentioned it at the prayer meeting. I'm mentioning it again because it's so good. It's a book called Faithful Leaders, written by Rico Tice. Rico Tice, as many of you know, he's the face of Christianity Explored. And it's a very recent book because it was written during lockdown. And I'd encourage you to read Faithful Leaders because it's a very readable book and it's one that's for everyone. Now, there's a link actually in this week's intimations if you want more information or even if you want to buy it.

Because as Rico Tice says himself, we all want to be faithful leaders, whether we are preaching from a pulpit or sitting at home around the table with our family. We all want to be leaders.

And this book, we actually hope to read it together as office bearers and answer the questions that are raised in it. But you know, there's a section in the book where Rico Tice, he describes what he calls my personal catechism. My personal catechism. And he writes, he says, I need to get my thinking right each morning from the word go. So in my quiet time, I work through my own mini catechism.

[25 : 24] And Rico Tice's personal catechism, it contains four questions. I'll only read two of the questions. If you want to find out what the other two are, you'll have to buy the book. But the first question from Rico Tice's personal catechism, which he asks himself, he says he asks these questions every day.

The question is, why is today a great day? Why is today a great day? And he writes, today is a great day because today is the day that God has planned for you. And if God says it is good, then it's good.

Whatever God brings into your day, the things you choose and the things you definitely wouldn't, he will work in them for your good. And your good is to become more like Jesus. So today, one day or another, he says, whether you see it or not, you're going to grow to be more like the Savior. That is a great day. The other question Rico Tice asks himself every day is, why is today a better day than yesterday? Why is today a better day than yesterday?

And he says that today is a better day than yesterday because, as a Christian, you are a day's march closer to home. You are 24 hours much closer to seeing Jesus face to face.

You never need to lose heart, he says, because though today may be hard, your troubles are the path to the eternal glory that far outweighs them all. What you can see is not all there is, and you're getting closer to the day that faith becomes sight. That's why today is a better day than yesterday. And you know, my friend, if we began each day with that mission and that mindset, that before we

wash, we worship our Savior, our champion King Jesus, you know, I believe that we'd, it would have such an impact and an influence upon our life and upon our thinking to begin every day with Jesus. And the thing is, you know, we often highlight and home in on bad habits and things that we need to ditch and desert in our life. But beginning each day with the Lord, beginning each day with the champion, the creator, the covenant King, by simply reading His promises and praying His promises and committing everything into His hands. You know, what better way to begin the day? [28 : 02] What better habit to have? What better routine to get into? And you know, it doesn't have to be long, but it does have to be meaningful and worthwhile. And if you want help, if you want advice, please don't hesitate to ask. We're here to help. We're here to help one another. We're here to grow together as a congregation. And you know, it's good to begin every day with Jesus.

It's good to begin every day with Jesus. But of course, for Pharaoh, he began every day at the River Nile. He began at the River Nile, not washing, but worshipping his champion, Happy. But on this particular morning, the Lord told Moses, go and disturb him. Go and distract this Pharaoh from worshipping his God. Go and interrupt his daily devotion to Happy. Go and interrupt him, he says. And that's what it says in verse 16. And you shall say to him, the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. But so far you have not obeyed. Thus says the Lord, by this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, with the staff that is in my hand, I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile. Go and disturb him. And this brings us lastly to the conflict. So we've considered the contender, the Lord, the champion upon Pharaoh's heart that was happy, this God. But then there's this conflict. This is where the clash comes. They come together. So the conflict. Look at verse 19. The Lord said to Moses, say to Aaron, take your staff, stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over the rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and their pools of water, so that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in the vessels of wood and in the vessels of stone. Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants, he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile. And all the water in the Nile turned into blood. And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. As you know, there are 12 rounds in a boxing match. But Pharaoh was going to go 10 rounds with God, because 10, 10 is the number of holiness. 10 is the number of completeness, which means that there are 10 rounds, or 10 plagues, or even 10 blows, which prove that the Lord is the Creator and the Covenant King. And it's all there in order to emphasize and to explain to Pharaoh that all his champions, all the champions in his corner, they are impotent, they are incapable, they are ineffectual gods. And with this conflict where the Lord and the gods of Egypt, they come to blows, they come together, the Lord is revealing to them and to us, He's revealing and He's reminding and reaffirming to Pharaoh that He's not second to anyone. He is not second to anyone, because the

[31 : 36] Lord is not the contender. The Lord is the champion. And as we'll see as the weeks go on, one by one, blow by blow, He's going to show Pharaoh that He's the champion. He's the only living and true God.

And with this first blow, the Lord struck at Egypt's champion, this God called Happy. This God who was called Happy and who was thought to be the source of social and economic life in Egypt. The Lord struck at Egypt's lifeblood by literally turning the River Nile into blood. Because with millions of fish dead, and the water from the Nile completely unusable and undrinkable, the effects were felt immediately. Happy was no longer happy. And the River Nile was to become a poison and a pollution to the people of Egypt. It was no longer a river of life, but a river which stank with a stench of death and decay. And even though Pharaoh's magicians, even though they somehow managed to mimic this miracle, they didn't reverse or restore the river to its original way. They mimicked the miracle. We're not sure how, but they couldn't reverse or restore the river, which is what Pharaoh really wanted. That's what Pharaoh wanted. Of course, the question that's obvious from the passages, how does Pharaoh respond? How does Pharaoh respond to this first blow? And we're told that

Pharaoh's heart remained hardened. Pharaoh's heart remained hardened. In verse 23, Pharaoh turned and went into his house, went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart. After receiving his first blow, Pharaoh didn't bow. After receiving the first blow, he didn't bow. He didn't

submit or surrender his heart and life to the Lord. Instead, we're told he sulked. He sulked and he stubbornly rebelled. He refused. He resisted. He rejected the Lord. He hardened his heart. But what I love about this is that the Lord wasn't done with Pharaoh. The Lord wasn't done with Pharaoh. Look at verse 25.

Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile. And then the Lord said to Moses, chapter 8, verse 1, which we'll look at, God willing, next Lord's day. The Lord wasn't done with Pharaoh because he would be back the following week with another blow. And you know, my unconverted friend, as we conclude this morning, the Lord isn't done with you. The Lord isn't done with you. [34 : 43] But you know, don't keep coming to blows with God. Just submit. Just surrender your life to him.

Make Jesus your champion. Put him on the throne of your heart. Don't keep coming to blows. Don't go 10 rounds with God because you're sure to lose. You are sure to lose. You know, the question we are going to be asking week by week is that as we stand ringside, whose side are you on? Whose side are you on? Who is your champion? Who are you following? Who are you supporting? My friend, submit and surrender your life to the Lord because he is the champion and he will always win. He will have the glory.

So you follow him. You make him your champion today. Well, may the Lord bless these thoughts to us. Let us pray. Oh, Lord, our gracious God, we give thanks to thee for the wonder of thy word and how relevant it is for us that even though these pages have been written thousands of years ago, and yet there is nothing new under the sun. We are reminded that there are still gods upon the throne of our heart. There are still champions that we claim as our champion instead of the Lord as our champion. And Lord, we do pray that we would be those who submit and surrender. We would be those who bow our knee before King Jesus. That we might, as it were, stand ringside with him, knowing that that better it is to put our confidence in the Lord than to trust in man. Oh, Lord, we thank thee and we praise thee for who the Lord is and what the Lord is able to do in our life. And we pray that we would trust him, to trust all his promises, to trust his word and his will and his way. Lord, guide us, we pray. Guard our hearts and our minds, we ask, for we ask it in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

Well, we're going to bring our service to a conclusion this morning. We're going to sing in Psalm 105. Psalm 105, it's in the Scottish Psalter, page 377.

Psalm 105. We're singing from verse 26 down to the verse marked 33.

[37 : 30] Psalm 105 is a psalm which gives us the history of the Exodus and what happened. So, it's reviewing the situation that we're actually looking at in the book of Exodus. And these verses, they're reminding us of what happened when the Lord turned the water into blood. Psalm 105 at verse 26.

His servant Moses he did send, Aaron his chosen one. By these his signs and wonders great in Ham's land were made known. Darkness he sent and made it dark. His word they did obey. He turned their waters into blood and he their fish did slay. We're going to sing on down to the verse marked 33 of Psalm 105 to God's praise.

His servant Moses he did send, Aaron his chosen one. I beat his signs and wonders great in Ham's land where he there may know. Darkness he sent and made it dark. His word they did obey. He turned their waters into blood and he their fish did slay. He turned their waters into blood and he their fish did slay. The land in plainly He turned their waters into blood and he their fish did slay. The land in plainly

He brought more waters in chambers of their gates. His word of sorts of eyes and lies in all their borders He held for rain and waters. He held for rain and living fire into their land. He sent and he their fowls and great graves did slay. His word that they heard and He turned in fire inetus of place to death. He remained inbecum of people as He beat the employers and families in. He turned that a cm2. has been honking to tt. Least no matter up, things of their boats began to leave and 72 verse 20 with we have missed.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forevermore. Amen.