

Echoes of Calvary

Weekly Newsletter - 10 | 15th - 21st Mar '2026

Dear family in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the **Fifth Week of Lent**. Our journey through this sacred season is now drawing closer to its most solemn moments. Soon we will walk with Jesus through the events of Holy Week—His suffering, His sacrifice, and ultimately His victory over death.

This week invites us to look toward the cross with deeper understanding. Lent reminds us that the path of Jesus was not one of avoidance but of surrender. He walked faithfully toward the Father's will, trusting that obedience—even through suffering—would lead to life.

Scripture of the Week

“Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” — John 12:24

This Week's Practice: Surrendering to God's Will

Lifestyle of Jesus: A Life of Sacrificial Love

As Jesus approached the final days before the cross, He spoke of a grain of wheat that must fall to the ground and die in order to produce much fruit. Through this simple image, Jesus revealed the mystery of His mission.

The cross was not defeat—it was the path through which God would bring life to the world. Jesus shows us that true life often grows out of surrender. When we release control, lay down pride, and trust God even in difficult moments, His grace begins to produce fruit in our lives.

This week, we pause and ask:

- What is God asking me to surrender?
- Where am I holding on tightly instead of trusting Him?
- How might God bring new life through my willingness to let go?

Lent teaches us that surrender is not loss—it is transformation. The seed that falls into the earth does not disappear; it becomes something greater.

Upcoming Events to add in your daily prayers:

- Get-together, New Delhi – 26th Mar'26
- Get-together, Mumbai – 14th & 15th Mar'26
- Sunrise service, Chennai – 01st May'26.
- Wednesday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM
- Friday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM
- Sunday services – 8am and 3pm onwards
- Children's Global Sunday school — Saturday, 7pm onwards on zoom

Events that happened in 3rd week of Mar'26 to seek the fruit of the Word sown in your daily prayers (15th to 21st Mar'26):

➤ **Sunday Worship on 15th Mar'26:**

Meditated on Isaiah 53 which reveals the suffering, sacrifice, and victory of the Servant who saves others through His death. And Psalm 23 which is about trusting God as a loving shepherd who cares for us, protects us, and stays with us through every situation in life. Below are some points for us to follow:

- ✓ God's glory is reflected in nature—through forests and deserts, His creation reveals His greatness and calls us toward Him.
- ✓ Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross paid the price for our sins. His suffering, humiliation, and wounds bring us healing, forgiveness, and redemption.
- ✓ To receive forgiveness, we must confess our sins and believe in Him. The cross is the source of love, peace, joy, and forgiveness.
- ✓ A devoted life means living in unity with Jesus. Knowing His love gives us spiritual strength and true joy.
- ✓ God's Word (the Bible) is our guide. When we understand and apply it daily, our lives are transformed.
- ✓ Through prayer, fellowship, and true worship, our hearts are purified and filled with joy.
- ✓ The responsibility of Christians is to live in love, help others, do good works, and walk in repentance.
- ✓ The events of the world indicate that the Lord's return is near. Therefore, we must be prepared.
- ✓ Good Friday and Easter remind us of Jesus' love, His death, and resurrection—the foundation of our faith.

➤ **Mid-week Worship on 18th Mar'26:**

Meditated on Hebrews 9 shows that **Jesus' sacrifice is the perfect and final way to cleanse sin and bring people into a true relationship with God.** Below are some points for us to follow:

- ✓ The blood of Jesus is precious, pure, and powerful to cleanse every sin and purify the conscience.
- ✓ His sacrifice was offered once and for all, bringing eternal redemption, unlike repeated Old Testament sacrifices.
- ✓ The tearing of the temple veil shows that we now have direct access to God through Christ.
- ✓ Believers are called to sincerely repent, examine their lives, and receive the cleansing power of Jesus' blood.
- ✓ Neglecting this grace leads to spiritual decline, but continual prayer and devotion bring renewal and strength.
A holy and victorious life comes through ongoing repentance and dependence on God.
- ✓ Jesus is the perfect High Priest who entered the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood.
His sacrifice is complete and eternal, allowing believers to come boldly before God's throne of grace.
- ✓ A strong spiritual life requires regular prayer, fasting, Scripture reading, and fellowship.
Believers must stay alert, resisting worldly distractions and the schemes of the enemy.
- ✓ True faith is reflected in obedience and a life that honors God.
- ✓ The human soul is more valuable than any earthly wealth or possession.
- ✓ True riches are found in knowing Christ and being redeemed by His blood.
- ✓ Spiritual growth is strengthened through church gatherings, prayer meetings, and fellowship with believers.
- ✓ Unity in the body of Christ invites God's presence and power.
- ✓ God offers unlimited forgiveness to those who truly repent and turn to Him.
- ✓ Believers are encouraged to trust in God's timing and provision for every need.
- ✓ Honor the sacrifice of Jesus and approach God with faith and repentance.
- ✓ Stay consistent in prayer, Scripture, and fellowship to grow spiritually.

- ✓ Remain humble, spiritually alert, and focused on eternal life rather than worldly gain.
- ✓ Jesus' sacrifice gives eternal cleansing and access to God's presence.
- ✓ Live in this truth with faith, repentance, and devotion, avoiding spiritual lukewarmness.
- ✓ Be washed, redeemed, and empowered by the precious blood of Jesus, and live boldly as heirs of God's kingdom.

Family Retreat, Thursday 19th Mar'26: The Calvary Church Family Retreat was successfully conducted as a one-day event at Blue Lagoon Beach Resort, Chennai. The retreat brought together families for a time of spiritual enrichment and fellowship. The program included sessions of worship, prayer, group discussions, and a message focused on building Christ-centred families. The teachings addressed common questions and provided practical spiritual guidance. Testimonies shared during the retreat highlighted God's faithfulness and encouraged participants.

- ✓ In addition to the spiritual sessions, the retreat included recreational activities and group interactions that fostered bonding among families. The evening beach session provided an opportunity for reflection, singing, and enjoying fellowship in a relaxed setting. Below are some important observations:
- ✓ Faith requires fixing our eyes on Jesus, especially in times of fear and uncertainty. Looking at problems brings despair, but looking to Him brings peace, courage, and strength.
- ✓ Prayer is the lifeline of every believer. When we cry out sincerely to God, He hears and responds, bringing help and deliverance in times of need.
- ✓ God's power is revealed through creation and miracles, reminding us of His greatness and strengthening our confidence in Him.
- ✓ God's presence is always with us, inviting us to come boldly to Him with every need, trusting in His care and guidance.
- ✓ Faith is a lifelong journey that requires endurance. It is not a one-time victory but a continuous race that must be run with perseverance until the end.
- ✓ We are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses"—those who have gone before us in faith—encouraging us to remain steadfast and faithful.
- ✓ Family is a God-given foundation for spiritual growth. Families are called to pray together, support one another, and grow in faith as a unit.
- ✓ Couples are encouraged to build unity through humility and honest communication. Simple words like "I am sorry," "I am wrong," and "Please forgive me" help restore love and peace in relationships.

- ✓ Gratitude plays a vital role in spiritual and family life. Saying “thank you” and appreciating one another nurtures joy and prevents bitterness.
- ✓ Children and youth must be guided in faith and covered with prayer, protecting them from harmful influences and leading them toward righteousness.
- ✓ Community fellowship strengthens believers. Gathering together, sharing testimonies, and participating in church activities builds faith and unity.
- ✓ Newcomers and believers alike are encouraged and strengthened through shared experiences, testimonies, and collective worship.
- ✓ Life is a spiritual race that demands patience, discipline, and reliance on God, with His strength sustaining us along the way.
- ✓ Strong, prayerful families become a reflection of God’s unity on earth, bringing glory to Him through love, forgiveness, and faithfulness.
- ✓ God promises to hear and answer heartfelt prayers. Therefore, believers are called to seek Him boldly, live faithfully, and walk together in unity as spiritually victorious families.

Overall, the retreat was a meaningful and well-received event. Participants experienced spiritual renewal, strengthened relationships, and a deeper sense of unity.

➤ **Fasting Prayer, Friday 20th Mar’26:**

We meditated from the book of Isaiah chapter 29 which is about **God confronting empty worship and spiritual blindness while promising to restore those who turn back to Him**. Let us prayerfully reflect on the following points:

- ✓ Prayer gains deeper strength when combined with fasting, as it helps the believer draw closer to God with sincerity and focus. True prayer is not about words alone, but a heartfelt conversation with God.
- ✓ Prayer should be done in solitude with honesty, courage, and concentration. It is not a performance or repetition of words, but a real dialogue with God, waiting quietly until He responds.
- ✓ Spiritual discipline requires self-examination—asking whether we are truly connecting with God or merely going through routine. Prayer must come from the heart, not from habit or for pleasing others.
- ✓ Forgiveness plays a vital role in spiritual life. When family members forgive one another, it brings peace, joy, and God’s blessings into the home.

- ✓ Husbands, wives, and families are encouraged to live in unity, practicing forgiveness and love, which strengthens both relationships and spiritual growth.
- ✓ Spiritual revival comes through consistent practices like family retreats, youth gatherings, daily meditation on God's Word, and active participation in fellowship.
- ✓ Repetition in prayer is not wrong, but it must carry sincerity and spiritual depth. Empty or showy prayers have no value if the heart is not aligned with God.
- ✓ Believers are called to pray not only for personal needs but also for society, leaders, nations, and global issues, seeking God's intervention and peace.
- ✓ Prayer is opening the heart honestly before God. Through fasting, meditation, and dedicated time with Him, believers receive spiritual strength and transformation.
- ✓ Forgiveness restores peace within families and is essential for a healthy spiritual life. A prayerful life leads us into God's presence and invites His grace and favor.
- ✓ Prayer must be marked by concentration, sincerity, and a desire for transformation through God's Word, leading to a life that reflects His will.

➤ **Youth Retreat, Saturday 21st Mar'26:**

A youth retreat was held today in Chennai, drawing participation from students across several colleges. The event was vibrant and memorable, featuring engaging activities, worship, and prayer sessions. Dr. Jayapaul emphasized key spiritual themes, including God's sovereignty and protection, the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus, and the value of prayer and Bible study. He encouraged youth to pursue spiritual maturity, avoid worldly distractions, and recognize God's unique plan for their lives. Below are some of the important points of observation:

- ✓ Jesus Christ is the eternal protector, guide, and Savior who conquered death and gives eternal life. He is the true leader and counsellor for every believer.
- ✓ Believers are encouraged to build a direct personal relationship with Jesus rather than depending only on others. True spiritual growth comes from knowing Him personally.

- ✓ Life is like a journey filled with signs and warnings. Just as following road signs ensures safety, obeying God's Word leads to a secure and successful life.
- ✓ Prayer is a constant lifeline that keeps believers connected to God. It must be sincere, regular, and heartfelt, not just routine or occasional.
- ✓ Youth is a critical stage where life-shaping decisions are made. Choices during this time determine the future, so wisdom and discipline are essential.
- ✓ Every individual is uniquely created by God with a specific purpose. Each life has value and a divine plan that must be discovered and followed.
- ✓ Believers must avoid bad company and negative influences that lead to sin. Surrounding oneself with godly people helps maintain spiritual strength.
- ✓ Reading and understanding the Bible gives wisdom, guidance, and strength to overcome challenges and make righteous decisions.
- ✓ Salvation is only the beginning; believers must continue growing in holiness and sanctification through obedience, prayer, and devotion.
- ✓ Important life decisions like marriage and career should be made with patience, prayer, and God's guidance, trusting His perfect timing.
- ✓ Young people are called to dedicate their energy, talents, and abilities to God, becoming instruments for His purpose and blessing others.
- ✓ Faith must be active and lived out daily. True commitment to God transforms thoughts, actions, and lifestyle.
- ✓ Prayer and God's Word are essential tools to overcome life's struggles and remain strong in faith.
- ✓ Avoiding worldly distractions and temptations is necessary to live a victorious and disciplined Christian life.
- ✓ God's plans for each person are perfect and unique. Trusting His will brings lasting peace and direction.
- ✓ Spiritual maturity is a continuous journey that requires dedication, repentance, and dependence on God.
- ✓ Youth are called to surrender their lives fully to Jesus, living in obedience and faith, which leads to a meaningful life now and eternal reward.

May the Lord teach you His ways and strengthen you to walk

as Jesus walked! Amen!

**With love,
Dr. N. Jayapaul,
Calvary Church Chennai.**