

## Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

April 2, 2019

Well, yesterday was chemotherapy infusion #2 of 4. It's rather sobering when the nurse brings the "medicine"/poison in a double bag with BIOHAZARD all over it, and dressed suitably for biological warfare. (Okay, I exaggerated the suit, but not the bag.)

Thinking about the four sequences of chemotherapy in a stream-of-consciousness sort of way caused me to think about a new sermon series we'll begin on Sunday. Thus far in my preaching career, I've "preached through the Bible" three times . . . sort of, and this will be the fourth.

While we were in Bristol, I preached "from Genesis to Revelation" over a couple of years, doing a sermon or two from each of the Bible's sixty-six books/letters and trying to capture the essence of each. Then, also in Bristol, I preached "from Genesis to Revelation" on scriptures I had never before used as the text of a sermon (and had sometimes previously avoided). That took a couple of years.

Later, here in Columbia, I preached "Through the Bible in Ten Weeks," which I thought interesting, but you seemed to experience as trying to drink through a fire hose (note to self: don't do that again). And, beginning this Sunday, we'll begin a fourth tour "from Genesis to Revelation" (there's the tenuous connection with chemotherapy: four cycles; four tours).

This time, my agenda is more flexible. I'm just going to do a sermon or two from each book with an emphasis on "interesting" and/or "significant" texts. This, too, will take a while, since such series have to give way to special events and services of various sorts. I hope that you'll find this effort interesting and helpful as we try to keep in mind the "big picture" of the biblical story.



Returning to the cancer theme, I'll try not to overdo my observations on my own journey; but since so many of us have and will face similar journeys, perhaps my musings will be of some use—even for challenges unrelated to cancer. It's in that spirit that I share a couple of things from my readings this morning from Lynn Eib's, *50 Days of Hope: Daily Inspiration for Your Journey through Cancer*:

"When I was diagnosed," Lynn wrote, "I was told I had about a 40-maybe 50-percent chance of surviving" (this was 30 years ago!). It seemed to me as if someone were going to flip a coin: heads I live, tails I die. It drove me crazy thinking about it. And then a basic truth hit me: God wasn't playing roulette with cancer.

- God didn't have his fingers crossed.
- God wasn't going to wish me luck.
- God wasn't taking bets on my future.
- God didn't need good odds to heal me.

"Please remember that you and your loved one's times are in God's hands and God doesn't need 'good odds' to heal."



Lynn's prayer for today:

“Lord, please keep us all from slamming the door in Your face; from refusing to believe that You are the God of the unexpected, the improbable, and even the impossible. Thank You that You have power over everything—over every errant cell in our bodies, over every discouraging word on our lips, and over every hopeless thought in our minds. We open the door to You and the healing touch You want to bring to our lives. In Jesus' Name. Amen.”

