

world is out of God's control. The Bible reveals God as a tender and understanding Redeemer who welcomes you to cry out to him. He won't turn his back on your angst and confusion. He won't tell you to quit crying when someone you love goes rogue. He knows what you're facing and he cares.

Accepting what the Bible says about the world we live in opens the door to two very important experiences with God:



1. Accepting what the Bible says about the brokenness of this world enables you to admit the full depth of your need.

There is a delusion out there that there are two classes of people, the capable and the needy. Some have bought the lie that there is a class of independently capable people who have the ability to deal with whatever life brings their way. The Bible is clear that these

people do not exist. We're all broken, and we all live in a tragically broken world. None of us have the ability to control what needs to be controlled, to fix what needs to be fixed, or to do what needs to be done. .. I'm amazed at how God patiently and faithfully exercises his restraining grace, but the Bible forces us to admit that we have no ability whatsoever to change the people around us in the ways that matter most.. we are more like, than unlike, the selfish and rebellious ones who have hurt us so. ...

2. This humble, biblical neediness is the doorway to real biblical hope..

The Bible tells us that at the centre of all that exists is a God of glorious love, incalculable wisdom, unshakable sovereignty, almighty power, and amazing grace, who willingly unleashes his glory for our good. Grace is the central story of the Bible—the love of God defeating the evil of human sin. The Bible's main theme is not sadness, it is the comfort of God. The biblical story doesn't end in grief, but in unfettered joy. But the first steps on that pathway to joy require admitting your need, confessing your inability, and owning your grief. There is no shame in being hurt and hopeless. The hopeless and needy are the ones who are welcomed into the tender, understanding arms of a God of eternal love. .. too many of us refuse to "let go," and we spend our lives fighting battles we will not win.

Paul David Tripp April 28, 2016 [edited] Foreword to: Harvey, Dave; Gilbert, Paul. Letting Go (p. 13). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

## Central Mountains Baptist Church

# MARCH 21, 2021

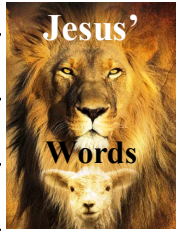
## Grieving over a Prodigal

Between the "already" of our conversion and the "not yet" of our home-going, God has called us to follow him in this broken world. This means that every hardship we face is not an interruption or a failure of God's grand plan, it is an integral part of it.

We should not be shocked, angry, or discouraged when we face the difficulties of dealing with a prodigal. These hardships do not mean that the







# Prodigals

There are two extraordinary actions in Luke 15:12 in a crisis situation that we need to understand (the first one only this week):

1. **The son wants** \_\_\_\_\_, verses 12-13

*(Genesis 3:6)* So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

*(Psalms 51:5)* Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

#1. The prodigal wants \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_, verses 13-15

*(Proverbs 5:3-5)* For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; (Proverbs 5:4) But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. (Proverbs 5:5) Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell.

#2. The prodigal wants \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_, verses 12-13

*(Psalms 14:1)* ... The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.



*(Proverbs 9:16-18)* "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here"; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, (Proverbs 9:17) "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." (Proverbs 9:18) But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.

*(Proverbs 12:15)* The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

*(Proverbs 13:1)* A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

#3. The prodigal wants to \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_,

#4. The prodigal rejects \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, verses 12-13

#5. The prodigal rejects \_\_\_\_\_ and Biblical \_\_\_\_\_,

In application, we can go wrong by:

#1. Emotional \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_,

#2. Removing \_\_\_\_\_,

#3. Inappropriate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

