

# Bible Lessons



He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out  
of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and  
established my goings.

—Psalm 40:2

**Volume 46, No 4**  
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# Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

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## Table of Contents

| DATE  | LESSON TITLE  | PAGE |
|-------|---|------|
| Oct 5 | Being Faithful To Our Faithful Creator.....           | 1    |
| 12    | Blessing For The Upright: Curse For The Wicked.....   | 5    |
| 19    | Knowing Our End And How Frail We Are .....            | 10   |
| 26    | Careful And Perfect Obedience To God's Church .....   | 14   |
| Nov 2 | The Marriage Hymn Of Christ And The Church.....       | 19   |
| 9     | Singing For Joy And Praise Unto God.....              | 24   |
| 16    | Earthly Vanity Compared To Hope Of The Righteous..... | 29   |
| 23    | Admiring God's Wonderful Creation .....               | 33   |
| 30    | Vanity Of Wicked Prosperity .....                     | 38   |
| Dec 7 | Blessings In The House Of God .....                   | 43   |
| 14    | Forgiveness And Mercy To The Sinner .....             | 48   |
| 21    | Jesus The Good Shepherd .....                         | 53   |
| 28    | Fleeting Days Of Man Befoe An Eternal God .....       | 58   |

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## BIBLE LESSONS FOURTH QUARTER, 2014

### THEME FOR LESSONS

We are inspired to have a study for this quarter from the wonderful encouraging Old Testament Book of the Psalms. We find in these writings many precious truths of the greatness and goodness of God Almighty. We can see His love, mercy, greatness, goodness, and faithfulness expressed and brought out so clearly. We trust the Holy Spirit will bless these lessons to the good and encouragement of all who partake of them.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

OCTOBER 5, 2014

### BEING FAITHFUL TO OUR FAITHFUL CREATOR

Psalm 17:1 Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, *that goeth* not out of feigned lips.

2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, *and* shalt find nothing; I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.

4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept *me from* the paths of the destroyer.

5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.

6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, *and hear* my speech.

7 Shew thy marvelous loving kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*.

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

9 From the wicked that oppress me, *from* my deadly enemies, *who* compass me about.

10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;

12 Like as a lion *that* is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver

my soul from the wicked, *which is thy sword*:

14 From men *which are thy hand*, O LORD, from men of the world, *which have their portion in this life*, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid *treasure*: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their *substance* to their babes.

15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to *him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. I Peter 4:19

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Those who earnestly seek to please the LORD God will find themselves at variance with this present evil world and the ungodly. Many of God's people through the years of time have suffered abuse and persecution from the men of this world who are blind to righteousness. But for the righteous and faithful to God there is the blessed hope of being with Christ in the resurrection at the last day.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 17:1, "*feigned lips*": Deceitful speech.

Ver. 2, "*my sentence*": Verdict for me of justice and the right. "*equal*": Upright and of the truth.

Ver. 3, "*proved*": Put to the test. "*visited*": Lovingly cared for. "*tried me*": Refined and purified me. "*find nothing*": Find no fault. "*my mouth shall not transgress*": The Hebrew text says, "My thoughts do not pass my mouth."

Ver. 4, "*destroyer*": Violent and harmful.

Ver. 8, "*apple of the eye*," What one sees or looks diligently toward.

Ver. 10, "*inclosed in their own fat*": Guarded in their own self-esteem.

Ver. 11, "*compassed us*": Watched intently, looking for faults or failures.

Ver. 13, "*which is thy sword*": By Thy sword of truth.

Ver. 14, "*which are thy hand*": By Thy hand. "*their portion in this life*": Whose treasures are in this fleeting present world.

Ver. 15, "*As for me*": This is my treasure and hope. David had in mind to be in that last great day one of the righteous who will come face to face with the Lord. When he awakes from death, how glad and satisfied he will be to be like Him in

the resurrection!

I Peter 4:19, *"as unto a faithful Creator"*: Just as God faithfully designed and planned in the creation of us as human beings, just so He will faithfully preserve our souls as we faithfully follow Him in obedience to His perfect will and will bring us forth to eternal life at the last great day!

## LESSON BACKGROUND

This Psalm in our lesson today is entitled, "A Prayer of David." It shows the intense sentiment of his heart and soul before His God concerning the wicked who oppressed and compassed him about. He knew it, and He knew that God knew that his prayer was truly sincere and not coming from pretence or dishonesty. He knew that God's eyes beheld and accepted only things that are just and equal. David had experienced great joy and happiness in His association with the Almighty. He was fully determined to do his very best in keeping from sin and transgression. Even by the words that proceeded from his mouth he earnestly meant to not transgress. He knew that God would hear him when he called upon Him. How important this is for us today. No one can successfully please God and receive His blessing without careful regard to His holy way in all conversation and conduct of life.

David experienced oppression from enemies all around him. One of the greatest of the sorrows and woes that he experienced was what he suffered from the hand of King Saul. Poor Saul had already sowed the seed of disobedience before David had come into the picture. And when, after David's triumph over the wicked giant Goliath, Saul heard the women attributing to David triumph over ten thousands and to Saul just thousands, his proud heart was stirred to hatred and murder. David had to flee to the wilderness and lived several years apart from his home and family. It was a sad lot for him. But for Saul it was just one evil after another. Even the high priest who had helped David and given him Goliath's sword was a victim of Saul's hatred along with others of the priesthood. All down through the years of history there have been the woeful accounts of godly people suffering at the hands of the ungodly. It came to be thus in the New Testament account of our Lord and Savior who was crucified at Calvary's cross by the ungodly

priesthood. And it can be in our day as we behold our society sinking in the pit of ungodly and lustful lives. Oh, may the Lord help us all to be willing to suffer for His name that we may also be satisfied when we awake in that great judgment morning with His likeness!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What kind of prayers are truly blessed and accepted by the LORD God?
2. What must we be on our guard against to be well pleasing before Him?
3. What is God going to do with men whose treasures are in this earthly life?
4. What is the hope that we can have that is expressed in our lesson?
5. How can we truly hope for the satisfaction to awake with His likeness?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

How wonderful it will be in the resurrection of the dead in that last great day to be accounted worthy, as David said, to be satisfied, when we awake with His likeness! This is the true mark that we must press toward for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus! Philippians 3:14. The New Testament abounds with counsel and instruction of how to successfully attain to this glorious hope. This is what we must be conscious of as we come to the Lord for forgiveness and victory over sin and the world. Even David, in this wonderful Psalm 17, had fully in mind this blessed hope. As he did, so must we pray for God to deliver us from wickedness and sin and from unholy association with the wicked. This is done with what is expressed in the last verse of this 17<sup>th</sup> Psalm: "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness!" To awake in that great resurrection in this order, we must press and do all that is required in God's word. "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." I Peter 1:14, 15.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

In Job 14:1 it reads, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." In observing the world around you, you don't have to look very far to understand that life brings sorrow, grief and pain to the ungodly as well as to the righteous. Time and chance happens to us all. But when you walk with the LORD, you never have to walk this path alone and He is there to bring comfort and guidance.

As a young teenager, I remember my Grandmother (Margie) Wall saying, "I would live for the Lord even if there were no heaven to go to." Sometimes I would wonder about the sanity of that statement, but I have come to agree with her. She lived to be 97 years and saw much happiness and joy in that life span. She also experienced many griefs and heartaches. But she found a solace in a Savior who was personal to her; One in whom she could trust in times of great distress. Her way of living looked good to me then; and it looks good to me now.

While we are so very thankful for the blessed hope of heaven, it is wonderful to enjoy the benefits of salvation on this side. It makes me think of a verse of song: "You don't have to wait till you get to heaven to be happy, you don't have to wait for that sweet by and by, you don't have to wait till you cross chilly Jordan, there's a little bit of heaven on this side!"

—Sis. LaDawna Adams

**OCTOBER 12, 2014**

### **BLESSING FOR THE UPRIGHT: CURSE FOR THE WICKED**

Psalm 9:1 I will praise *thee*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

3 When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence.

4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with

them.

7 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.

8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

9 The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

11 Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

12 When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

13 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble *which I suffer* of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death.

14 That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

15 The heathen are sunk down in the pit *that* they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.

16 The LORD is known by the judgment *which* he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaiôn. Selah.

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall *not* perish for ever.

19 Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight.

20 Put them in fear, O LORD: *that* the nations may know themselves *to be but* men.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. Psalm 9:9, 10

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The Almighty God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, will faithfully bless and care for all who trust and faithfully obey Him but will turn His wrath upon the ungodly and disobedient people and cast them into everlasting burning fire of hell.



## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 9:1, "*shew forth*": Bravely tell and proclaim.

Ver. 4, "*maintained*": Fulfilled and brought to pass. "*my right and my cause*": What is justly for my happiness and welfare. "*thou satest*": You sat.

Ver. 6, "*destructions are come to a perpetual end*": Your evil deeds will be forever remembered and brought to judgment. "*their memorial is perished*": The ungodly will all be forgotten.

Ver. 9, "*refuge*": Strong hold of security and protection.

Ver. 12, "*maketh inquisition for blood*": Avenges and punishes the evil of the wicked for all their persecution against the righteous.

Ver. 14, "*the gates of the daughter of Zion*": The dwellings of all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Ver. 15, "*the heathen*": The ungodly nations of the world.

Ver. 16, "*Higgaion*": Solemn meditation. "*Selah*": A break or pause in music.

Ver. 17, "*hell*": Hades, the realm of disembodied spirits of men who were wicked and ungodly.

Ver. 18, "*needy*": Those who recognize their need of God's grace and help and who earnestly pray unto Him for His mercy and grace. "*expectation of the poor*": The blessed hope of the souls of mankind who trust and obey the LORD.

Ver. 20, "*know themselves to be but men*": Fully realize that they are the creation of God and have need of His help and grace.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is another one of the blessed Psalms written by David. He speaks of God's faithful goodness to the poor and needy of mankind as he had so joyfully witnessed in his own life. There are several different ideas about which part of David's life this Psalm was written about. But in a general sense, we can see the various scenes of David's life that would cause him to write such a lovely Psalm of tribute to the great God of Israel that had been such a wonderful help to him. From the victory David helped Israel to win over the Philistines by slaying the giant Goliath and on through other scenes of his life and how God blessed him so richly, we can see why he could write such a wonderful psalm of tribute and honor to God. And this can be an encouragement to us today in the trials and

battles of the Christian life that we face time after time along this pilgrim way.

Our lesson brings out that beyond the conflicts and battles in one's personal life there looms the great warning of that future day of judgment and perdition of the ungodly. We can read in Bible history and in other accounts down through the ages of what God's faithful people have suffered and endured in the many trials and hardships of this pilgrim journey. Yes, we must remember, as our lesson brings out, that the wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget and refuse to obey the counsels of the most High God. Let us be comforted by the truth declared that "...the needy shall not alway be forgotten, the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever."

There is coming a great judgment day when all nations will be, as Matthew 25:31-46 brings out, before the Son of man, the Lord Jesus. They will be separated as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. All who are rejected of Him will be sent to everlasting punishment but the righteous unto life eternal. Let us keep this truth in mind as we live from day to day.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did David so desire to praise the LORD with his whole heart?
2. What are the enemies that we will encounter in the Christian life?
3. What are we to be aware of concerning the goodness and help of God?
4. What is going to happen to the wicked and all nations that forget God?
5. Why is it so important to be aware of our need for God's help and mercy?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Oh, how we need to praise and glorify the great Almighty God for all of His blessings of goodness and mercy! Just think of all the many blessings we have from His bountiful hand! Look at that sun shining up in the sky! Where would we be and what kind of shape would we be in if it were not up there in its orbit and wonderful ministrations? Think of the air that we breathe. How long would we last if it were taken away? Think of the many varied foods that are made available to us! We

have so much to thank the Lord for! We need His help in many other ways. To live a successful Christian life and have victory over sin and this present evil world is another great blessing that we can have from the help and grace of our Heavenly Father! Let us consider some of the things mentioned in our lesson of the enemy of our souls and how we need God's help to discern and see what he is endeavoring to do. Let us remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Yes, we serve a true and faithful God who cares for us so tenderly and mercifully.

We are encouraged in our lesson to sing praises to the Lord. How wonderful that we have been blessed and supplied with so many wonderful hymns and spiritual songs! I remember how that when I gave my heart to the Lord as a young boy I purposed to give up the worldly music and sing only sacred and godly songs. And, oh, the wealth of sacred singing I have accumulated through the years! Let's be faithful to the Lord and be with Him in that brighter world to come!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deut. 30:19. The Lord has given you and me a choice: however, the great desire of his heart is that we would choose life and find blessing. We live in a world filled with powerful influences that affect us very deeply, yet the responsibility is ours. We live the way we live because of the choices we have made.

The Word of the Lord is not meant to make life difficult or boring. The Word is intended to maximize for the best our short stay here on earth. Who can better teach us how to live this life than the Creator himself? The Word of the Lord makes great, dependable, trustworthy, lovable, honest, husbands, wives and children. The Word of the Lord when followed makes strong ties, relationships, families and communities. "Blessed is the nation whose god is the Lord."

I noticed in Deut. 29:18, 19, "Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; . . . And it shall come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart." The R. V. says, "...though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart." The Lord's language is very clear. I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. The Lord's Word is right. We are weighed in the balance of justice true. There are no exceptions to the rule, not for me, not for you.

—Bro. Bob Wilson

**OCTOBER 19, 2014**

**KNOWING OUR END AND HOW FRAIL WE ARE**

Psalm 39:1 I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

2 I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, *even* from good; and my sorrow was stirred.

3 My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: *then* spake I with my tongue,

4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it *is*; *that* I may know how frail I *am*.

5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand breadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

6 Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up *riches*, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

7 And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope *is* in thee.

8 Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish.

9 I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst *it*.

10 Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand.

11 When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man *is* vanity. Selah.

12 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, *and* a sojourner, as all my fathers *were*.

13 O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

**MEMORY VERSE:** LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my day days, what it *is*, *that* I may know how frail I *am*. Psalm 39:4

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** It is godly wisdom to be very careful to control our tongue with reverence and sincere respect to what is pleasing to our Creator. For in Him we live and move and have our being; and furthermore, we are pilgrims and sojourners in this earthly life and will one day have to give an account of how we have lived before God.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 39:1, *"take heed to my ways"*: Be very careful how I live and conduct myself. *"keep my mouth"*: Restrain and control my words. *"while the wicked is before me"*: In the presence of the ungodly.

Ver. 2, *"dumb with silence"*: Refrained from speaking. *"my sorrow was stirred"*: I was very solemn and sober of mind.

Ver. 3, *"My heart was hot"*: I was very much in earnest. *"musing"*: Meditating and considering. *"the fire burned"*: The Spirit of God was dealing with my soul.

Ver. 4, *"mine end"*: My passing to eternity. *"frail"*: Weak and lacking in strength in myself.

Ver. 5, *"at his best state"*: When standing firm. *"altogether vanity"*: Soon to die and be gone from this life.

Ver. 6, *"in a vain show"*: In a shadow. *"disquieted"*: In an uproar.

Ver. 12, *"stranger"*: Foreigner. *"sojourner"*: Pilgrim, one just passing through.

Ver. 13, *"spare me"*: Do not pass judgment on me. *"that I may recover strength"*: I will be cheerful and strong in faith.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is from another Psalm attributed to be written by David. We are richly and sweetly inspired by this

Psalm for it has some very vital points that we need to remember and diligently follow. It starts out with the valuable decision that we all need to make with all of our hearts. "I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue." How important this matter of keeping our ways and speech in full control is for our happiness and welfare! A careless attitude is a detriment to the welfare of our eternity-bound soul! There are many wicked and ungodly elements and influences around us and before us. Notice David's decision: "I will keep my mouth with a bridle." Then he stated that he was dumb with silence and held his peace, even from good. As he thus restrained himself, he said that his heart was hot within him, and as he was musing (pondering and looking to God for help), the fire burned. Yes, the holy fire of God's Spirit will work as we restrain ourselves and look to Him for guidance. Then, after this earnest wait on the Lord, David said that he spake with his tongue. And what did he say? It was an earnest prayer that we all need to speak from our hearts, expressed in the rest of the Psalm.

We need to earnestly sense how frail we are, the measure of our fleeting mortal life, and the end that will come to us. This caused David to declare that "...every man at his best state is altogether vanity." How we need to make this Psalm a pattern of our everyday life! So many people are, as verse 6 says, walking in a vain shew, heaping up earthly riches and knowing not who will gather them. Then he earnestly pled for deliverance from all of his transgressions and not to be made the reproach or disgrace of the foolish. He states that God corrects man for iniquity or sin, and he makes his beauty to fade away in vanity. David concludes with an earnest prayer as a stranger and a sojourner that God would spare him to recover spiritual strength before he passes from this fleeting mortal life. May the Lord help us all to maintain this godly attitude throughout the remnant of our days!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was David's decision and purpose that he made before God?
2. Why is keeping our tongue in full control so vital and important?
3. Is this the normal attitude and behavior in our worldly society today?

4. What did David decide to express when he spake with his tongue?
5. Why is such a sincere purpose so wise and beneficial for our eternal welfare?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

What a wonderful creation our great Almighty God designed and produced in the human body! All the functions and wonderful operations we can perform are the marvelous gifts of our Great Creator! And one of the greatest is the power and ability to speak, and communicate. He gave us a tongue, voice, and mouth and the knowledge and ability to express ourselves and talk to other fellow creatures! What a blessing it is to be able to do this in our earthly life from day to day! But, at the same time of being a blessing, it can be and has been and will continue to be a detriment and a harmful curse to the heart and soul of man! Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, spoke in his teachings as recorded in Mathew 12: 34-37: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

We want to refer to what James 3 has to say in Ver. 2: "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." Ver. 6, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." Verses 8-10, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be ."

Yes, it is a wonderful blessing to be able to speak and converse with our fellow man. But it is also a dangerous trap that we all need to be aware of. In our lesson we have it so vividly expressed, and with the New Testament Scriptures it is so clearly brought out. The tongue is a great blessing that we

can all enjoy, but we had better be on our guard to keep our tongues in accord with what pleases God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

This psalm brings out so clearly the connection between my estimation of myself and my words. One truly influences the other. When I realize how much better it is for me to discipline my speech, and I seek to have a quiet, defenseless and humble spirit and only say what HE would have me to say, it gives me true perspective of my worth and proper position as a person, as a friend, a child, a spouse, a parent, a brother or sister, a fellow-worshipper, a student. The discipline of quietly *listening* to others helps me to value their ideas and feelings and beliefs. When I understand another's griefs, it changes what I might have recklessly said, not knowing or caring about their pain.

An exalted opinion of myself and my place also influences my words. When I am the center of my thoughts and go about with my feelings in a prominent place on my shoulder, unfeeling to the needs of others, only considering what I think needs to be said, think how callous and harsh my words can be to those who need help, and I'm the one to give it. Consider how I might wound a tender and bleeding heart.

How many prayers are prayed *at* others? How many testimonies and messages have been given in the spirit of "letting them know the truth," only to drive the wounded and bruised and lame one further away from God! Help me to be a part of healing and restoration. Help me to so humble myself that my words will be gentle and kind!

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

OCTOBER 26, 2014

## CAREFUL AND PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAW

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.



4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

12 Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart. Psalm 119:1, 2

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Just as the heavens declare God's greatness and glory and the sun is wonderful light to all humanity of earth, so the Law, Testimony, Statutes, Commandments, and Judgments of the LORD bring the bright knowledge of His holiness and salvation to the hearts and minds of mankind.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 19:1 *"The heavens"*: The lofty skies above the earth. *"declare"*: Mark clearly and make well known. *"firmament"*: The great universe. *"sheweth"*: Makes clearly manifest. *"handiwork"*: The works of God's Almighty power.

Ver. 2, *"Day unto day"*: Day after day. *"uttereth speech"*: Pours forth words of counsel. *"night unto night"*: Night after night.

Ver. 4, *"Their line"*: The rule and message that they communicate to mankind. *"tabernacle"*: Position to be seen.

Ver. 5, *"coming out"*: Joyfully coming forth in beauty and honor. *"strong man"*: Champion.

Ver. 7, *"law"*: Standard rules to follow. *"converting"*: Restoring to righteousness. *"testimony"*: Declared witness. *"sure"*: Firm, faithful, unfailing. *"making wise"*: Teaching and instructing. *"simple"*: The ignorant and erring.

Ver. 8, *"statutes"*: Precepts; what God requires. *"right"*: Straight and equal. *"rejoicing"*: Making glad and happy. *"commandment"*: What is charged and enjoined to be done. *"pure"*: Clear cut; plain to be seen.

Ver 9, *"fear"*: Reverence and fervent respect. *"clean"*: Bright and clear. *"judgments"*: Sentences, verdicts, and decrees established beyond failing. *"altogether"*: United for one cause.

Ver. 11, *"warned"*: Admonished and enlightened.

Ver. 12, *"understand his errors"*: Accurately judge and discern what is wrong. *"secret faults"*: Errors that are hidden and not discerned.

Ver. 13, *"presumptuous sins"*: Transgressions committed by those who are proud and not willing to take counsel.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today, attributed to David, is a wonderful Psalm of the comparison of God's glorious creation of the Heavens with the blessedness of His Holy Word and Law. Let us earnestly consider what is stated about the Heavens and spacious firmament on high. It states that the glory of God is by them declared day after day and night after night. The message that is thus declared goes forth to every speech and language throughout all the world. It declares that God set the sun in the heavens, bright, beautiful, majestic, and powerful.

Then it goes right into the blessings and purposes of God's Word and the different attributes of His Word: the law, testimony, statutes, commandments, judgments, and the fear and respect we need to have for them. It is interesting and informative to note how Paul quoted from this Psalm in Romans 10:18. In speaking of the gospel of Christ, Paul said in verse 17, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Then he follows thus: "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, [and now he quotes from Psalm 19:4] Their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." So we can formulate it all by saying: "Just as people need to hear the gospel of Christ, they need to hear, behold, and give heed to the gospel that is preached every day and night in the heavens above!"

And then it declares the blessings and benefits of God's law to the heart and soul of mankind. Man's errors and sins can be brought to light through the holy laws and commandments of God. People need to look up and behold the beauty of the sun, moon, and stars, and at the same time open the heart to the light and blessing of the Holy Word and Righteous Commandments of our great and wonderful God!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the message that the sun, moon, and stars are daily speaking to us?
2. Why is it that this message from the skies is not recognized by humanity?
3. What all can God's laws and commandments accomplish in the heart of man?
4. Why is it that man fails so greatly in discerning his errors and sins?
5. What must we do in a sincere effort to overcome sin and be innocent?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

There is a message, a holy and exciting message, from God Almighty, our great and wonderful Creator, that is being preached and proclaimed every day and every night in plain view to all humanity over all the face of this earth. It is the message of goodness and wonderful power that He manifested in creating all of this that we behold every day. The bright and

beautiful sun that we can behold coming up in the east expresses a message that every human being needs to receive. Then we need to take notice of the lovely moon and the changes it makes monthly. How beautiful to see it when it is full, and then notice its changes with each passing day. Look up at the stars. They all have a message that they are sending to us earthly creatures. It is the message of God's wisdom, goodness, power, and loving kindness. Sad to say, a good part of mankind that lives on this planet and breathes the air that God supplies so abundantly goes from day to day, taking it all for granted with little thought of why and how it all came into being!

While we look up and behold and take notice of the beautiful heavens, let us consider some of the earthly blessings that we can daily enjoy. Think of the lovely trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers that bloom so wonderfully! Did they just happen to be? No, they were designed and created by a wonderful, gracious God. Think of the wonderful fruits that we can enjoy: apples, pears, peaches, plums, apricots, dates, figs, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and pineapples that we so greatly enjoy! Think of the walnuts, pecans, almonds, and other lovely and delicious nuts! Did they just happen to be? No, nothing just happens to be! They were all designed, planned, and brought into being by a wise, loving, and gracious God! They have a message that if we can open our hearts and receive, it will help us to be able to receive the wonderful message of His Word and gracious Law! And if we will receive His gracious law and the glorious gospel that His beloved Son brought to us, we can be enlightened to our need of His grace and salvation!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

When we follow God's law, it will bring us peace. As certain and predictable as the time and seasons are, so is God's law. If we carefully follow it, we will have peace and joy in our lives. Joshua 21:45 tells of the divine faithfulness of God. It says, "There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel:" all came to pass. Matt 5:18 says concerning the law, "...till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." So if nothing is going to fail or change, then we as the children of God need to be very careful that we follow and obey

his word. In order to follow his will, we must read and study the Word. We must have the Holy Spirit in our lives to be able to understand the law with our hearts. Take time to get acquainted with the spirit of his word so you will understand it and be able to live it and reap its rich and blessed rewards. I'm encouraged by our memory verse, "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." Psalms 119:2

—Bro. James Bell

**NOVEMBER 2, 2014**

## **THE MARRIAGE HYMN OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**

Psalm 45:1 My heart is indicting a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer,

2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

3 Gird thy sword upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.

4 And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness *and* righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

5 Thine arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; *whereby* the people fall under thee.

6 Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a right sceptre

7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

8 All thy garments *smell* of myrrh, and aloes, *and* cassia, out of the ivory palaces, *whereby* they have made thee glad.

10 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he *is* thy Lord; and worship thou him.

13 The king's daughter *is* all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

14 She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they

shall enter into the king's palace.

16 Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

17 I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.

**MEMORY VERSE:** But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. Hebrews 1:8, 9

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God has given unto His Son, Jesus Christ, eternal power and grace to overcome and prosper above this sin-cursed world and to be the Eternal Bridegroom to all who will believe, obey, and faithfully follow Him.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 45:1, "*indicting*": Overflowing with inspiration. "*a good matter*": A wonderful subject. "*things touching the king*": My works to the king. "*ready*": Inspired.

Ver.2. "*fairer than the children of men*": More holy and faithful than all mankind. That was what Jesus Christ was before God. "*grace is poured into thy lips*": Your words are full of wisdom and grace.

Ver. 3, "*thy sword*": Christ's sword is the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12

Ver. 4, "*majesty*": Magnificent splendor and power. "*ride prosperously*": Greatly succeed. "*terrible things*": Solemn and serious words of truth.

Ver. 5, "*Thine arrows*": Thy true and holy and powerful Word. "*the people fall*": The souls of men are subject.

Ver. 6, "*Thy throne, O God*": Hebrews 1:8 declares that this is spoken to Jesus, the Son of God.

Ver. 7, "*above thy fellows*": More than all other humanity.

Ver. 8, "*ivory palaces*": Spacious rooms of protection and peace.

Ver. 10, "*forget thine own people*": Put Christ above all else.

Ver. 13, "*all glorious within*": Adorned with inward beauty of the heart. "*wrought gold*": True gold of eternal spiritual

essence in the inner man.

Ver. 15, *"into the king's palace"*: Into the eternal home of glory.

Ver. 16, *"princes in all the earth"*: Sons of God of all nations.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Nothing is stated about who the author is of this beautiful inspiring psalm in our lesson today, but we are certain that God arranged for it to be in the Holy Scriptures to bless and inspire our hearts. The very fact that it is quoted some in the New Testament helps to give us assurance that it can really be applied to our Lord Jesus Christ and His spiritual union with His bride, the holy saints of the New Testament Church of God.

The writer was very inspired with good and wholesome declarations concerning the king, who we know very well to be our Lord Jesus Christ, whom the scriptures declare to be the King of kings and Lord of lords. I Timothy 6:15 and Revelation 19:16. What the writer says in this psalm can easily be applied to the kingship of our blessed Lord and Saviour. He is fairer than the children of men, the fairest of the fair. His beauty is not that of vain outward beauty, even as Isaiah 53:2 says, "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there* is no beauty that we should desire him." The beauty of Christ is that inward beauty of pure love, unwavering faith, and faithful obedience to the will of God. Grace was poured into His lips, and the teachings and doctrines Christ spoke were the true keys to happiness and eternal success. He had a sword that He wielded as a mighty Captain of our salvation, but it was not a vain earthly weapon, but rather a strong and unailing doctrine that helps His saints to overcome the world. In His majesty, Christ rode prosperously by three things: truth, meekness, and righteousness. I take notice how that meekness is sandwiched in between truth and righteousness! Oh, how true that was of Jesus! He was firm for truth and steadfast in righteousness, but it was all accompanied by His meek and quiet spirit, the kind of spirit that He wants us to have also. His arrows are sharp and their piercing of great love causes us to fall under Him! His throne that His Father gave Him is eternal. And God has anointed Him with the oil of gladness far above all others.

What a wonderful blessing that we can all enjoy of being a part of His holy Bride! We can all be all glorious within, decked

with the pure gold of holiness and perfect purity. We can have fellowship and communion with Him now; and on that blessed eternal day to come, we will live and reign with Him for ever and ever!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who is the king this Psalm is speaking of so ardently and is so lovely?
2. In what way is Christ a Soldier and what is the sword He is girded with?
3. What are the arrows that are sharp in the heart of His enemies?
4. What is the everlasting throne that Christ sits on today?
5. Who is the King's daughter and how is she all glorious within?
6. What and where is the great palace we will share with Him forever?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

What a wonderful truth we have portrayed in this lesson before us! The writer in Hebrews 1:8, 9 expressively declares that it is the Son that God is speaking unto. He came into this world as the son of a virgin and grew up to be the Saviour of all who will believe and follow Him faithfully. He submitted to the horrible death of Calvary's cross as an atonement for our sins and transgressions. But He did not stay dead but came forth a conqueror of death, hell, and the grave! He was with His beloved disciples for about forty days and then passed from their eager sight into the Heavens to sit at the right hand of His Father to intercede on our behalf. How wonderful that He can be revealed to the hearts of mankind by the precious Holy Spirit that He has sent down from His throne in the heavens!

His throne is far above any earthly realm of power. His throne is eternal in the Heavens. Let foolish sinful man contend for earthly wealth and power and kingship! How vain it all is going to be proven to be! One day He will come in power and great glory with the great heavenly host and bring this world to His judgment seat! All who have trusted, followed, and faithfully obeyed Him will be accepted of Him and taken to the New Heaven and New Earth to live and enjoy His presence for eternity! Let us diligently follow Him and be a partaker of His



sufferings with the blessed hope of being united with Him in that happy world above! It will be worth all that we have to suffer and endure to be accepted of Him in that day! May the Lord encourage and strengthen us to be faithful all the way!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

### The Marriage Hymn of Christ and the Church

Hark! the sound of holy voices, chanting at the crystal sea,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, to Thee.

Multitudes, which none can number, like the stars in glory  
stand,  
Clothed in white apparel holding, palms of victory in their hand.

They have come from tribulation, they have washed their robes  
in Blood.

Washed them in the Blood of Jesus; tried they were, and firm  
they stood;

Mocked, imprisoned, stoned, tormented, sawn asunder, slain  
with sword.

They have conquered death and satan by the might of Christ  
the Lord.

Marching with Thy Cross, their Banner, they have triumphed  
following

Thee, the Captain of Salvation, Thee, their Saviour and their  
King;

Gladly, Lord, with Thee they suffered, gladly, Lord with Thee  
they died;

And by death, to Life Immortal, they were born, and glorified.

Now they reign in Heavenly glory, now they walk in golden  
light,

Now they drink, as from a river, holy bliss and infinite;

Love and peace they taste for ever, and all truth and  
knowledge see

In the beatific vision of the Blessed Trinity.

God of God, the One-begotten, Light of Light, Emmanuell  
In Whose Body joined together, all the Saints forever dwell,

Pour upon us of Thy fullness, that we may forevermore  
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, adore.  
—Christopher Wordsworth, 1862

**NOVEMBER 9, 2014**

**SINGING FOR JOY AND PRAISE UNTO GOD**

Psalm 13:6 I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 27:4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Psalm 28:6 Blessed *be* the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

7 The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalm 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

3 And hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 98:1 O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

2 The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen..

Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence

with singing.

Psalm 101:1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

Isaiah 30:29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night *when* a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The joy and gladness in the heart of a child of God who has been born of the Spirit of God and is being led by the Spirit in all things is so sweetly expressed and enjoyed by singing the wonderful hymns and spiritual songs about our Heavenly Father and His Holy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 13:6, "*dealt bountifully*": Richly rewarded.

Psalm 27:4, "*beauty of the LORD*": The pleasant delight of Jehovah. "*enquire in his temple*": Inspect eagerly and earnestly consider all His Word and Counsel.

Ver. 5, "*secret of his tabernacle*": The hidden and joyful life of being in fellowship with God.

Psalm 28:6, "*supplications*": Earnest prayers.

Psalm 40:1, "*waited patiently*": Waiting, I waited, and did not give up. "*inclined*": Reached out to me.

Ver. 2, "*horrible pit*": Deep destruction of sin. "*miry clay*": defiling mud of worldliness and pride. "*established my goings*": Directed my steps.

Ver. 3. "*a new song*": A sweet, fresh, and enjoyable praise in the heart.

Psalm 69:30, "*magnify*": Enlarge and count as great and

wonderful.

Psalm 98:1, "*gotten him the victory*": Obtained through Christ salvation over sin and eternal death.

Ver. 2, "*openly shewed*": Clearly revealed and made known.

Isaiah 30:29, "*holy solemnity*": Feast of blessings of being sanctified in Christ. "*goeth with a pipe*": Comes with a flute or musical instrument. For us in the New Testament this is spiritual music from the heart.

Colossians 3:16, "*admonishing*": To put in mind; to gently caution and reprove. "*spiritual songs*": Messages in songs that portray and express the spiritual blessings that we can experience in the Christian life. "*singing with grace*": Singing in the loving favor of the Lord.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is concerning the wonderful and edifying activity of singing. It seems that mankind has become aware of the blessing and value of tones of music and how they have learned to put words with music and to sing them. Genesis 4:21 speaks of a man whose name was Jubal and how he was the father of all such as handle the harp and the organ. We have very little knowledge of all that developed through the ages, but this tells us that there was a sense and feeling in the heart and mind about music and expressing one's heart in singing and making melody.

We have chosen several scriptures from the Psalms that make us to know that some found great joy to express their worship before God with singing. It is known of David from I Samuel 16 that he was a player on the harp and played well for King Saul who was troubled with an evil spirit. It was this very David who wrote several of the Psalms we have referred to in our lesson about singing to the LORD. Now we know that through the many years man has been able to develop skill in singing and making music. Now it has progressed that in our day we have many wonderful, inspiring, and beautiful songs that are a blessing to the soul to sing. Personally, I can testify that the many spiritual songs and hymns that we have learned through the years have been, and are still, a wonderful blessing for our soul's benefit. We have chosen for our text several expressions from the Psalms about the joy and blessing of

singing unto the LORD, as our first scripture from Psalm 13:6 brings out. Just as David discovered and enjoyed singing as he expressed in these various Psalms, even so can we today experience a great joy and uplift in spirit by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in our homes and in our public worship services. We cherish in our memory the many wonderful times we have had in the worship services at our home chapel and in the many camp meetings, revivals, and assembly meetings through the years. It is a great blessing that we have enjoyed and are still enjoying as we meet from time to time in our home congregations and in the larger assemblies where people come from afar to worship the Lord. Let us not slacken our activity of singing the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that are mentioned in our lesson today!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What causes a person to have a desire to sing unto the LORD?
2. What did David want to do when God had lifted him up above his enemies?
3. What is the "new song" that is put into the mouth of a sincere child of God?
4. What does singing a spiritual song from the heart do for a person?
5. What are some of the spiritual songs that you have been richly blessed by?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

What a great blessing and benefit for the inner man is found in the singing of the many beautiful and inspiring hymns and spiritual songs through the years of one's life! How good it is to sing and lift up one's heart in praise and worship to our dear Heavenly Father and to our blessed Lord and Saviour who intercedes for us at the right Hand of God! I can remember how I used to sing the worldly love songs before I was made a new creature in Christ. In fact, that was one of the main things that I had to really purpose to give up when I turned to the Lord and gave my heart to Him! But I am so glad that I made that decision, for the sweet Holy Spirit has so richly blessed and inspired my heart through all these many years and is still

pouring out His blessings as we sing in the services at our chapel, here in our home, and everywhere else we go. Thank God for all the spiritual songs!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

Spiritual songs contain the Lord's word, revelation, and will and are the source of great encouragement and strength for the people of God. I remember as a young Christian working in a cabinet shop part time while attending school, the workers persuaded the boss to let them have worldly music in the shop while they worked, which put me in a difficult place spiritually. At one time, I had sung and enjoyed many of those songs. The phrases, music, and beat would play in my mind as I attempted to resist them; I would feel contaminated. The Lord, during that time, gave me a song, and I began to sing it to myself while working while the other music was playing. I sang it over and over. The melody and words helped to keep me focused on good while tuning the other out; and it worked.

We don't have to wait until victory comes to sing. In II Chron. 20:21:22, "...he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against..." After Paul and Silas were beaten with many stripes and put into prison, the Word says at midnight they prayed and sang praises unto God and suddenly there was a great earthquake. Spiritual songs strengthen our faith and our spirit and God works. Some of my favorite hymns in the Evening Light Songs hymnal are No. 106, "I Know;" No. 223, "Im Going On;" and No. 130, "Press the Battle On." I believe it is nearly impossible to sing these songs and not find courage to go on for the Lord. There is a message in every song. Let it sink down into your mind, heart, and spirit. If you think the singing of Monark is great—and it is-- wait until we join the heavenly chorus and mingle our voices with ages past around the Great White Throne!

—Bro. Bob Wilson

NOVEMBER 16, 2014

**EARTHLY VANITY COMPARED TO HOPE OF THE  
RIGHTEOUS**

Psalm 49:1 Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world:

2 Both low and high, rich and poor, together.

3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart *shall be* of understanding.

4 I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp.

5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, *when* the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?

6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

7 None of *them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

8 (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

9 That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption.

10 For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

11 Their inward thought is, *that* their houses *shall continue* for ever, *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names.

12 Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish.

13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

16 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and *men* will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall

never see light.

20 Man *that is* in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts *that* perish.

**MEMORY VERSE:** But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. Psalm 49:15

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** This earthly life with all of its wealth and possessions is but temporary, and poor mortal man will take none of it with him when death takes him away. We need to tend to matters concerning the salvation of our eternity-bound soul and live to please God so that He will receive us and give us a place in His eternal Heavens.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 49:4, "*parable*": A wise saying with an important meaning. "*dark saying*": Words difficult to understand.

Ver. 5, "*iniquity of my heels*": The perversity of those who oppose me. "*compass me about*": Surround and oppose me.

Ver. 8, "*the redemption of their soul is precious*": To save their eternity bound soul is the most valuable thing they can accomplish. "*it ceaseth forever*": When this mortal life comes to an end their chance for being eternally saved is gone, never more to be.

Ver. 10, "*he seeth*": Man realizes that life will soon be gone.

Ver. 13, "*their way is their folly*": The vain course they are choosing is foolish. "*their posterity approve*": Their followers are pleased by what they say.

Ver. 14, "*death shall feed on them*": Death and the grave have control over them. "*the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning*": The righteous and faithful to God shall be shown as the triumphant ones in the resurrection day.

Ver. 15, "*But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave*": Regardless of my sorrows and mortal end God will bring me up to live forever. "*he shall receive me*": He will accept me and take me to His embrace.



## LESSON BACKGROUND

What a wonderful lesson is revealed in this Psalm! It is not made known just who the author was, but along with the many other scriptures in the Old and New Testament, we are confident that it is unfailingly true. What the writer states concerning the vanity of wealth and material riches is surely true and needs to be earnestly regarded by every human being. They that trust in their earthly wealth and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches are doing so to their eternal destruction and damnation. People cannot help their fellow man to find the redemption of their precious souls when they are so carried away and submerged in the love for riches and wealth. Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke of this in His ministry. In Luke 12, Jesus answered a man like this who asked him to speak to his brother about sharing the inheritance with him: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." And the apostle Paul also stated in I Timothy 6:9 that "...they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

How we as mortals need to give heed and take seriously the truth found in the Holy Scriptures about this. It is brought out so clearly. It means so much for a person to take their stand for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and what He stood for. Examine the account of our Saviour's life and teachings and you can see that this material wealth of earth had very little beckoning to Him! He was right along with the author of this 49<sup>th</sup> Psalm! This was why Jesus did not seek to escape death that was laid on Him by the darkened and ignorant men of His day. He was faithful and steadfast in His persuasion that God would redeem His soul from the power of the grave and receive Him unto life, eternal life. And this deep and unwavering position of heart, soul, and mind is for us to take hold of and maintain throughout the fleeting years of this life. We must not yield to the spirit of the world around us in its mad lust for wealth and financial gain.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why are earthly wealth and financial gain such strong temptations to a person?
2. What is so much more important and valuable to strive for than earthly riches?
3. What must we do in order to obtain a hold on everlasting riches?
4. What are these eternal riches that we should be striving and living for?
5. What will be the end for those who strive for and hold to earthly wealth?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

God made man with the power of choice and decision. He forces no one to go His way. It is up to one's power and strength of character and good knowledge and understanding to make the right decision. The world and all of its riches and honor are before us. We meet it daily as we grow up and go out and face society. I can look back in my life and remember how the world and its pleasures and lusts beckoned and attracted me. I can also remember the influence of the fear and goodness of God that were put before me by my mother, my Sunday School teachers, and the preaching of the gospel by the ministers of God. There was strong appeal from the world and the attractions of the flesh! But there was also that gracious attraction and beckoning allurements of the grace of God and the salvation that Jesus Christ was offering.

How glad and thankful I am today that I came to the point where I made my decision to give up my desires and the attractions of the world and surrender my life completely to God and His great offer of salvation and hope! God has blessed my life with spiritual blessings and riches of His grace and light of understanding and guidance for my soul! He has also blessed my life with financial and earthly blessings and benefits. It is as Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"! I can testify and gratefully declare that I have found this to be wonderfully and graciously true! God has blessed me with His grace and salvation and also taken care of all else!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

A very wealthy aged woman was hospitalized for a minor surgery. She was in good health, and no one expected anything but success from the surgery. Indeed, all body conditions were good, and she was put into her own room for recovery. But a mistake was made in the paperwork, and the room she was put into was for rehab. Early the next day, the physical therapist came into her room and began exercising her, assuming her orders were for physical therapy. The internal incision burst, and in hours she became very sick as her body filled with its own waste. In another tragic turn of events, conflicts between family members resulted in her being prematurely taken off of all life support. Then, unexpectedly to all, she was gone--this loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. The video presentation at the funeral spoke of the high-society, pampered life she had lived. But her money was of no use in the day of her death. It stayed behind. With bare soul she stands before God at the judgment.

How many times has this scenario been repeated! With access to the finest and best of doctors, with great hopes in man's ability and wisdom and the money to procure it, still, hearts are now aching and tears are flowing as death made its decree. You and I, knowing these things are true, may we not be deceived by the false security that wealth promises! Our only hope is in the everlasting God.

—Sis Angela Gellenbeck

NOVEMBER 23, 2014

### ADMIRING GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION

Psalm 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

2 Who coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

5 *Who* laid the foundations of the earth, *that* it should not be removed for ever.

6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as *with* a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

10 He sendeth the springs into the valleys, *which* run among the hills.

13 He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

14 He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.

19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

20 Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep *forth*.

22 The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

23 Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.

24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

25 *So is* this great and wide sea, wherein *are* things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give *them* their meat in due season.

28 *That* thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

31 The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.

33 I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

34 My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

35 Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.

**MEMORY VERSE:** O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. Psalm 104:24

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The goodness and wonderful wisdom of our gracious God and Creator is clearly and wonderfully seen in all things that He has created.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 104:1, *"honour and majesty"*: Magnificent grandeur and beauty.

Ver. 4, *"spirits"*: Spiritual and eternal beings. *"ministers"*: Faithful messengers and servants who proclaim His Word.

Ver. 5, *"not be removed"*: Be unchanging and permanent. *"for ever"*: Until God orders a change of existence.

Ver. 6, *"coveredst"*: Water was over everything.

Ver. 7, *"they fled"*: At God's command the covering of water was turned back.

Ver. 8, *"They go up by the mountains"*: The Hebrew says, "The mountains go up". *"they go down by the valleys"*: The Hebrew says, "The valleys go down".

Ver. 13, *"watereth the hills from his chambers"*: He sends the rain from heaven above.

Ver. 14, *"herb"*: Various kinds of trees and plants. *"service"*: benefit and blessing.

Ver. 19, *"moon for seasons"*: The moon marks the passing of months.

Ver. 24, *"manifold"*: So very many various and numerous. *"in wisdom"*: So wisely and wonderfully. *"riches"*: Marvelous possessions. "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psa. 24:1

Ver. 27, *"wait all"*: All depends on God's provision.

Ver. 34, *"meditation"*: Thoughts and admiring wonder.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Whoever the writer was who wrote this wonderful 104<sup>th</sup> Psalm was doing that which we all should also do. We need to open our eyes and look intently and behold the beautiful and wonderful heavens and earth that God created. It is a sad thing, however, that the majority of humanity goes their daily way all absorbed in the lusts and desires of the flesh with very little if any thought about the God who created and brought forth the world and all things therein. If we will be persuaded in our hearts and minds concerning the true source of all this earth and the heavens above, the Spirit of Almighty God can

and will work in our hearts and minds in a wonderful way. We will share and agree with the opening statement of our lesson: "Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great!" This is expressed in the song: "O LORD my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made! I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder: Thy power throughout the universe displayed! Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God, to Thee: How Great Thou Art!" The writer begins as Genesis 1 does with God as the Creator and beginning of light and the heavens, the waters, clouds, and the wind! Then He mentions how God made the angels as spiritual beings and pointed out His ministers as being inflamed with fire, which is the fire of the Holy Spirit. The writer in Hebrews 1:7 quotes from Ver.4 in our lesson. How good and needful it was for God to create the angelic beings to be attentive to the earth and its inhabitants. And then, think of how He speaks of His ministers a flaming fire! This points to the ministers of the Gospel of Christ endued with the power of the Holy Spirit!

Take a good survey of the other wonderful parts of God's creation! After speaking of the ocean waters being put in proper position, the writer speaks of the springs sent into the valleys. What a blessing these springs are! We have one about 45 miles north and west of us where we go and take jugs and get a great amount of clear, pure, and wonderful water! Then he speaks of the various creatures, the grasses, the fowls, and the many different animals. We did not mention everything in our lesson, but it is a blessing to study for one's self in deep meditation and honor to our great and mighty Creator!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did God create such a marvelous heaven and earth for us to dwell in?
2. What all did He want to portray before our sight in creating all these wonders?
3. Why are so many people unaware and with little thought about it all?
4. What blessings can one experience by beholding and considering these things?
5. Why will sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Here is a wonderful song:

Oh, Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made:  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder;  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed!

### CHORUS;

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee:  
How great Thou art; how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in:  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin!

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, My God, How Great Thou Art!

—By Carl Boberg Translated by Stuart K. Hine

It is a wonderful blessing in the heart and life of a person to be sweetly and earnestly persuaded that God is real and all that the Bible testifies of Him is true. And then it is so blessed to know that what the Bible speaks about His Son Jesus Christ is true also. This sincere and devout faith that we can have will help sustain us in the toils and cares and burdens of this mortal life. It gives a hope of future happiness and treasures in the world to come. May the Lord inspire us all by His Holy Spirit to hold fast to our confidence and be faithful to the end!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

I'm a great admirer of God's creation above and below the surface of the earth. Most everyone is awestruck with the Grand Canyon. I love to see it when the sun is rising and the colors are changing and the birds and squirrels are moving about. Words fail to describe the greatness of this God-made wonder. Many of you agree; but how many of you have seen Copper Canyon in Chihuahua, Mexico? It's another 'grand' canyon most of you haven't seen nor can relate to its beauty. What about Niagara Fall's thundering waters flowing millions of gallons every minute? Now let's go underwater and view the beauties there. I've been in some crystal-clear water where the world down there is unbelievably beautiful. In the oceans, the colors of fish are so vibrantly yellow, orange, blue, green, etc. To the human ear, it seems almost silent; but special sound devices have found that there is much traffic noise, especially from the great whales that can be heard by their kind for miles underwater!

Let's look at the talented birds that fly. One bird in particular, the rather small arctic tern, has webbed feet, a white body, and a black cap of feathers on its head. Scientists once thought this bird could fly nearly 5 thousand miles in its migration but later, after placing GEO locaters on several of these birds, they found instead that they go from pole to pole, over 12,400 miles! I have had homing pigeons, and one that flew from Morehead, Kentucky to Springfield, Missouri--roughly 650 miles. God's creation is truly amazing. Let us remember each and every day when we rise what a great, awesome, and amazing God is our Father and Lord.

—Bro. James Bell

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

### VANITY OF WICKED PROSPERITY

Psalm 73:1 Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart.

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.



5 They *are* not in trouble as *other* men; neither are they plagued like *other* men.

7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full *cup* are wrung out to them.

11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

12 Behold, these *are* the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase *in* riches.

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart *in* vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

16 When I thought to know this, it *was* too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end.

18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down to destruction.

19 How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 As a dream, when *one* awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

23 Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by thy right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven *but* thee? and *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire beside thee.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a-whoring from thee.

28 But *it is* good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Psalm 73: 24, 26

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** We must not be troubled and marvel about how the ungodly prosper and have so much ease and earthly success while we who are seeking to please and follow the LORD and His holy way have so much sorrow and fiery trials and difficulties. We must remember that their ease and worldly fatness will end in death and eternal doom, and our treasures are in eternal glory as we continue to be guided by God's counsel.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 73:2, "*were almost gone*": Almost stumbled.

Ver. 3, "*envious at the foolish*": Jealous of the proud. "*prosperity*": Peace and success.

Ver. 5, "*plagued*": Affected or bothered.

Ver. 7, "*stand out with fatness*": Look out with self-confidence.

Ver. 9, "*set their mouth against the heavens*": Disregard and speak against God.

Ver. 10, "*his people return hither*": God's people come back to face their troubles. "*waters of a full cup*": Full of sorrow and pain.

Ver. 16, "*too painful for me*": Greatly troublesome in my eyes.

Ver. 17, "*went into the sanctuary*": Went into the house of God in earnest prayer.

Ver. 18, "*slippery*": Smooth and deceptive.

Ver. 23, "*continually with thee*": With God and under His care all the time.

Ver. 26, "*faileth*": May waste away. "*my portion for ever*": My sure possession for all eternity.

Ver. 27, "*go a-whoring from thee*": Go after false gods such as money and worldly prosperity.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The heading on this 73<sup>rd</sup> Psalm says, "A Psalm of Asaph": Adam Clarke says, "It is likely that this Asaph was the composer of it; that he lived under the Babylonish captivity; and that he composed this psalm to console the Israelites under bondage, who were greatly tried to find themselves in such outward distress and misery, while a people much more wicked and corrupt than they were in great prosperity and held them in

bondage.” It is probably true in the case of many of God’s people down through the years during their mortal sojourn of this life.

The writer, realizing that God is truly good to Israel and to such as are of a clean heart, could not help having the feelings he expressed at seeing the prosperity of the wicked and foolish about him. He was endeavoring to serve God and hold fast to his faith but could not help but be affected while he beheld how the ungodly were doing so well in their lives. Verse 10 seems to be speaking of God’s people returning to their lot with the full cup of sorrow and trouble being wrung out to them. And verse 11 indicates their troubled minds, and asking, “How does God know, and “...is there knowledge in the most High?” In other words, “Doesn’t God see what is going on?” Then in verses 12 -15 the writer speaks of his condition of trouble, wondering if he had cleansed his heart in vain because of being plagued all the day long and chastened every morning! And when he tried to figure it all out, it was just too painful for him.

But then, when he went into the sanctuary of God and sought His counsel in earnest prayer, the Lord opened up his understanding and helped him to see it all in the true light. And so it still is today. We may face many distressing and baffling situations. But let us be faithful to live close to God in prayer and earnest study of His Word. It will help us to overcome all confusion and disturbances of surrounding situations. Verses 23 to the end of the psalm sum it all up wisely and encouragingly. In the midst of all the disheartening things around us, we can be held by God’s right hand, be guided with His counsel, and in the end be received into that eternal home above!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What caused the author of this psalm to be envious at the foolish?
2. While the people of the world around us prosper in their sins, what really is ahead for them?
3. How must we face our troubles and hard trials of life?
4. Do we have the blessed privilege of going into the sanctuary of God?
5. What then can be our outlook and attitude toward life and its sorrows?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Here is a song that has cheered and comforted my heart through the years. The author is said to be W. B. Stevens:

### *FARTHER ALONG*

Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder  
Why it should be thus all the day long,  
While there are others living about us,  
Never molested, though in the wrong.

#### CHORUS:

Farther along we'll know all about it,  
Farther along we'll understand why:  
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,  
We'll understand it all by and by.

When death has come and taken our loved ones,  
It leaves our home so lonely and drear;  
Then do we wonder why others prosper,  
Living so wicked year after year.

Faithful til death, said our loving Master,  
A few more days to labor and wait;  
Toils of the road will then seem as nothing  
As we sweep thru the beautiful gate.

When we see Jesus coming in glory,  
When He comes from His home in the sky;  
Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion;  
We'll understand it all by and by.

I well remember being at the graveside service for dear Sister Shirley Allen, a young 20-year-old precious saint who died in August of 1956. Her mother requested that we sing this song *Farther Along*. It was such a comfort to us. Dear Brother David Madden helped us with the song. Sister Shirley's parents, Bro. Murphy and Sister Natalie Allen were so broken-hearted at the passing of their precious daughter. It was a comfort to them for us to sing that song. Then I remember about 8 years later how dear Brother David Madden was taken in death from sickness he got from being in Africa on a

missionary trip for the Lord. Precious memories!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

In the first verse of the chapter, King David extolled the goodness of God. Yet because his confidence was at such a low ebb, in the verses following he was almost in despair because of the so-called prosperity of the wicked. Notice how David's thinking veered from the solid truth of God's goodness into descriptions of his perceptions of the success of the wicked. Isn't it so human that in our despairing moments our minds can "run" with all sorts of thoughts contrary to the truth of a matter? We may build up thoughts in our mind that really have no valid foundation of truth because we view a situation through our extremely limited understanding or emotional state. As soon as the psalmist was able to get his eyes back on the Lord (which he accomplished by going into the sanctuary of God), his focus and understanding then returned to solid truths. May we fix our eyes and wandering minds on Jesus and thank Him for the events of life that help us refocus on Him. It is only as we do this that our perceptions of life stay grounded in truth.

—Sister Julie Elwell

DECEMBER 7, 2014

## BLESSINGS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

Psalm 84:1 How amiable *are* thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!

2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, *even* thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.

4 Blessed *are* they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

5 Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in thee; in whose heart *are* the ways of *them*.

6 *Who* passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the

rain also filleth the pools.

7 They go from strength to strength, *every one of them* in Zion appeareth before God.

8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.

9 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

10 For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

11 For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Psalm 27:4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84: 9, 10

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** To be saved in the House of God and delivered from the power of sin and death *is* the sweetest, greatest, and most wonderful blessing and benefit a person can have in this life. It is a far, far more valuable treasure and experience one can have than the vain and fleeting things of this present, evil, and soon-to-perish world.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psa. 84:1, "*amiable*": Lovely, pleasant, and enjoyable. "*thy tabernacles*": God's dwellings in the hearts of His people.

Ver. 2, "*fainteth*": Feels sad and weary. "*courts*": Place of God's presence. "*my heart and my flesh*": My inner man and my outer man. "*crieth out for*": Shouts for joy to.

Ver. 3, "*thine altars*": God's places of worship.

Ver. 4, "*Blessed*": An exclamation: "How happy!" "*still praising thee*": Continually without end.

Verses 5 and 6, "*valley of Baca*": Valley of weeping. The Septuagint Greek translation renders these two verses like this: "Blessed is the man whose help is of thee, O Lord; in his heart he has purposed to go up the valley of weeping, to the place where he (God) has appointed, for there the Law-giver will grant blessings."

Ver. 7, "*from strength to strength*": From one victory to the next victory.

Ver. 8, "*LORD God of hosts*": God of great armies.

Ver. 9, "*thine anointed*": Thy child endowed with the Holy Spirit.

Ver. 10, "*better than a thousand*": More valuable and enjoyable than a thousand days in sin. "*doorkeeper*": The Hebrew meaning is "one who stands at the threshold (or just inside)". The Greek Septuagint says "an abject", which means the lowest position. It is better to be in the lowest position in God's house than to be high up in the prison-house of sin!

Ver. 11, "*a sun and shield*": God is bright as the sun, and a protector from all harm. "*grace and glory*": Grace and help for troubled times: and rewards of joy and happiness for all eternity!

Psalms 27:4, "*the beauty of the LORD*": The delight of God's blessed presence. "*enquire in his temple*": Inspect, study about, and consider all about God and His ways.

Ver. 5, "*secret of his tabernacle*": The hidden secrecy and protection of God's House.

Ver. 6, "*mine head be lifted up above mine enemies*": Will be able to overcome and triumph over all the power of the enemy.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The heading of this 84<sup>th</sup> Psalm says it was for the sons of Korah, who were porters and keepers of the doors of the temple of God and also singers in the temple worship. The temple worship in the Old Testament was no small matter. It was a wonderful experience to be a part of the worship of Almighty God. So this psalm we have in our lesson today is a wonderful expression of the joy and blessings that were experienced in those days of long ago and a like joyful expression of what we can enjoy in the spiritual worship we can have in Christ and the Holy Spirit that He has made available to us!

Just as the soul of the writer of this psalm longed and cried out for joy in the worship of God, even so we today can experience the blessing of the Holy Spirit inspiring, comforting, uplifting, and revealing His grace and truth to our souls. We can testify how lovely and inspiring to our hearts is the worship of God in our homes and in the times of public worship with other fellow saints.

When I read verse 3 in our lesson about how the sparrow and swallow had found a place for a nest in the temple, I remember a day years ago when I was in a camp meeting at Green Pastures in Oklahoma. I had gone out early that morning to the tabernacle for prayer and study. As I was sitting reading in my Bible I happened to look up and saw the nest of a sparrow positioned on a ledge in the upper part of the tabernacle. I happened to be reading in this psalm at the moment I looked up and saw the nest. Oh, what a blessing and inspiration that was that I have remembered ever since! It illustrated how the House of God can be such a blessing to our needs of life and faith. It is a shelter and a protection from the storms of life. It surely is a blessing, as our Lesson brings out, to be in the worship of our heavenly Father!

Along with this 84<sup>th</sup> Psalm we have included part of the precious 27<sup>th</sup> Psalm. In this psalm is expressed the joyful blessing of dwelling in God's house, a joy we can experience today in the New Testament worship of our gracious creator. How sweet is the language of the Psalmist concerning his desire to dwell in the house of God all the days of his life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to study and learn in His temple. Why? It is because in the time of trouble he will have



protection and care, being hid away with Christ in God. And by this means he will be lifted up above all the enemies about him and he can and will sing praises unto the LORD. So can it be with all of us today!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How can we today live and be in God's House?
2. What are the blessings and benefits we can enjoy in God's House?
3. What can His strength in us help us to do in the valley of weeping?
4. Why are we better off being in God's House than in the tents of wickedness?
5. What are the things we can be blessed with in the House of the LORD?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

I am so glad and happy in these upper years of age that I made my decision nearly 58 years ago to give up the world and my hopes and desires and to be saved and live for Jesus the rest of my life! The LORD has been my refuge, strength, and blessed hope so wonderfully. It has been so enjoyable and blessed to be in God's house all these many years! He has guided me through the decisions and cares and toils we have met all along the way. It surely pays to fervently desire the Lord, seek after Him, and dwell in His House all the days of one's earthly life!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **REFLECTIONS**

Exodus 20:8-11: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it." The Lord, being the sovereign of all, saw fit to set aside a day for man because He knew we

would need a haven to rest from the world and its influences; a day of departing from cares of life and daily routine to obtain a fresh dose of inspiration to carry us through the other days of the week.

It was not too very long ago that businesses and restaurants were closed on Sunday in observance and respect of this holy day. If anything was to be purchased or transacted, it had to be done on the other days of the week. Society, in general, has drawn away from this practice, and Sunday is now desecrated to be like any other day of the week. There does not seem to be any reverence given to this day as it is used as a 'catch up' day to get ready for the work week or relax from a hectic schedule.

Paul gave this admonition to the Hebrews to forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as ye see the day approaching. (Heb. 10:25). As we indeed see the day of his return approaching, let us each one put forth a positive effort to worship at the house of the Lord and focus our thoughts and mind toward Him, to inquire in his temple, to search our hearts, to enter into the singing and prayer, to edify one another, to praise the One who gave everything for us. It is good for our spiritual, emotional, mental and physical well-being.

—LaDawna Adams

**DECEMBER 14, 2014**

## **FORGIVENESS AND MERCY TO THE SINNER**

Psalm 32:1 Blessed *is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

2 Blessed *is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

7 Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, *or* as the mule, *which* have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye *that are* upright in heart.

Romans 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7 *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven, *whose* sin *is* covered. Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile. Psalm 32:1,2

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The goodness, love, and mercy of Almighty God grants to all mankind forgiveness and pardon for sins and transgressions committed contrary to His holy law and commandments. It is through the blood that Jesus shed for us that we can have God's forgiveness. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 32:1, 2, "*Blessed*": An exclamation: "How happy!" "*covered*": Hidden by the blood of Jesus.

Ver. 2, "*imputeth not*": Will not charge nor hold against. "*no guile*": No deceit.

Ver. 3, "*kept silence*": Would not openly confess my

condition or need. *"my bones waxed old"*: My stiff attitude grew weak. *"my roaring"*: My howling complaints.

Ver. 4, *"thy hand was heavy"*: God's Spirit was dealing mightily. *"my moisture"*: My self will and stubbornness. *"turned into drought"*: dried up.

Ver. 5, *"acknowledged"*: Confessed with godly sorrow.

Ver. 6, *"For this shall every one that is godly pray"*: For this mercy and forgiveness shall everyone who truly fears God pray earnestly.

Ver. 7, *"compass me"*: Surround, inspire, and lift me up. *"with songs of deliverance"*: With joyful songs of mercy and forgiveness.

Ver. 8, *"guide thee with mine eye"*: Guide and direct thee with my knowledge and wisdom.

Ver. 10, *"compass him about"*: Sweetly embrace him.

Romans 4:4, *"worketh"*: Labors for hire. *"reward"*: Pay. *"not reckoned"*: Not counted to be given. *"of grace"*: Of sheer kindness.

Ver. 5, *"worketh not"*: Does not seek to earn forgiveness by keeping the law. *"believeth"*: Counts as true and worthy of trust. *"his faith"*: His personal faith and trust in God's forgiveness.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

What a wonderful truth is portrayed in our lesson today! It is a truth and joyful tidings we must never forget. To have our sins forgiven freely in love and mercy through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood releases us from the awful guilt, condemnation, and fearful looking for of judgment and eternal damnation. It is one of the great messages of the Bible. We find it brought out through the Old Testament scriptures portrayed in the heroes of faith such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and many others. These men, as is declared in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews, lived and walked by faith. This was long before God gave His holy law and commandments through Moses. God established the way of faith before He gave His law. Had He given the law first, before He showed the way of faith there would be no mercy or way to obtain forgiveness. But He established faith and gave us examples and a pattern of how to have faith before He gave the law. This faith and confidence in God's love, goodness, and mercy help and enable us to overcome guilt, condemnation, and

despair. We can have forgiveness and the inspiration and strength of His Holy Spirit to help us overcome the power and dominion of sin.

Let us notice the sweet expressions of confidence and assurance of God's forgiveness in our lesson. Sinful bondage brings woe and sorrow and paints a picture of despair. But being assured of God's mercy and forgiveness brings hope and confidence of victory and deliverance. We must assume a godly attitude concerning our sins. We must seek and earnestly pray and acknowledge our sins. We can find forgiveness and obtain fellowship with God through His grace and forgiveness brought about through our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our hiding place, and He will preserve us from trouble. He will instruct and teach us in the way we should live and guide us with His spiritual eye of understanding. As Ephesians 1:17 and 18 declares, "God...may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." Praise the Lord!!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What effect does sin and transgression have upon the heart of a person?
2. What must we do to obtain the forgiveness from God for our sins?
3. What will our God be to us and for us when we obtain His forgiveness?
4. What can we enjoy when we trust in the Lord and live uprightly?
5. What price was paid on our behalf for us to be forgiven of our sins?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

How blessed and happy is the heart of a person who repents with godly sorrow for his sinful ways and thoughts and desires and comes earnestly to the Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ to obtain peace and forgiveness! It is a wonderful experience that every person needs to seek earnestly for. The Holy Spirit deals with a person and helps him to be aware of

his sinful state before God. The thought of eternal damnation and the fires of hell need to be in one's understanding. How sad that people can live and go their own selfish sinful way with little or no realization of this terrible state! It is the mercy of God to convince an individual of his lost and undone condition. The gospel of the grace of God that was brought to us through the suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ to the right Hand of God makes this truth fully known for our assurance. We need not doubt His forgiveness. We need to truly repent and straighten up our ways and thoughts for His forgiveness to really be effective. Isaiah 55:7 says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon!" Yes, to be forgiven of our sins and find a refuge and help from the gracious Heavenly Father is a great and wonderful treasure and blessing we can have in this life.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

One of the greatest pictures of love and forgiveness is portrayed in the Lord's parable of the Prodigal Son. The younger son took his inheritance and went into a far country, wasting his substance with harlots and riotous living. If it were a matter of only losing monetary substance, it wouldn't have been so pitiful; but when we embark on a road that leads away from God, we also lose the great values of purity, integrity, honesty and morality. "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want." There will always come an end, sooner or later, to worldly pleasures and sin. The party will end. The scriptures teach that the wages of sin is death. The mighty famine is God's mercy. The Lord is faithful to every soul. Sometimes He brings trouble, difficulties, and affliction, all for the purpose of helping us to recognize our need of Him. The scripture states, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word." I am confident of the Lord's faithfulness to work with every soul.

The road that leads home may seem long; but know that for every step we take, the Lord is taking one toward us. "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." The Lord, through this parable, is endeavoring to reveal the heart of God. The

Father was looking down that same road he saw his son leave on. He was looking with a longing to see his son. "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." This should be our spirit also. Luke 15:7: "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

—Bro. Bob Wilson

**DECEMBER 21, 2014**

### **JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

Psalm 23:1 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am

known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**MEMORY VERSE:** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. John 10:27 and 28.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ, the Son of God Almighty, is presented as a great and precious Shepherd to all who faithfully trust and obey Him. As our Shepherd, He cares, protects, feeds, provides for, and guides us all along the way of life.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 23:1, "*I shall not want*": I shall not lack anything that I need.

Ver. 2, "*lie down*": Recline and comfortably rest. "*green pastures*": Fields of green nourishing grasses of spiritual food for my soul. "*still waters*": Waters of quietness and rest for my soul.

Ver. 3, "*restoreth my soul*": Refreshes, renews, and strengthens my inner-most being. "*for his name's sake*": To help me to glorify His name.

Ver. 4, "*though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death*": When I am in danger of losing my life. "*thy rod and thy staff*": Thy Word and Thy Spirit.

Ver. 5, "*preparest a table*": Provides spiritual food and nourishment. "*in the presence of mine enemies*": When Satan comes against me. "*thou anointest my head with oil*": Thou inspires and strengthens me with Thy Holy Spirit. "*my cup runneth over*": My soul is overflowing with joy and victory.

Ver. 6, "*surely*": Without fail. "*follow me*": Be right with me.



*“for ever”*: The rest of my life and in the eternal world to come.

John 10:7, *“Verily, verily”*: Truly, truly. *“the door of the sheep”*: The entrance for my people into salvation and eternal life.

Ver. 9, *“go in and out”*: Enter in and go forth into the fields of blessings.

Ver. 10, *“life more abundantly”*: Life superior in quality and amount.

Ver. 12, *“hireling”*: One who works for wages.

Ver. 27, *“I know them”*: I recognize and accept them.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is another one of the inspiring Psalms written by David. With this precious Shepherd’s Psalm we have the words of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning Him being our eternal Shepherd for the salvation of our souls. I Samuel 16 and 17 tells about David’s place in caring for his father’s sheep. No doubt in caring for the sheep, David learned lessons and gained understanding of the joy of being one of the LORD’s sheep in His pastures of love. So we have his writing and expressions of joy concerning his experiences of having the LORD as his dear faithful Shepherd.

David’s expressed statements concerning his joy and blessing in having the LORD as his shepherd are very inspiring. How wonderful that, as Jesus brought out in our text from John 10, He is our Shepherd and fulfills perfectly what David expressed in his Psalm. Yes, Jesus is our Shepherd and faithfully cares for us in the salvation and welfare of our souls. We can experience the satisfaction and richness of resting and feeding in His pastures of love. He restores our souls to perfect holiness and well-pleasing before God. He leads us in paths of righteousness to the glory and honor of His name. Though we are compassed with dangers of death and destruction, His grace sustains and protects us. His Word and His Holy Spirit comfort us, and He feeds us with spiritual food right in the face of danger and harm. Our cups overrun with joy! His goodness and mercy shall never fail to sustain us in this life and prepare us for eternal life to come.

We have included the words of Jesus concerning His being our Shepherd and also the closing words of the wonderful book of Hebrews concerning Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, who through His blood and His eternal Word will help to

make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working that which is well pleasing in His sight. How wonderful that we have this great Shepherd as our Lord and Saviour now and forever!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. In what ways is Jesus likened unto a Shepherd to all who love and follow Him?
2. What are some of the blessings and benefits we enjoy from Him?
3. How does Jesus restore our souls and what does this mean to us?
4. How are we walking through the valley of the shadow of death?
5. What kind of future can we look forward to with Him as our Shepherd?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Let us consider and sweetly view the blessings and benefits of Christ being our Shepherd. "I shall not want." All of our needs will be supplied, both fleshly and spiritually. Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:33 to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all the earthly needs will be added to us. Our rest and quietness lying down in green pastures and being led beside waters of quietness is such a wonderful experience to have! He restoreth our souls, ministering to our inner man day by day. 2 Cor. 4:16. He guides us in paths of righteousness for the honor of His name. And, though we walk through the deep dark places of danger and harm, we are not afraid, for He is ever near to keep everything in His control. His Word and Holy Spirit give us courage and comfort. He feeds our souls so richly and sweetly right in the time of sorrow and adversity. He anoints us daily with fresh inspiration and comfort from His Holy Spirit living within us. Our cup of joy and gladness He fills up and overflows so greatly! We can be assured that goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our earthly pilgrimage and we can look forward to everlasting joy and blessings in the house of the LORD forever!

I can remember a day when the burdens were pressing upon my heart and difficulties and fears were rising before me. I was earnestly looking to my Shepherd for help, and He

brought that 6<sup>th</sup> verse in Psalm 23 so sweetly and uplifting to my heart. Oh, how my soul was comforted and encouraged! How blessed is the sweet Holy Spirit living and guiding us on life's pathway!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

### His Little Sheep

I'm under the care of the Shepherd; protected from evil and  
harm.  
When weary from toil and from sorrow, I've learned how to lean  
on his arm;  
And, resting securely from danger, I know that my soul He'll  
keep.  
And nothing divides me from Jesus, for I am His little sheep.  
He came through the door of the sheep-fold; He came by the  
way of the cross.  
The only way He could save us and find our souls that were  
lost.  
He suffered as no man has suffered, that we might His people  
be;  
He gave up His own life to give to us life more abundantly.  
He calls me by name when He leads me, and I know that  
gentle call.  
Securely He guides every footstep, past snares that would  
cause me to fall.  
He knows every step of the journey; He walked it in days of  
yore;  
And ever I'm tempted to murmur, He whispers, "I've been here  
before!"  
Oh, keep me in Your fold, dear Shepherd, Oh, keep me in Your  
fold!  
I don't want to be away from You--lonely and empty and cold.  
Protect me from danger and evil; I give You my soul to keep.  
I'll follow wherever You lead me, for I am Your little sheep!

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

DECEMBER 28, 2014

## FLEETING DAYS OF MAN BEFORE AN ETERNAL GOD

Psalm 90:1 LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

3 Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

4 For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood, they are as a sleep: in the morning *they are* like grass *which* growth up.

6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret *sins* in the light of thy countenance.

9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale *that is told*.

10 The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so *is* thy wrath.

12 So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

14 O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad according to the days *wherein* thou hast afflicted us, *and* the years *wherein* we have seen evil.

16 Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Psalm 90:10

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** This earthly journey of life is but temporal and will soon be ended. For this reason we need to apply our hearts to wisdom and the fear of God and spend our earthly days doing the will of God and having Him work His works within us, and let His beauty of holiness be steadfastly upon us.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Psalm 90:1, "*dwelling place*": The home of our soul.

Ver. 2, "*from everlasting to everlasting*": Across the space of mortal time.

Ver. 3, "*turnest man to destruction*": Sendest man back to dust. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:19

Ver. 4, "*a watch in the night*": A responsible and careful guard.

Ver. 7, "*consumed*": Brought to an end. "*troubled*": Distressed, condemned.

Ver. 9, "*we spend our years as a tale*": We finish our years like a sigh.

Ver. 10, "*threescore years and ten*": 70 years. "*fourscore*": 80 years.

Ver. 12, "*number our days*": Reckon and realize how fleeting this mortal life is. "*apply our hearts unto wisdom*": Bring a heart of true wisdom before God.

Ver. 13, "*let it repent thee*": Give pity and compassion.

Ver. 14, "*early*": In the morning of youth.

Ver. 17, "*the beauty of the LORD our God*": The delight and honour of our LORD God of mercy.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

The heading of this 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm says, "A Prayer of Moses the man of God." Adam Clarke greatly doubts if this is true because Moses lived 120 years, far beyond the 70 and 80 years mentioned. But, regardless of who the author of this Psalm was, we have found great inspiration and wise counsel contained therein; yes, wise counsel for all humanity. The first

statement is true and wise, declaring that the LORD God has been a great and wonderful dwelling place, or home, for all humanity. Song No. 30 in the Evening Light Songs hymnal entitled, "*The Home of the Soul*" has the heading "Psalm 90:1." Verse 2 of that song quotes from 1 John 4:16: "He that dwelleth in love ever dwelleth in God, sweet home never clouded by fears; and this heaven of love is our native abode through time and eternity's years." Stating that God is from everlasting to everlasting, He has turned man to destruction, saying, "Return, ye children of men." Then he likens us to grass that is cut down and withereth. He mentions God setting our sins and iniquities before Him, and all our days are passed away in His wrath. All of this is undeniably true.

The latter part of this Psalm instructs us wisely to apply our hearts unto wisdom. We need to entreat the LORD to satisfy and bless us with His mercy and make us glad after being afflicted and seeing evil. This should be the sentiment of our earnest prayers. The last two verses are so encouraging and sweet. We want His work to appear to us and also His glory to our children. We pray that His beauty will be upon us and establish the work of our hands. What we do we desire to be directed and blessed of the LORD. This Psalm needs to be a prayer, from the heart of every human being. In answer to this prayer the LORD can bring victory over sin and ungodliness, help us to live a holy and righteous life, and will give us a blessed hope for the world of everlasting life. May the Lord bless this lesson to the spiritual good of everyone is our earnest prayer.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How can the great Almighty LORD God be our dwelling place?
2. What did God sentence man to do after he had disobeyed and sinned?
3. What is the main reason for God's wrath being directed toward humanity?
4. What should be the sentiment of our earnest prayers to God?
5. What do we need of His work and also for the work of our hands?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God's loving embrace is the sweetest and most blessed experience a person can have in this world. So many people go after the fleshly lusts and material gain as the most desirable treasures to be had in life. How we need to realize and be aware of the fact that all of this earthly realm of life and activity was created and brought into being by a Supreme Being. God was in the beginning before the world was. He is, as our lesson declares, from everlasting to everlasting. He created man and woman, gave them the beautiful garden of Eden to enjoy, and a commandment to obey if they would continue to enjoy the garden. But we know that they listened to the voice of the Devil and lost that blessed place of love and happiness. And now all down through the centuries man has groped and fooled around in ignorance and stubborn will.

God Almighty is still beholding the sins of mankind but is holding out His hand of mercy and grace to all who will be willing and obedient to Him. Man lives and dies. The newspaper daily reports people dying. But while we are alive and remain in this life, we need to take heed to the entreaty and loving counsel of God. Our prayer to Him surely needs to be in accord with what is spoken in our lesson. We need to recognize our perilous state and pray to God to help us to apply our hearts to wisdom. We need His wisdom to guide our ways and thoughts so that we can be satisfied with His wisdom.

If we will sincerely and willingly take heed to God's Word, we can be satisfied in youth and live so we can rejoice and be glad all of our days. If we will consent to be His workmanship and allow His beauty to be upon us, He can and will establish the work of our hands to be beneficial and established in happiness and honor for all the days of our earthly pilgrimage. God can and will satisfy the longing of the heart if we will be willing and obedient to Him in true faith and fervent love and devotion. May the Lord help each one of us to very diligently and earnestly strive to follow His Word and be faithful to Him all the days of our earthly life!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

### The Time of our Lives

This song, written by Herbert Kritzmer, describes how fast life can slip away and be wasted:

*"Yesterday, when I was young, The taste of life was sweet upon my tongue.*

*I teased at life as if it were a foolish game, The way the evening breeze may tease a candle flame.*

*The thousand dreams I dreamed, the splendid things I planned.*

*I always built alas on weak and shifting sand.*

*I lived by night and shunned the naked light of day, and only now I see how the years ran away.*

*So many wayward pleasures lay in store for me and so much pain my dazzled eyes refused to see.*

*I ran so fast that time and youth at last ran out.*

*I never stopped to think what life was all about.*

*Every conversation I can now recall, concerned itself with me and nothing else at all.*

*Yesterday the moon was blue and every crazy day brought something new to do.*

*I used my magic age as if it were a word and never saw the waste and emptiness beyond.*

*The game of love I played with arrogance and pride and every flame I lit too quickly died.*

*The friends I made all seemed somehow to drift away and only I am left on stage to end the play.*

*There are so many songs in me that won't be sung.*

*I feel the bitter taste of tears upon my tongue.*

*The time has come for me to pay for yesterday when I was young.*



Bro. Ed Wilson recently preached a stirring message at a funeral on this scripture: Ecc. 11:9. *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

Each one is free to choose how they want to live this life, but God is the giver and taker of life, and when this life is done, we must give a report of how we have lived, either for his glory or our own. What a tragedy to spend life chasing empty dreams and waste our youth and become an old man and then realize we not only missed what life was all about, but also have to face eternity unprepared to give a good account to God of how we spent our time here.

—Bro. James Bell





