

Monday, 8 November 2010 Psalm 35:27-28 Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" (28) Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

Lord, thank you for this beautiful and joy-filled weekend. Thank You for the time Betty and I had together and with dear friends. Thank You for bringing us home in safety. Thank You for the Moore's home and hospitality, a measure of Your love. Thank You for the teachings, for Chuck and Mark, T.M. and Bob, Chris, for Martha and Kay. Bless all of them. And thank You for all who attended, for their contributions and teachings and for their love.

Tuesday, 9 November 2010 Psalm 36:1-4 To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the LORD. Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil.

Lord, the ability of the unrepentant heart to justify and excuse behavior is an ability without superior. I know, deep in my heart that a course of behavior is wrong, but I can explain and justify why it is appropriate at this time and in these circumstances. I can conveniently forget that You hate evil and abhor sin. I am a master of self-justification and delusion.

Wednesday, 10 November 2010 Psalm 36:5-9 Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

This morning, this beautiful morning as I sat in my chair, reading, studying, meditating and praying Your word, the day was dawning. Your sun was rising and revealing all the beauty of Your creation before me as its light lifted the darkness. Mountains, fields, trees, colors, shadows, stone walls, fences, barns, flower beds, all shouting the glories of the creation with their own voices. Praising Your goodness. I am awestruck by the display and filled with joy.

Thursday, 11 November 2010 Psalm 36:10-12 Oh, continue your

steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart! Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away. There the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

I am dealing with arrogance, Lord, but is it the arrogance of others or mine? If mine; lead me in the path of repentance and transformation. If of others; lead me in the path of humility and love. And in all, give me the wisdom to recognize the source and respond appropriately.

Friday, 12 November 2010 Psalm 37:1-11 Of David. Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Oh, this is hard, Lord, it is so much easier to fret. To continue to trust in You as the world collapses around me, to continue to carry out Your directives for my life in the face of trials and temptations. To watch others live lives of idleness as You lay out areas of ministry for Betty and I. But the joy of being with You and in Your will far exceeds the temptations of the world.

Saturday, 13 November 2010 Psalm 37:12-33 The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish--like smoke they vanish away. The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives;

for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off. The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand. I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. (26) He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. (31) The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death. The LORD will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.

The reward that is promised here is if I turn away from evil and seek Your face. To be upheld by You, to be kept from shame in times of great evil and to enjoy the abundance of Your provision in times of famine, to know that I inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, to know that when I trip You are there to catch me and keep me from stumbling, that my children will be cared for by You, that the word of my mouth are Your wisdom and Your justice, that Your law is written in my heart, and that You will not abandon me to the power of the wicked. Praise You, Lord.

Lord's Day, 14 November 2010 Psalm 119:142-144

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true. Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight. Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Righteous forever! Your righteousness and Your testimonies! A perfect North Star to guide me, never obscured by clouds only by vision dimmed by unwillingness. Where ever I go, where ever I am, no matter what the situation I am in, if I look to Your Word, it is righteous and true, never failing, the source of wisdom and understanding.

VOICES TOGETHER
Daily Meditations from the Psalms

November 8-14, 2010

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hopes that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

John Nunnikhoven