

Monday, 4 July 2011

Psalm 81:13-16 Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Lord, I stray from Your commands. Many our the times that I ignore that still, small voice that seeks to direct me in a path pleasing to You. Why is it for I know that with You, in Your will, is the very finest of lives; a life nourished by the Bread of the Word and sweetness of Shalom. Lord, I repent, change my heart O God, make it ever new, let it be like You

Tuesday, 5 July 2011 1 Timothy 3:1-13 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Lord, this is an awesome charge describing the walk that You require of someone who is given the task of leading a portion of Your flock. And I believe that You have given me such a responsibility to the small band of believers in the prison. Guide me and lead me, I cannot be faithful to these conditions without being obedient to Your word.

Wednesday, 6 July 2011

Psalm 82:1-4 A Psalm of Asaph. God has taken his place in the divine

council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. (4) Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Lord, as I shepherd the church within the prison, give me wisdom and discernment. Give me wisdom to know when I am being snowed, and when it is a genuine cry for mercy and help. Be with me Lord, in all things, bless these men through me.

Thursday, 7 July 2011

Psalm 82:5-8 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

Lord, as I go to teach a group of individuals who are apparently unwilling to put great effort into gaining an understanding, help all of us to find the consuming desire to come to a complete grasp of the foundations of our faith.

Friday, 8 July 2011

Revelation 6:9-17 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Lord, the persecution of the church in this country is not by kings

and rulers but by philosophies and false priorities. The Evil One has found that by appealing to our lust to be like the cultures around us, he has said, and we believe him, that we can pick and chose those parts of Your word that we will follow and reject those that are uncomfortable. He has said, and we believe him, that we can live the life we chose for You are a God of love and forgive all our sins; therefore we do not have to worry for our place in heaven is reserved for us. And on and on and on, he has said, and we believe—because we want to believe.

Help Your people, restore Your church, bring revival.

Saturday, 9 July 2011

Psalm 83:1-4 A Song. A Psalm of Asaph. O God, do not keep silence; do not hold your peace or be still, O God! For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads. They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones. They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!"

Lord, the forces that the Evil One has assembled to assault Your Church, are frightening except that we know that the forces that protect us are far more powerful. Help us to maintain an attitude of faith, trusting in Your armor as we challenge the dominance of the Lie.

Lord's Day, 10 July 2011

Psalm 119:79 Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies.

Lord, use me to teach others to love Your Law and to seek to bring it into their lives as a force for good. Help me to lead others into the understanding that Your Law is a gift to Your people for them to know what is good and righteous and holy; that obedience to your Law is not onerous but that Your burden is light and Your yoke is easy.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms

July 4-10, 2011

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