

Monday, 16 January 2012 2 Timothy 4:9-18

Do your best to come to me soon. (10) For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (11) Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. (12) Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. (13) When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. (14) Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. (15) Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. (16) At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! (17) But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Oh, Lord, this tale of desertion and oppression; how Paul was afflicted by friends and abandoned by those who should have supported him and his ministry. But You were the ever faithful one as You have promised, You will never leave nor forsake the faithful.

Help me to keep that promise ever in my mind and heart as I strive to advance the Kingdom. Keep me focused on that glorious work, the task You have set before me to carry the Good News into dark places, the hearts and souls of those who do not know or acknowledge You.

Tuesday, 17 January 2012 Psalm 116:1-4

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. (2) Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. (3) The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. (4) Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

This is that humility again, if I humble myself before You, You will lift me up. It is my act of humbling myself, my acknowledgment of my total inability to make myself right in Your eyes, my confession that I have sinned against You.

Salvation is of the Lord.

Wednesday, 18 January 2012 Psalm 116:5-11

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. (10) I believed, even when I spoke, "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."

You have indeed rescued me from the path of destruction that I was determined to pursue with all my might. You picked me up, cleaned me, clothed me in the robe of righteousness and placed a ring of community on my finger. You prepared a feast of love and companionship for me to celebrate my return to You, My acknowledgment of Your love for me has to be, must be, can be nothing else but to seek to walk in Your ways is all aspects of my life, I am called to be Your minister to the lost and broken. Praise You, my Lord and Master.

Thursday, 19 January 2012 Psalm 116:12-19

What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Lord, that I would be unswerving in my thanksgiving and praise. Lord, that I would be seen as a man of rejoicing in Your presence and grace. Let my sacrifice of thanksgiving reverberate throughout the region. Oh, that my mouth would forever and ever sing Your praises.

Friday, 20 January 2012 Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form

of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

You are Lord, You are Lord, You have risen from the dead and You are Lord. My knee does bow, my tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Oh, Lord, help me, that this would be the constant song of my tongue, that my mind would ever dwell on the implications of this fact. First and foremost as my Lord, I must be in complete obedience to You, my fealty must be without reservation, I cannot murmur or defer.

*Saturday, 21 January 2012 Psalm 117:1-2
Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!*

When will Your Name be raised and praised by all the nations?
When will every knee bow in obedience? When will the prayer of Luke 10:2 be fulfilled?

*Lord's Day, 22 January 2012 Psalm 119:120
My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.*

If the fear of You is the beginning of wisdom and I need to be fearful of Your judgments, then is it not that through Your judgments that You teach wisdom? You are a hands-on teacher! Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



January 16-22, 2012

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

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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