

Monday, 12 October 2015 John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they **know** you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have been examining what it means to have faith, to believe, to trust, to commit and to obey the LORD, God the Almighty. A lot of the emphasis has been on learning to trust Him, learning to live knowing that His promises are yea and amen. But there is a far deeper reason for seeking this outcome. It is that through the faith/trust/commit/obey-based life, we come to know Him. Really know Him, an intimate relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God, in His infinite provision has provided a set of 'tools' to guide us through the task of learning to live a life of trust in Him. And like any good craftsman, we must learn to utilize those tools and use them appropriately.

It seems to me to be appropriate to spend some time examining these tools, generally referred to as spiritual disciplines, and some of the Scriptures upon which they are based.

Tuesday, 13 October 2015 Matthew 14:13

Now when Jesus heard this (the death of John the Baptist--ed.), he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself.

Luke 5:16

But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

[Luke 11:1](#)

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Isn't this stunning, to think that the Logos, the one by whose word all was created, would find the need to withdraw and find a place where He could be in communion with the Father? In times of sorrow, in times of great stress, His response was to turn to God and cry out to the Almighty.

Should we do less? I hear many in the Christian community calling out in dismay about the condition of our culture and their fears that the wrong candidate will be elected. I hear few calls to meet and fall on our knees lifting up the state of the Church in this country – a condition of far greater importance.

Maybe our approach to prayer is somewhat faulty?

Highly recommended readings are: If Men Would Pray, God's Prayer Program and [Restore Us! A Call to Serious Prayer for Revival](#), by T.M. Moore, available through the Fellowship of Ailbe

bookstore.

Wednesday, 14 October 2015 Psalms 150:1-2, 6 [1]

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ... Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Why is it, Lord, that I have so much difficulty in praising You? Why is it that my mouth is not continuously filled with a recitation of Your worth and glory? Why is it that my prayers are, at best, opened with a token acknowledgment of Your eminence, a passing and weak thanksgiving, and a wholehearted dive into my needs? Why am I so self-centered that I think I need to spend all my precious prayer time listing and explaining what You already know?

Maybe the answer is to spend more time using Psalm 150 as a prayer guide, at least verses 1, 2 and 6? Maybe this is an instance where learning to praise is accomplished by praising? Will this begin to foster a pattern of worship that is centered on You rather than me?

Thursday, 15 October 2015 Psalms 150:1-2, 6 [2]

*Praise the LORD! **Praise God in his sanctuary**; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ... Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

Your sanctuary, LORD, God the Almighty, is beautiful beyond the ken of the human mind, a place of incredible color, sound, aroma, and movement. It is the place where all Your blessings come together; a place of complete goodness, justice, peace, joy, righteousness, mercy, grace and love. It is the place where all Your creation comes to fruition to sing an everlasting hymn to You. It is the place where every knee will bow, every tongue confess that You are LORD, God the Almighty.

Praise the LORD!

Friday, 16 October 2015

[Psalms 150:1-2, 6](#) [3]

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; **praise him in his mighty heavens!** Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ... Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

Your "mighty heavens" speak to me of the infinite complexity of Your creation. The interweaving and the inter-dependency speaks of the absolute beauty of every aspect of the creation. To dwell and meditate upon the human body for example and the perfect way in which the various organs function in harmony cannot help but fill my soul with Your praises.

And then to realize that my body is but one infinitesimally small example of the beautiful design of Your creation.

Praise the LORD!

Saturday, 17 October 2015

Psalms 150:1-2, 6 [4]

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! **Praise him for his mighty deeds**; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ... Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

Your "mighty deeds" are rarely recognized by the world as something so far out of the ordinary that it can only be ascribed to Your might and power. Where did the strength and peace come from for those 21 Copts as they knelt prior to their execution? Where did the strength and peace come from for the Christians who were executed at the community college in Oregon? Where does the strength and peace come from for the thousands who are facing torture and execution throughout the Muslim dominated regions of the world?

Where, but from You, the LORD, God the Almighty. This peace, this strength is testimony to the world that Your mighty deeds continue to this very day.

Praise the LORD!

Lord's Day, 18 October 2015

Psalms 119:90-91 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

All things rest upon Your faithfulness, upon Your word, at Your pleasure and at Your will. All things are in Your service, their purpose is to wait upon the Lord. This wonderful phrase, "all things" expressing over and over again, all aspects of the "mineness" that is Yours and Your due.

Praise You, Lord and Master

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



October 12-18, 2015

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.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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