

**Monday, 4 November 2019 Psalm 74:1-2**

*A Maskil of Asaph. O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture? Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.*

Lord, You purchased me, but I have been obstinate. You redeemed me, but I have been disobedient. Yet, I am the sheep of Your pasture; I am of the tribe of Your heritage. You do remember Your temple. You draw me back into Your presence.

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**Tuesday, 5 November 2019 Psalm 74:3-8**

*Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary! Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs. They were like those who swing axes in a forest of trees.*

*(6) And all its carved wood they broke down with hatchets and hammers. They set your sanctuary on fire; they profaned the dwelling place of your name, bringing it down to the ground. They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them"; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.*

The enemy is on a rampage among the flock, and many of the shepherds are serving as quislings. Another gospel is being preached, Your Word is subjected to the test of man's reason, the Lie is promulgated as truth, and the great gods of choice and tolerance are worshiped.

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**Wednesday, 6 November 2019 Psalm 74:9-12**

*We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long. How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever? Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them! Yet, God, my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.*

Lord, it is difficult at times to keep remembering that I am a citizen of the Kingdom of God and not of this world. When I lose sight of my citizenship, concerns, and worries begin to overwhelm me, all the desecration of Your creation is an offense to my eyes and a stench in my nostrils. But when You bring then eyes of my heart back on You and Your Kingdom, the sweet aroma of Your presence removes the stench, the advancing of the Kingdom brings Shalom into my heart. Yes, You are working Your salvation in creation, You are restoring the Kingdom, You have taken Your hand from the fold of Your

garment and are wreaking havoc upon the kingdom of darkness.

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**Thursday, 7 November 2019 Psalm 74:13-17**

*You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness. You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams. Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun. You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.*

But You rise, You speak through the power, might, and glory of Your creation so that none can deny, no one claim ignorance that they did not perceive Your eternal power and divine nature. All things, whether in heaven or earth, in the air or the seas, declare You glory and Your handiwork.

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**Friday, 8 November 2019 Psalm 74:18-23**

*Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs, and a foolish people reviles your name. Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts; do not forget the life of your poor forever. Have regard for the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence. Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame; let the poor and needy praise your name. Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day! Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually!*

Remember Your people, LORD, cover us from those minions of the Evil One who preach another gospel. Strengthen Your Church! Build up your Body! Fill us with Your Spirit to stand strong and resist the devil so that he will flee from us. Help us to remember that when we seek You, You will be found.

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**Saturday, 9 November 2019 Psalm 119:92-94**

*If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.*

I am Yours, O Lord, I have heard Your voice, and it has brought me into life. In Your law, I have life everlasting, in Your word is relief from affliction and absence of cares; Your precepts are the uplifter of my head.

Praise You, my Lord and Master, my Savior and Redeemer, my Brother.

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**Lord's Day, 10 November 2019** Exodus 20:1-2, 4-6

*And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

Your love is steadfast to those who love You and keep Your commandments. Let nothing come between You and me, nothing that takes the focus of my worship off You and on to anything else. Help me, guide me, convict me, quicken my conscience if I begin to stray from steadfast worship of You and You alone.

*Voices Together* is available as two annual volumes of meditations based on Psalm 1 through 75 and Psalm 76 through 150. A companion book, *The Love Story*, is a 22 week series of meditations based on Psalm 119. They are available through the Fellowship of Ailbe book store at [www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline](http://www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline)

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*November 4-10, 2019*

## **Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Colossians 1:9-14**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

LORD, our prayer this week is that each of us will be fervent in prayer for our congregation; that we will be constant in seeking the transformation of our minds that will enable us to recognize Your good and perfect will. We pray this so that we will live lives worthy of You and please You in every way, that we will bear fruit in every way as we grow in knowledge of You.

We pray that our fellowship will be strengthened with all power so that we may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to You for qualifying us to join in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of light.

We praise and thank you that we have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of Your Son whom You love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Amen

## **To fear or not to fear, that is the question.**

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

*Voices Together* is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. All Scripture is from the ESV unless otherwise noted. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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