

Monday, 3 February 2020

Psalm 89:30-37 If his children forsake My law and do not walk according to My rules, if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, but I will not remove from him My steadfast love or be false to My faithfulness. I will not violate My covenant or alter the word that went forth from My lips. Once for all I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before Me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." Selah

Lord, we do not walk according to Your law; we do violate those statutes given in love and for our benefit; we even curse You and accuse You of desertion when we have to bear the consequences of our actions. But You are faithful in love and mercy; You use our transgressions to lead us into submission to Your law as we turn to You in repentance and once again seek Your face.

Tuesday, 4 February 2020

Psalm 89:38-45 But now You have cast off and rejected; You are full of wrath against Your anointed. You have renounced the covenant with Your servant; You have defiled his crown in the dust. You have breached all his walls; You have laid his strongholds in ruins. All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors. You have exalted the right hand of his foes; You have made all his enemies rejoice. You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and You have not made him stand in battle. You have made his splendor to cease and cast his throne to the ground. You have cut short the days of his youth; You have covered him with shame. Selah

Lord, we fail. I fail! You are right to chastise me and Your church. It is out of love for Your people that You allow us to experience the consequences of our disobedience. As our walk becomes more and more indistinguishable from practices of the culture, we too begin to suffer from the pestilence of sin. The shame of our sin is as a stench in Your nostrils.

Tuesday, 4 February 2020

Psalm 89:38-45 But now You have cast off and rejected; You are full of wrath against Your anointed. You have renounced the covenant with Your servant; You have defiled his crown in the dust. You have breached all his walls; You have laid his strongholds in ruins. All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors. You have exalted the right hand of his foes; You have made all his enemies rejoice. You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and You have not made him

stand in battle. You have made his splendor to cease and cast his throne to the ground. You have cut short the days of his youth; You have covered him with shame. Selah

Lord, we fail. I fail! You are right to chastise me and Your church. It is out of love for Your people that You allow us to experience the consequences of our disobedience. As our walk becomes more and more indistinguishable from practices of the culture, we too begin to suffer from the pestilence of sin. The shame of our sin is as a stench in Your nostrils.

Thursday, 6 February 2020

Psalm 119:1-3 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

Lord, You do not want me to misunderstand for here, in the very beginning of this paean, the relationship between blessing and obedience is clearly set out for my instruction. Oh, the Promise of obedience, that I will be blessed by Your Presence as I seek You with a whole and righteous heart. The Promise that having brought me into the Kingdom, You will provide a walk for me, that is, a way of living that will reflect Your Glory and carry the message of Your Grace and Mercy.

Friday, 7 February 2020

Psalm 119:4-8 You have commanded Your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all Your commandments. I will praise You with an upright heart, when I learn Your righteous rules. I will keep Your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

You continue to give me this picture of the Kingdom of God, a region whose boundaries are Your law. It is a region of perfect peace, where Shalom reigns as the order of the day.

You have sent me as an ambassador to reintroduce that kingdom into the earth; You have provided a complete instruction manual in Your word; You have equipped me with the power of the Holy Spirit; You have set Your mind in me; You have promised to supply all the words I need when I need them; You are transforming my mind so that I know Your good and perfect will. What more do I need to be diligent and steadfast?

Saturday, 8 February 2020

Psalm 119:9-10 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding

it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

Lord, I have asked you the question about worshiping you in Spirit and in Truth. Now you bring me the answer for to worship you in Spirit and in Truth is to keep my way pure. In other words, I am to live a holy and righteous life. *"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16 and "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15*

It is not a matter of simple church or high church but of being a living temple of the living God. You are telling me here that the way of true worship is to store your Word in my heart, to meditate on your precepts and examine Your ways, living my life in accord with your Word.

Therefore, Lord, give me understanding of Your Word, open the eyes of my heart to those unseen things around me to practice as my way of life.

Lord's Day, 9 February 2020

Exodus 20:1-2

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. ...

Leviticus 19:17-18 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. (18) You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Why is it easier, Lord, to take vengeance or to bear a grudge than to reason frankly? Why is it that I am reluctant to sit down with someone and bring up a matter of difference between us? I would rather hide sin in my heart, would rather grumble and slander, prefer to harbor unforgiveness than to ask my neighbor to come and reason together. The answer has to be my pride, Lord cleanse me of that wickedness.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



February 3-9, 2020

*Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Timothy 1:12
I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*

Thank you, Christ Jesus our Lord, that You have given us the strength, that You have considered us faithful, that You have appointed us to our personal mission fields

Guide us in all ways that we may never lose our focus on our appointed mission; to proclaim the Gospel, to carry the message of repentance and restoration to all people, nations and tribes, and to lead all to a life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. *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; 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: Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc. PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or to prior@ailbe.org

The Fellowship of Ailbe, (www.ailbe.org)
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.