

5/16/10

Series Title: “Joyously Pursuing the Light of God’s Word”

Today’s Title:

“Pe: God Will Not Allow the Ungodly to Destroy Us”

Scripture Reading and Text: Psalm 119:129-136

Introduction: (Illustration from Matthew 10:16-33)

Premise:

Our focus in trials is not the ungodly, but God’s provisions

Outline:

I. Luxuriant Value of Scripture

II. Lifelong Victory of Salvation

III. Laborious Voice of Suffering

I. LUXURIANT VALUE OF SCRIPTURE

A. God’s Word brings passion

v.129 *“Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.”*

- Note how we are using the word “passion”
- Webster defines “passion” in many ways: here are some of those definitions:

“the state or capacity of being acted upon by external agents or forces”

“intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction”

“ardent affection”

“a strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept”

“an object of desire or deep interest”

wonderful

- the testimonies of God, i.e. His Word the Scriptures, are wonderful and strange (paradoxical) things, “exalted above everyday life and the common understanding.

c/w Psalm 19:7-11

- Frederick William Faber, *The Eternal Generation of the Son*” pp.23-24

*Amid the eternal silences
God's endless Word was spoken;
None heard but He who always spake,
And the silence was broken.*

*Oh marvelous! Oh worshipful!
No song or sound is heard,
But everywhere and every hour,
In love, in wisdom, and in power,
The Father speaks His dear Eternal Word.*

*For ever in the eternal land
The glorious day is dawning;
For ever is the Father's Light
Like an endless outspread morning.*

*From the Father's vast tranquility,
In light coequal glowing
The kingly consubstantial Word
Is unutterably flowing.*

*For ever climbs that Morning Star
Without ascent or motion;
For ever is its daybreak shed
On the Spirit's boundless ocean.*

*O Word! who fitly can adore
Thy Birth and Thy Relation,
Lost in the impenetrable light
Of Thine awful Generation?*

*Thy Father clasps Thee evermore
In unspeakable embraces,*

*While angels tremble as they praise,
And shroud their dazzled faces.*

*And oh! in what abyss of love,
So fiery yet so tender,
The Holy Ghost encircles Thee
With His uncreated splendour!*

*O Word! O dear and gentle Word!
Thy creatures kneel before Thee,
And in ecstasies of timid love
Delightedly adore Thee.*

*Hail choicest mystery of God!
Hail wondrous Generation!
The Father's self-sufficient rest!
The Spirit's jubilation!*

*Dear Person! dear beyond all words,
Glorious beyond all telling!
Oh with what songs of silent love
Our ravished hearts are swelling!*

*O! marvelous! O worshipful!
No song or sound is heard,
But everywhere and every hour,
In love, in wisdom, and in power,
The Father speaks His dear Eternal Word.*

B. God's Word brings enlightenment

v.130 *"The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."*

- Keil and Delitzsch, p.259

"In this connection of the thoughts in not intended of careful observance, but of attentive contemplation that is prolonged until a clear penetrating understanding of the matter is

attained. The opening, disclosure of God's word giveth light, inasmuch as it makes the simple wise or sagacious; in connection with which it is assumed that it is God Himself who unfolds the mysteries of His word to those who are anxious to learn."

(Illustrations from Tan #256 and #400)

Martin Luther warned: *"I am much afraid that the universities will prove to be the great gates to Hell, unless they diligently labor to explain the Holy Scriptures and to engrave them upon the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution where men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt."*

Martin Luther said, *"I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.*

"I search the Bible as a whole like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb – study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings."

C. God's Word brings nourishment

v.131 *"I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments."*

- Amy Plantinga Pauw [see *A God-Entranced...*, p.93]

"Because 'heaven is a progressive state,' the heavenly joy of the saints...will forever continue to increase....Saints can look forward to an unending expansion of their knowledge and love of God, as their capacities are stretched by what they receive... there is no intrinsic limit to their joy in heaven....As the saints continue to increase in knowledge and love of God, God receives more and more glory. This heavenly reciprocity will never cease, because the glory God deserves is infinite,

and the capacity of the saints to perceive God's glory and praise him for it is ever increasing."

c/w Revelation 21:1-7, 22-26, 22:1-7

II. LIFELONG VICTORY OF SALVATION

A. God's grace brings abundant blessing

v.132 *"Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name."*

- Hymn by Steele #153

*Ye humble souls, approach your God
With songs of sacred praise;
For he is good, supremely good,
And kind are all his ways.*

*All nature owns his guardian care;
In him we live and move;
But nobler benefits declare
The wonders of his love.*

*He gave his well-beloved Son
To save our souls from sin;
'Tis here he makes his goodness known,
And proves it all divine.*

*To this sure refuge, Lord, we come,
And here our hope relies;
A safe defence, a peaceful home,
When storms of trouble rise.*

*Thine eye beholds, with kind regard,
The souls who trust in thee;
Their humble hope thou wilt reward
With bliss divinely free.*

*Great God, to thy almighty love
What honors shall we raise?*

*Not all the raptured songs above
Can render equal praise.*

B. God's mercy brings assured cleansing

v.133 *"Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me."*

c/w Romans 6:5-14

C. God's goodness brings attentive care

v.135 *"Make your face shine upon your servant, and
teach me your statutes."*

Note one of the statutes of the Lord from Psalm 27:14

*"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take
courage; wait for the Lord!"*

(Illustration from my pastors' vision trip to Kenya in
March, 2000 with 7 other pastors of the Bible Fellow-
ship Church)

- We had ministered in a boarding school in the Kenyan highlands: land of famous Kenyan tea plantations
- Upon our time for departure, there were several delays relating to our leaving on time: we were running a whole hour late
- Allan Vivona is never excited about "running late" I stood in need of an attitude adjustment. I had made a minor issue of personal desire into a major situation
- When we finally got on the road again, our "matatoo", otherwise known as our mini-van met with a traffic gridlock between two Kenyan cities
- We experienced the aftermath of the worst traffic accident in Kenyan history as two buses had collided with a combined total of 130 people on board. 105 had lost their lives. Bodies were lying around everywhere: emergency personnel were completely disorganized: children and families were weeping and disoriented: vehicles such as ours diverted the immediate disaster zone, and onlookers had climbed a small promontory in order to gaze upon the carnage of twisted metal and

human blood

- As we collected our senses it was noted that the crash had occurred approximately one hour before we arrived on the scene. If we had left when we had planned, it was quite conceivable that our vehicle could have been implicated in that horrible disaster

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

III. LABORIOUS VOICE OF SUFFERING

A. We cry out for God's intervention

v.134 *“Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts.”*

- Thomas Manton

“The saints are not only exercised with their own corruptions, but the malice of wicked men. We have to do both sin and sinners, with temptations and persecutions; and therefore he desireth first to be kept from sin, and after that from danger and trouble; first from the dominion of sin, and then from the oppression of sinners: both are a trouble to us, they were a trouble to David, and God can and will in time give us deliverance from both....”

- Jeremiah Burroughs, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*, p.117

“This is the art of arts, and the science of sciences, the knowledge of knowledges, to understand this, that God when he will bring life, brings it out of death, he brings joy out of sorrow, and he brings prosperity out of adversity, yea and many times brings grace out of sin, that is, makes use of sin to work furtherance of grace. It is the way of God to bring all good out of evil, not only to overcome the evil, but to make the evil work toward the good. Now when the soul comes to understand this, it will take away our murmuring and bring contentment into our spirits. But I fear there are but few who understand it aright; perhaps they read of such things, and hear such things in a sermon, but they are not instructed in this by Jesus Christ,

that this is the way of God, to bring the greatest good out of the greatest evil.”

B. We agonize over those blinded by sin

v.136 *“My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.”*

- Hymn by Thomas Moore and Thomas Hastings

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;

Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel;

Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,

Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure,

Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure.

Here see the Bread of Life; see the waters flowing,

Forth from the throne of God, pure from above;

Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing

Earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.

- c/w Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Conclusion: (Illustration from Nelson, p.742)

Robert C. McQuilken, first president of Columbia Bible College, wrote that when plagued by undone tasks, misunderstandings, troubles, and apparent failure, he stops and deliberately asks himself two questions:

First, am I surrendered to the Lord; Do I want only His will so far as my choice is concerned....

The second question is: Is the Lord just now meeting all my need? The answer must be to take Him at His word though there are fightings without and fears within and though the cir-

*cumstances of outward things and of inward life seem to say
the needs are not being met. His grace IS sufficient.*

*So I go forward doing the next duty and resting in faith, not in
feeling.*

Premise:

Our focus in trials is not the ungodly, but God's provisions