

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.  
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 130 (NIV)

A SONG OF ASCENTS.

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

<sup>3</sup> If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

<sup>6</sup> I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

<sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

— PART 4 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

PSALM 130 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> **If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?**

<sup>4</sup> **But with you there IS forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

**Every person of the Trinity is involved in our forgiveness.** My mentor James Houston encourages us to pray in a **Trinitarian** way — in other words, let’s pray **to** the Father, **in** the name of the Lord Jesus, **through** the power of the Holy Spirit! So...

**LOVING FATHER,** we thank you and praise you for your willingness to forgive our sins, cancel our punishment for sin, and **“restore our relationship with God!”** Because of your forgiveness, we are filled with awe and reverence for you —

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7) — *and because of your forgiveness, we are free to serve you and serve others.*

**ANOINTED KING**, we thank you and praise you for your willingness to die for our sins, cleanse us from all sin, and take away our sin . . . and free us from the power of sin and death!

JOHN 1:29 (TNIV)  
...**"Look, the Lamb of God,  
who TAKES AWAY the sin of the world!**

1 JOHN 1:7 (NLT)  
...**the blood of Jesus, God's Son,  
CLEANSES US from all sin.**

HEBREWS 2:14 (NIV)  
**Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death...**

**HOLY SPIRIT**, we thank you and praise you for convicting us of sin, so we can turn back to God and follow him! And for living **in** us to keep us on the right path!

JOHN 16:7-8 (NLT)  
...when THE ADVOCATE [or COMFORTER, or ENCOURAGER, or COUNSELOR] comes, he will **convict** the world of its sin...

ROMANS 8:2 (NIV)  
...through Christ Jesus **the law of the Spirit who gives life  
has set you free from the law of sin and death.**

ROMANS 8:2 (MSG)  
A new power is in operation.  
The Spirit of life in Christ,  
like a strong wind,  
has magnificently cleared the air,  
freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny  
at the hands of sin and death.

ACTS 2:38 (NIV)  
Peter replied, "**REPENT** and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ for the **FORGIVENESS** of your sins.  
**AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."**

**Amen! Hallelujah!**

(And that final text from Acts 2:38 brings us to the focus of this morning's message in our online Live-Streaming worship service at 10:30! ***I hope to see you there!***)

**You are missed! You are being prayed for! You are loved!**

Pastor Doug

P.S. Join us for a **FAMILY FIELD TRIP** to the south church parking lot after the online service (from 11:45-12:30). Your Bethany Staff would love to greet and bless you!