

Monday, May 18, 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.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

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

⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

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

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

— PART 5 —

*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)

⁵ I **wait** for the Lord, my whole being **waits**,
and **in his word I put my hope**.

⁶ I **wait** for the Lord
more than watchmen **wait** for the morning,
more than watchmen **wait** for the morning.

I find it frustrating to have to wait. How about you? I can be impatient sometimes. I dislike waiting in lines. I’m not wild about how long this social distancing has dragged on! I am not wild about how long I’ve gone without a decent haircut!

It seems that I may be in good company. The Psalmist seems fairly intense about his commitment to wait. *“What more can the leader say to emphasize his hope*

for God to save him! **Three times** in verse 5 he repeats ‘I wait’ or ‘I hope’ for ‘I AM’ ” (Bruce Waltke) — and then **three more times** in verse 6 he uses the word “wait”!

He even intensifies this eager expectation by saying **“my whole being waits”** — in other words, **he waits with every fiber of his being!**

“Parallel to this word is the synonym ‘I hope’ . . . This word also has a connotation of restlessness — not anxiety, but **an unsettled expectation of the realization of what is hoped for.** It stresses that **the waiting is in hope...** So the word ‘wait’ looks at the **endurance** aspect of the waiting, and hope provides **the strength or inspiration of the waiting. Waiting on the LORD, or hoping in the LORD, calls for constant vigilance, eager preparation, and no relaxation of efforts until the hope is realized.”**

ALLEN P. ROSS, *A Commentary on the Psalms, 90-150* [Kregel Exegetical Library]

And twice the Psalmist says he waits for the Lord “more than watchmen wait for the morning.” Why does he compare himself to night watchmen? Watchmen “were **actively present, not idle observers.**”

BRUCE K. WALTKE, JAMES M. HOUSTON, & ERIKA MOORE, *The Psalms as Christian Lament - A Historical Commentary.*

“For much of the time watchmen do little besides wait for the morning, checking for it regularly, looking for that first bit of dawn, and then the light. In the line the repetition enhances the **diligence** of the watchmen **looking again and again** for the light.”

ALLEN P. ROSS, *A Commentary on the Psalms, 90-150* [Kregel Exegetical Library]

Night watchmen have **all the confidence in the world** that the morning will eventually arrive — that’s happened like clockwork every day of their lives to date! — even though it may **feel** like it takes forever to come!

And you and I, when we pray, should also feel **great confidence** as we wait for the Lord to respond — we can be assured that he hears our prayers, that he senses our fears and concerns, and that **“our Father loves to give good gifts to his children.”**

“When the Lord forgives sinners, it is for them the dawning of a new day as they move out of darkness into God’s marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9; Luke 1:76–79...). **The forgiven sinner is content to wait on the Lord for whatever He has planned for that day.** This is not the waiting of **hopeless resignation** but of **hopeful anticipation, for each new day brings new blessings from His hand** (119:74, 81, 82; Lam. 3:22–26). **If you find yourself forgiven but still in the darkness, wait on the Lord and trust His Word, but do not try to manufacture your own light** (Isa. 50:10–11).”

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Exultant (Psalms 90-150): Praising God for His Mighty Works* (The BE Series Commentary).

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Gracious Father, today we pray a prayer with the Psalmist!

PSALM 116:1-2 (NLT)

¹ **I love the Lord** because he **hears my voice**
and **my prayer for mercy.**

² **Because he bends down to listen,**
I will pray as long as I have breath!

Pastor Doug