

Friday, January 4, 2019

**Hate**

**Psalms 97-98**

*For you, O LORD, are Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.* Psalm 97:9-12

This psalm causes me to pause and consider a question. Do I hate evil? In Psalm 139, David makes it clear that he hates those who rise up against the Lord (verse 21). It is God alone who can deliver me from the hand of the wicked, but I can't be embracing it either. All too often, I find myself drawn to evil and tempted to embrace it. Why does this happen? I love the Lord so deeply. I sing to Him, I adore Him, I hold on to Him for my strength. He is my Rock and my fortress. He is my all in all and I find my sufficiency in Him. He is always faithful and loving and kind. He is more wonderful than anything my heart can even begin to imagine. In light of all this, I still find myself drawn to that which I hate. I find myself drawn from the One I love.

*You are exalted O God. You are the Most High and I exalt You. Shed Your light on me. Bring Your joy into my heart and deliver me from the hand of the wicked. As one who loves You with all my heart, let me hate evil so that it no longer has a hold on me. I long to be one of Your faithful ones. Strengthen me, O great God. Amen.*

Saturday, January 5, 2019

**Holy, holy, holy**

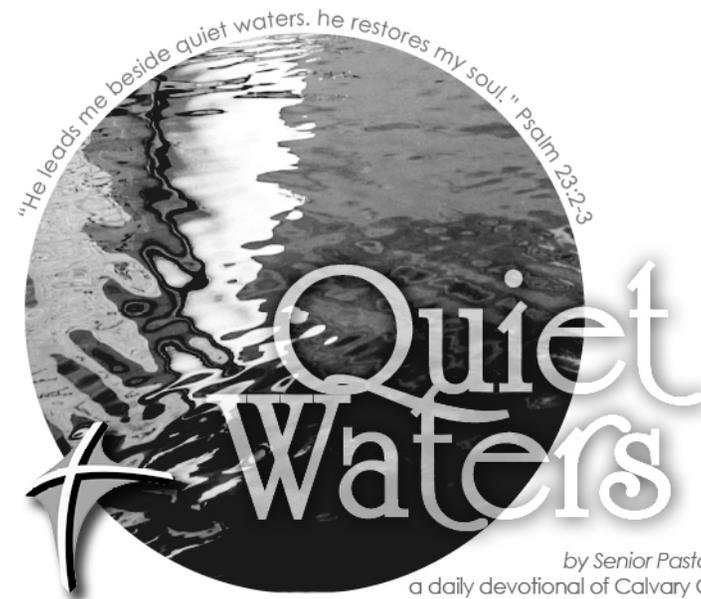
**Psalms 99-100**

*Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.  
Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.  
Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.* Psalm 99:3,5,9

As I read this psalm and consider that holy is repeated three times, I am reminded of the throne room of God. It is there that the seraphs fly and proclaim the holiness of God in this way (Isaiah 6:3). This psalm uses that most holy name of God. When LORD appears in all caps, it refers to the name of God as given to Moses (Ex 6:2). Jehovah is a misleading English transliteration of this, the only name of God. The name revealed is YHWH. The very pronunciation of this name is hypothetical, because it is uncertain what vowels go with it. It is unable to be pronounced. Now Adonai is used to mention the unpronounceable name of God. This psalm reveals that God reigns. He is sovereign over all that is. He is holy. It then considers that God is just. He is a God of justice and equity. He is holy. Finally, the LORD is worthy of praise. He has received praise from those who call on His name. He is to be praised because He forgives. Our God is holy. He alone is to be worshiped. Those who know God are to be exalting Him and declaring that all the earth join in. Come, exalt the Lord our God! Worship Him. He is the forgiving, just, and holy God.

O LORD, holy, holy, holy are You, Almighty God. Help me to be swept away by who You are. Forgive me for the times I have made You too small and have not honored Your name as something so great. Thank You for being just and righteous and thank You for reigning over all that is. I worship You. Amen.

December 31, 2018 – January 5, 2019



Monday, December 31, 2018

**Satisfy**

Psalms 89-90

*Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.* Psalm 90:14-16

Moses offers a prayer that is preserved by God as a psalm. So many of the Psalms seem to be prayers—conversations with God. Moses asks that God would allow people to be satisfied with the unfailing love that God lavishes on His people. Moses understood dissatisfaction. He had experienced it in his own life and had surely been the target of people who were dissatisfied. He understood that there had been afflictions for the people, but he asked that gladness would be the response. That gladness was to be founded in learning the joy of singing that comes from finding oneself satisfied in the love of God. This response is the example that the next generation needs to learn as they watch. Am I able to say that I am satisfied with the unfailing love of God or is there more that I need? As I wake each morning, I need to join with Moses in praying this prayer for the people of God. What impact there could be from a people who were overwhelmed with gladness because of the love of God in their lives. I long to have this be true of me. Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love.

*Dear God, like Your servant Moses, I long to be satisfied with Your unfailing love and I long to see that be true of Your people. Help us O Lord to stop striving for satisfaction in temporary places that just cause us to long for more. Please focus our eyes on You. Amen.*

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

**Good**

Psalms 91-92

*It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.* Psalm 92:1-3

It is good to live a life that is focused on praising the Lord in the morning and evening. I strive to wake up in the morning celebrating His great love for me, proclaiming it to all those people that I see and meet during the day. I seek to radiate His love from within me; and then lay my head down on the pillow at night remembering all the ways I saw Him being faithful to and through me. It is good for me to do this. It is good for me to praise the LORD and make music to Him. It is in that way that I proclaim His love in my life. This is a Sabbath psalm. That is why in this psalm there is no request made of God. The prayers of the Sabbath are prayers that focus on thanksgiving and praise to God. In some ways it is “giving God the day off.” Instead of asking Him for the things I need Him to do, I consider what it means to adore, praise, and worship Him, thanking Him and resting in His great faithfulness and love. I spend this time remembering all the prayers He has answered and reminding myself of His amazing provision. It is me taking a break as well. It is an amazing model of how to rest in God and in His plan for my life.

*O Most High!! I proclaim Your love and Your faithfulness. I declare Your glory and your Majesty! I think of you from the moment I awake until the moment I drift asleep considering all Your wonders. I worship You, O Most High. Please move in my heart to have me be more and more focused on Your amazing provisions in the past and to pause to consider them often. Amen.*

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

**Established**

Psalms 93-94

*The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.* Psalm 93:1-2

The LORD reigns. His reign is established before the foundations of the earth are set in place, so He is everlasting. He has always been and always will be. He has not been called to reign by the world, the world is proof of His reign. This means that He reigns above whatever chaos may be visible here on earth. The nations may not acknowledge the reign of God but that has little impact on the fact that it is true. Whatever seems to be shaking the world cannot. It is firmly established and is held tightly by the One who set all things into motion. I need to hold tightly to this truth. The reign of God is established and nothing can shake that. If I am tempted to worry about the state of the world, I need only to look at the truth that God reigns. If I find myself being overcome with situations in my life, I find comfort in knowing that God reigns. But perhaps more importantly, if I try to reign my life on my own, God will bring discipline and will correct that in my life. He will not share His throne with another. I am grateful for His hand of discipline that keeps me focused on His reign.

*O LORD, thank You for the peace that sweeps over me when I recall that You reign supremely in majesty over all there is. Forgive me for the times that I try to reign in my life and continue to discipline me as needed so that I can be fully submitted to Your reign in my life. Amen.*

Thursday, January 3, 2019

**Sing**

Psalms 95-96

*Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.* Psalm 96:1-3

What is the new song that I sing? It seems that every day I hear new songs that are being written and sung. The secular radio is full of new songs, but are they really new? As I listen to the words and the melodies, how many of them are really new? It seems to me that they all say the same thing a different way. The notes change a little, but it is basically the same group of chords put in a different order. Some of the new songs are loud and some are soft. Some are brash and some are meek. But they really aren't new. Songs that focus on me and my needs and wants are not new songs. They are very old songs indeed. They are the songs of selfishness and bondage. But there is a new song. It is the song of God's salvation from the bondage of sin and prideful selfishness. This salvation moves me into the presence of God and I hear His voice singing over me and my song changes. It becomes a song of His joy in my heart. It overflows with His love for the world. It is the song the earth sings. It is the song that makes the earth glad and the heavens rejoice. It is the song that causes the rivers and the trees of the field to clap their hands! It is the song that fills my soul.

*O LORD, keep me singing the new song all day long! Let my voice join with the heavenly rejoicing and the gladness of the earth. Keep me singing of Your salvation every moment this day!! Amen.*