



2016: Week 49

Sunday, December 4th 2016

*"The Lord is Good...
And He Is For Me"*

Psalm 118:1, 4

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, **for He is good**; For His lovingkindness is everlasting...

⁶ **The Lord is for me**; I will not fear..." (NASB)

Have you ever felt like sometimes God might not be listening to your prayers? Or perhaps maybe He isn't that interested in your current circumstances? Because if God was listening to your prayers and if He did care about you, why do you find yourself living in circumstances that are so difficult? Why can life be so hard? Does God really care?

Well, if you've ever been discouraged and maybe thought such thoughts, this week's Scripture is for you. On Sunday morning John walked us through an incredible passage from Scripture, **Psalm 118**, which might be able to clarify some misconceptions about the Lord. In **Psalm 118**, we are reminded that God is good. God does care. God is for His children. However, God's goodness, concern, and favor does not guarantee that His people will be protected from hardship, hurt, or conflict. Rather, His goodness, concern, and favor means that He will be for you when you encounter hardship, hurt, or conflict. Sometimes His workings are plain and clear. Other times His handiwork and presence is more subtle and behind the scenes. The psalmist reminds us that God is good and He is most definitely loyal to us. The ultimate expression of His goodness and lovingkindness is found in Christ Jesus Himself, our chief corner stone.

1. READ Psalm 118:1-9

- For what do you need to "give thanks" to the Lord today? Do so, now. 😊
- In **verse 6** the psalmist writes, "The LORD is for me," and then he immediately writes, "I will not fear." How does *knowing* that the Lord is for you allow you to *live without fear*?
- What changes do you need to make regarding your attitude, so that you are living by faith and not living by fear?

2. READ Psalm 118:10-18

- In **verse 14** the psalmist identifies the Lord as his "strength." How has the Lord been your strength?
- In **verse 18** the psalmist writes, "The LORD has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death." Sometimes the Lord disciplines us. His discipline is not for some sadistic pleasure, but it is for *our good*. He prunes us, so that we might bear more fruit. Can you think of a time where you underwent a difficult season and after reflecting upon that hardship, you might now see how it actually made you stronger? Maybe such a season led you into more dependence upon the Lord for His help and His strength? (*If you're by yourself, write it down, and then thank God. If you're with someone right now, share your story with them, and then thank God.*)

3. READ Psalm 118:19-29

- On Sunday John revealed how this Psalm was so clearly evident in Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Jesus is both "the stone which the builders rejected" and the "chief corner stone" (**verse 22**). How was Jesus rejected, and how was Jesus elevated to a position of prominence?
- In your life does Jesus look more like a rejected stone or the corner stone?

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, You are good, and Your loyal love is everlasting. Thank You for being *for me*. Thank You for sending Your Son *for me*. Help me submit all areas of my life to You, so that Jesus shines as my chief corner stone. Amen.