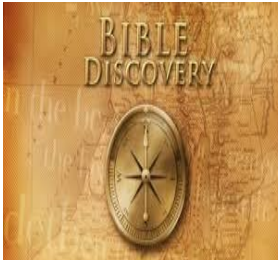


6 Jul 14

Psalm 14

## When God is In It



The line of Aaron – in fact the whole line of Israelite priesthood - was instructed insofar as inheritance of material possessions was concerned, that “you will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.” [Numbers 18:20] The psalmist in writing Psalm 95 makes allusion to the remarkable provision of God for the company of the righteous who remain in His presence. The psalmist

intimates he too has no possession among those who have possessions upon the earth yet never learn, never surrender, never recognize their deep need for the only true God. He senses that God’s the treasure he reaches for with devotion - willingly letting go of earthly logic and pursuit, recognizing there’s no good in sons of men who’ve forgotten their God. He chooses for himself a priestly role, “he will walk by faith and not by sight” “longing for salvation to come”. As the Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men, searching for those who understand, for those who seek the Lord, the psalmist is intimating that there’s at least one – the psalmist wants to be found as one where God is in it – in the company of the righteous. Is your God “in it” today?

Are not all those who profess Christ, “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God” [1 Peter 2:5]; is not the very essence, the innermost secret of the life we live this – that the heart turns away from earthly things and deliberately accepts God as its supreme good, and its only portion? Do we not only find our refuge, we discover our place in God’s fellowship? Are we not restored as His people *because* God has shown us His grace and we’ve received today His salvation?

The very matter before us today compels us to choose. On one hand, “The fool says in his heart, ‘there is no God.’” [vs. 1] Notice Scripture doesn’t say, “The fool says in his mind...” The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary defines “fool” as primarily “a person who casts off the fear of God and thinks and acts as if he could safely disregard the eternal principles of God’s righteousness.” There are many who emphatically deny the existence of God, but in their heart they know He exists, for it is planted firmly within all our hearts. What’s declared unreachable to our mind has been placed within our hearts by the Creator. And so the fool is one who has a hardened heart. The fool is the one who has not just denied God mentally, but has resisted in his heart to the point of a seared conscience. He’s closed his heart, He’s beyond reach. It has been said, “It’s one thing to hold firm to a belief in your intellect, which can be changed; it is quite another thing to completely harden your heart”.

**Are we not restored as His people because God has shown us His grace?**

**Let us be among those who seek refuge in the Lord our God!**

Rather let us be among those who seek refuge in the Lord our God! [vs. 6] Oh that we, having received salvation, would accept that our God made us His through His Son, our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, would realize He who has bought us at such a great price, continues to guard and keep us. Oh that we, having chosen God for our possession over the pittance the world offers, would fear the Lord! Only those who fear God are capable of

having their hearts massaged and their ears opened to hear the words of life necessary to spend eternity with the Father.



***Today, have we God's perspective of our world?*** As God looks down from heaven, as He observes mankind, seeing evil, there's no compromise to the judgment of God. He looks and sees that *"all have turned aside"*, all have chosen to walk apart from the His Way. All have chosen to live empty lives without the Lord God in it! Not one is capable of living true to our calling without the help of Christ. It's the totality of human grief to seem to have it all together & yet be found (quite correctly) the fool!

One only needs to turn on the news. It amazes me how man never learns. The same stories are repeated again and again – the locations and names are changed but the plot remains. Start with a group of people – perhaps a small nation, stir in a despot desiring control and power; flavour it with oil or resources desirable by our "civilized" world; then add the suffering of innocent men, women and children – and you have the essence of a top news story. We're a world that's forsaken the Lord; we're a world with hardened hearts; we're a world where *"all have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good – not even one."*

In particular, the rich, the famous and the comfortable have a disadvantage for finding relief in God when such believe they're self-made and don't recognize that their success, their talents and abilities, the very scope of their days, are gifts from God. They look to themselves rather than to the One who gave them their gifts. It's hard for God to be in it with those who trust only in themselves. Jesus said *"it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Impossible!) When you pursue your own way, you never find agreement with God; you miss out on His purpose and plan – you miss out on eternity and you miss out on the blessings available to you today.

But when God is in it, when God is the first fruit of our morning, the sustaining remedy of our days, the solace in sorrow, the hope of eternity, the joy of salvation, the love of life itself; Oh yes, when God is in it all is good, all is well with our souls, we know what it is to be blessed. Gone the doubts and fears; gone the anger at the creator of the world; gone the wayward drifting of hearts; and gone the complete disregard for the only One who can truly provide!

**When God is in it  
– gone the doubts  
and fears, the  
wayward drifting  
of hearts!**

The Lord is our refuge; the Lord is sufficient for those called His people – the company of the righteous. The Lord's the provider to the poor – not necessarily those poor by worldly standards - but those poor in spirit – those who know deep down in their hearts their condition before the Lord, before the Almighty King of the Universe, and recognize how great is their God!

### **These are they whom the Lord seeks...**

- *These are they* who have humbled themselves and accepted Jesus as their Saviour.
- *These are they* who've not rejected the seed of Jesse but have embraced the gift of life.
- *These are they* that have defied the logic of the wicked turning from the way of the fool with their hatred of righteousness, from those who fulfill their endless appetites (at least for the moment) but are really empty – filled with nothing other than meaninglessness.

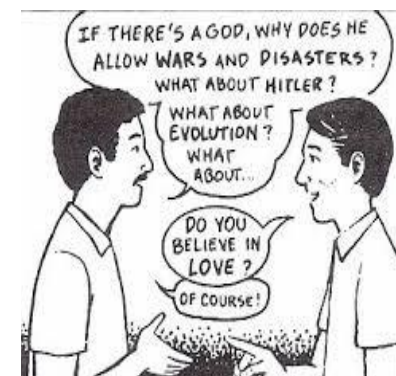
In this, our day, we're so caught up with our fortunes, our recreation, our homes, our wellbeing that we fail to see what God sees – that all that reject God are like rats parading along a cliff unaware that

the precipice falls off directly ahead of them while they proudly follow the crowd to their doom. Not so those with understanding of the Lord. While the fool too soon finds dread overtake them, the righteous open their hearts and enjoy the presence of God and find life. Do we see how suddenly God's judgment will come on the wicked? The power and terrorizing of the wicked comes to an end when the Lord intervenes. The trumpet sounds and in a twinkling of an eye all will be changed. What a day – what a glorious day that will be! Today is that day which we've been given to reach out to all bound for the lost shores of eternal separation from the Lord.



### ***What is our Lord's compassionate and loving response to those who reject Him?***

***He has given them us to show them His Son!*** Today is the time allotted us amid hurry and strife to tell of the love, to show the mercy of the Saviour who alone can give to them the Word of Life. When God is in it, His plans include things we never thought possible. Through good times and bad, God is faithfully there. God continues to walk with us, every day. He never has and never will let us down. One needs only look at the patriarchs of the Bible. When Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden, God did not abandon them – God was with them; when Abraham went down to Egypt due to famine in the land, and he lied about Sarah being his wife, God held back Pharaoh – God was in it! When Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery, God sustained him; when David was pursued by Saul, God was with him; when Isaiah and Jeremiah and Zechariah spoke for the Lord in the midst of a people of hardened hearts – God was in it with them and took care of them! God has always been in it! Can we go out telling our story? This is what the world desperately needs to hear! Each day, each of us makes a choice. We choose to serve, obey, and honour God – a living example of His glorious love – a light to the world; or we choose the other path. I'm ashamed to say there are days I've wandered - try walking on top of a picket fence, and well, I'm sure you get the picture.



**Let us choose to always walk with a heart full of deep, deep appreciation and love for God acknowledging our need of His Holy Spirit.**

Rather, let us choose to always walk with a heart full of deep, deep appreciation and love for God. How can we do that? To receive the full impact of God's grace, we must first acknowledge our need of God's Holy Spirit to help us and willingly ask for His assistance. Secondly, we must stop, ponder and meditate when our hearts are gripped by a moment of truth in reading God's Word, in seeing God's world, in meeting God's people. Don't race through life missing the road signs from our Father. We speak of Mt Brydges Baptist as being where "Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family". As we cherish Jesus, may our hearts be full of love for family and that includes the men, women and children the Lord brings across our paths daily. May it be said, "When they hurt, I hurt; when they cry, I cry; when they laugh, I laugh with them."

If you've a willing, fully massaged heart, full of love, you've everything you need to be used by God. If you don't feel quite up to the challenge, that's okay – you're exactly where you need to be. God is always up to the challenge! And when good things happen, you'll discover He's the one who made them possible because God is in it!

When God is in it - it's about how big is our God! It's about God making big things happen out of ordinary circumstances. It's the feeding of the 5,000 with 2 little fish and 5 loaves of bread; it's the healing of the blind, the restoring of the lame, and the raising of the dead. God looks for ordinary people who have a willing heart, and who put their trust in Him. With God's help, ordinary people do extraordinary things.

**Little is much when God is in it.**