



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

April 20th, 2022

“The Third Song of Ascent”

Psalm 122

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 122

TITLE AND SUBJECT. —This brief but spirited psalm is entitled "A Song of Degrees of David," and thus we are informed as to its author, and the occasion for which it was designed: David wrote it for the people to sing at the time of their goings up to the holy feasts at Jerusalem. It comes third in the series, and appears to be suitable to be sung when the people had entered the gates, and their feet stood within the city. It was most natural that they should sing of Jerusalem itself, and invoke peace and prosperity upon the Holy City, for it was the centre of their worship, and the place where the Lord revealed himself above the mercy-seat. Possibly the city was not all built in David's day, but he wrote under the spirit of prophecy, and spoke of it as it would be in the age of Solomon; a poet has license to speak of things, not only as they are, but as they will be when they come to their perfection. Jerusalem, or the Habitation of Peace, is used as the key-word of this psalm, wherein we have in the original many happy allusions to the salem, or peace, which they implored upon Jerusalem. When they stood within the triple walls, all things around the pilgrims helped to explain the words which they sang within her ramparts of strength. One voice led the psalm with its personal "I," but ten thousand brethren and companions united with the first musician and swelled the chorus of the strain.

The Treasury of David

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VI, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 122

REFLECTION. David, the prophet-king, pens this psalm with the voice of Christ speaking to us. Jesus rejoices when we gather together with Him, in His name, for His sake, and for His glory (▼1), standing among the believers, His

church, the Jerusalem of God (v2; Rev 21:9-10). We are that city built by Christ (v3a; Matt 16:18), bound firmly together by Christ (v3b; Eph 2:20-22), appointed for thanksgiving of Christ for the riches of His salvation given to us (v4; 1 Thess 5:18); for we are seated together with Jesus upon heavenly thrones (v5; Eph 2:6). We pray that we may live in peace as a church (v6; Rom 12:18); however, if peace eludes us, we have security through Christ Jesus, our High Tower, our Stronghold (v7; Psa 18:2, KJV). For our sake, for our blessing as individuals (v8), and for our blessings in His church at large (v9), the Lord Jesus supplies our peace (Eph 2:14) and seeks our good (Rom 8:28-29), for He promised never to leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5).

APPLICATION. While the Lord Jesus Christ has saved us by God's grace through faith in His atoning sacrifice, and while He has planted us in the garden of His church and made us pillars in His city of peace, Jesus delights in our delight to be with Him, to say to Him, "*Let us go to the house of the LORD!*" (v1). When we delight in Him, delight to be with Him, we stand for truth in Christ's church (v2), and we have great fellowship with one another in Christ's church (v3), despite being of different tribal backgrounds (v4a). Because Christ delights in us as we delight in Him (v1), His commandments are not burdensome; so when He commands us to give thanks (v4b), we do so willingly and regally (v5). Moreover, when Christ commands us to pray for the peace of His church (vv6-7), we recognize it is for our sakes, for our blessing, and for our good (vv8-9).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 122

REFLECT again upon verse 1 and consider how Christ rejoices in your desire to go with Him to worship when you meet with others as His church.

READ EPHESIANS 5:25-32. While this passage has practical application for a husband and wife, consider that marriage was ordained in order to point to the gospel truth of the Lord Jesus' love for His church... and you, as an individual member of His church, whom He bled and died for upon Calvary's tree.

RESPOND this week by reflecting upon Christ's delight in having saved you (v1), what security Jesus provides because He loves you (vv8-9), and give thanks for His church each morning when you rise (vv3-5), and pray for God's peace upon Christ's church each evening before you lie down to sleep (vv6-7). Take note of how it gives you a greater love for Christ, a greater love for Christ's people, a desire and anticipation for meeting together as a church, and a desire and anticipation for the ultimate gathering when Christ Jesus returns. Prepare to give testimony of your growth in grace next week.

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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