

7 June 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Wings of Refuge

Psalm 91 – a psalm full of promise and protection. Read it reflectively.

God calls us to Himself as His constant guests, not just occasional visitors; to be close to Him for shelter and protection – refuge in the fortress, refuge under His wings.

He is like a strong fortress: walls of impregnable strength that no enemy can penetrate: the Most High, the Almighty; transcendent and all powerful.

He is like a mother bird gathering her little brood under her wings, sheltering her vulnerable young from the burning heat and rain and cold, bearing the discomfort and suffering herself – the picture of loving protection, keeping her little ones safe and secure, close to her heart.

God is strong and God is loving (see Psalm 62:11, 12).

It is at the Cross we see the absolute righteous power of God and His tender, sacrificial love combined: passing the just sentence of death on our sin, and then taking that punishment on Himself.

This psalm seems to promise that nothing bad will ever befall God's people. So when suffering comes, have God's promises failed? No! (Though Satan would like us to think so.) We will face trouble (v. 15), but the only things we can lose in suffering are the things that are finally expendable. The Lord will rescue, protect, answer our prayers, and be with us – eternally. He gives eternal salvation – eternal satisfaction. Find refuge in him.

Prayer:

Lord, closeness to You is safety. Help me to accept your provision to stay close to You, for You are strong and You are loving. As your child, help me to grow in Your likeness in all my troubles, knowing I am secure and Yours for eternity. Amen.

Remember:

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another, and know that I am only a phone call away: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert