

23 August 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Safe for Eternity

The psalm for today is Psalm 57 – read it reflectively.

No one's life is free from difficulty, distress and potential disaster. God's people are not exempt from such dangers. The author of this psalm (David) is in a fearful situation: a fugitive hiding in a cave, surrounded by danger from a vengeful king and his soldiers (1 Samuel 22), enemies who are like ravenous animals (v 4). What to do?

In the midst of serious trouble, David is confident, and we can be confident. Under God's hand and with Him present, like David, we can know:

- this trouble will pass (v.1)
- God's purpose for us will be done (v.2)
- God's love and faithfulness will never fail (v. 3, 10)

Take special note: Greater than danger, distress or disaster is David's desire that God will be glorified:

“Be exalted, O god, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.” (v.5, 11)

Question: Will God be glorified by rescuing us from danger, or sustaining us in danger?

Answer: That is God's business and his plan is for our good.

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – the three men facing a fiery furnace (Daniel 3, especially v.16-18) – God can be trusted, in life and death. Evil is real, like a hawk hovering over us, but there is safety under God's protective wings, like chicks nestled close to the mother hen (v.1).

Remember: Our troubles and dangers are matters of time, but our security with God is for Eternity.

Prayer

Lord, you taught us to pray “hallowed by Your name; Your will be done.” May You be glorified in my life, whatever Your plan may be for me. Lift my eyes to Your eternal purposes and keep me secure in your love. Amen.

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another. If any of you would like Holy Communion in your home, call and let me know: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert