

30 August 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Life Together

Psalm 133 – one of the shortest psalms. Read it reflectively.

During this COVID season the people of God have been unable to assemble as the Church for some 5 months. But Unity is as important as ever. No Christian is an only child; there are no solitary Christians. The moment we confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we become a member in the community of faith, family in Christ, brothers and sisters – whether we like it or not!

Living in family can be difficult. Some family members are hard to live with: criticising, quarreling, complaining about others and the house-keeping. How are we to live harmoniously, joyfully and graciously amongst those with whom God has placed us?

Two images are given: oil and dew (v.2, 3).

The consecrating oil poured on Aaron, the first high priest; set apart by God to serve God's people. God has anointed each believer with His Spirit (2 Cor. 1:21), set apart by God to serve God's people, to be priests to each other. Unity is like fragrant oil, spreading the aroma of Jesus' presence to others (Exodus 30:25; 2 Cor. 2:15).

The dew of Mt Hermon (the highest mountain in Northern Israel) miraculously drenching Mt Zion in Jerusalem in the drier South, bringing life-giving refreshment, and growth. Unity is like that dew that brings growth as we see what God is doing in the lives of our brothers and sisters, renewing and changing us to be more like Jesus. As oil runs down over the body, and dew comes down on the waiting earth, so God's blessing comes down on His people when relationships are warm with consecrated service, and bring refreshment and encourage growth. We begin to enjoy life together now, anticipating the full enjoyment of life together for Eternity (v.36). So instead of undermining unity in the challenging days, "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3).

Prayer

Lord, the World will know us by our love for one another, overcoming all barriers that divide people. Forgive my tendency to criticise my fellow believers. Help me to remember that You have chosen us to be Your family, to view each as You see them, and to serve and encourage them. Give me joy and pleasure in being part of Your church. 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