

8 November 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: God is on our side

Psalm 124 – a song of ascent, of David, a psalm about help and rescue: read it reflectively.

A very real part of life is suffering, disappointment, pain, disaster.

Life holds challenges for all of God's people, and this psalm reflects that truth.

Read vv.3-7: almost swallowed alive and devoured; almost swept away and overwhelmed; almost trapped with no escape – all situations of overwhelming disaster and catastrophe. Is God really on our side?

This psalm is not talking about the easy life kept from all difficulty; this person has gone through the worst and has come through it, not abandoned, but helped; finding in the midst of trouble the presence of the God who is on our side. Faith grows in the most difficult situations in life, not the easiest. In every situation God is there on our side. Four times God is called "The Lord" (vv. 1, 2, 6, 8) – this is the covenant name of God: the God who binds Himself to us in unending commitment.

He is always for us: Read Romans 8:31-35

"If God is for us, who can be against us"

- He gave us His Son;
- He freed us from condemnation;
- Jesus, who died for us, lives to take our part;
- Nothing can separate us from His love.
(No difficulty, catastrophe, disaster in life can keep Him from our side.)

God is on our side; our help is in the name of the Lord; we need not fear.

Prayer

Lord, you know the challenges I continually face each day and I often feel overwhelmed. Thank you that when I am in the depths, I find you are there at my side and on my side. Thank you that you are the covenant-keeping God who has bound yourself to me in Jesus, and nothing can separate me from you and your love for me. Amen.

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another. I am only a phone call away if you need my assistance: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert

**Please join with us at our services on Wednesday 10^{AM}, or Sunday 11^{AM}
Pre-registration is no longer necessary**