

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- April 9, 2015

"God of the Valleys"

The Christian life is made up of Valleys and Mountain Top experiences. Valleys represent the low times while Mountain Tops represent the high times. However, our victory over frustrations, problems or temptations is not predicated on position but on dependence upon God. God has pledged Himself to us at all times, under all pressures, in the valley as well as on the mountain top.

Psalms 91 names some of those "valleys." In it, we are assured that we will overcome the experiences in these valley-like experiences. For instance:

- v. 13a says: "You will trample the lion." This refers to Expected Troubles that come our way. They come because of our humanity. They include pain, sickness, death, etc. But the psalmist reminds us that God will help us trample these under our feet, i.e. overcome them.
- v. 13b says: "...trample the serpent." This refers to Unexpected Troubles. Troubles that come without warning, lurking in hidden places. Sudden disasters, Terror, Crisis. The serpent has sunken its fangs of fury into us. Still, God answers us that we will overcome these unexpected troubles because "greater is He (God) who is within you than he (Satan) who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).
- v. 13c refers to a final foe—"the great lion." But this is a counterfeit foe. Jesus is the one and only true lion of Judah. Satan acts like a lion, roars like a lion but he is not a lion. He is more like a snake. This imagery refers to Imaginary Fears. The devil at times creates a lot of smoke-screen, a lot of noise; but he is a conquered, defeated foe living in despair and distraught because he knows, the resurrection of Christ was the "final nail in his (Satan's) coffin" so to speak.

2 Corinthians 2:14 reminds us: "Thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph in Christ..." You are called to be victorious and triumphant at all times. You will always defeat the enemy and always overcome the obstacles you face in the valleys of life. Simply have faith in God. You are not alone in these battles. Christ is with you and in you!

Have a blessed week. See you in church Sunday.
Pastor Sewdin