

Wednesday Word Meditation Material (May 13, 2020)

Order/Prayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Sharing → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 330 & 28 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 146:1~10
- ❖ **Meditation on Scripture**
 1. The writer of this psalm, at the beginning of this psalm, commanded himself(“my soul”) to praise God of covenant named, “YHWH”(Yahweh)(v.1). Then, he confesses that he will praise Him as long as he lives(v.2). This repetition is the way to emphasize something. Through this psalmic and special confession, he wants to praise(acknowledge, confess, and rely on) God alone through his life.
 2. Do you know the reason why he emphasizes his heart on God in verses 1 and 2? In his real life context, there are various things and beings, which seem like the powerful help to him when he is in trouble. So he might rely on them and “praise” them as his help. However, he wants to express the fact that he clearly knows that they are not the help. So, he explains the reason why people should not rely on them by describing that they, the princes(powerful men) and son of man(human beings)(v.3), are mortal and nothing powerful at all after their death(v.4).
 3. Differently from those who rely on them, if anyone whose help(the foundation of their life) is the “God of Jacob” who is God of Israel and whose hope is in the “YHWH” are blessed(v.5). The meaning of “help” in this passage is that their life is founded on God. In that sense, those whose help is God of Israel rely their life on God. **In other words, they put God as their Life Savior. When they meet curves in their life and pass through despair, it is reasonable for them to rely on other look-powerful things and beings. But, the intention of the writer is clearly in view: he wants to rely on God as his Life Savior and put his hope in Him with a view to “blessing.”**
 4. Then, he describes God as Creator(v.6), Performer of justice(v.7), Lifter of people despaired(vv.8~9), and Lover of the righteous(God’s people) and Judge of the wicked(vv.8~9).
 5. Because God, described as above, rules over this world forever, in this life contexts with curves and despair, the writer who personally confesses that he praises(acknowledges, confesses, and relies on) God. At the same time, he encourages us(Zion members), the people of Israel and God’s people who were saved by Jesus’ cross and resurrection, to trust and rely on “YHWH” alone so that we can be the beneficiary of the true and permanent blessing(vv. 5, 10).
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. COVID-19 and individual and family problems, cares, and worries are always in our life. These are to be shown to us as curves of life and despair. Before them, we the people of God(Christians) are weak. So, it is very often for us to rely on the visible forces(power, money, knowledge). Why don’t we have moment to think about ourselves whether or not we rely on the false savior and false hope?
 2. In addition, we want to keep “the prayer hour” in us, which is the time to call and tell Jesus Christ, who is the beginning point of the approaching run to overcome this despair, everything good and bad as well as our wishes. The approaching run is the beginning point when we hand over God, who is the true Savior and Hope, the life issues and desperate situation.
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.