

Wednesday Word Meditation Material (June 24, 2020)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 245 & 516 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 14:1~7
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (Zion For The Poor)**
 1. This text is one of Davidic psalms, which declares God's salvation for His people via a place "Zion." "The fool" in verse 1 are those who say in their heart "There is no God." In other words, they do not acknowledge God. "They," in nature, "are corrupt and do abominable deeds, there is none who does good." They do not seek after God rather they have all turned aside and became sinner in verse 3. In verse 4, They, the evildoers, eat up "God's people" as they eat bread. This means that the fool loot the people of God and make them embarrassed. So, verses 1~4 show us that the people who do not acknowledge and rely on God are very arrogant and do evil in chaos and violence, persecuting the believers who want to live like God's people.
 2. In this situation, the persecuted, "the righteous" (God's people), receive great comfort: God is with "the righteous."(v.5). Verse 6 says that God is their refuge so that the meaning of "being together" is emphasized. **Ironically, the situation when God is with His people is when "You(those who say in their heart "There is no God") shame the plans of "the poor(God's people). So, the visible situations are desperate and frustrated because God's people are already in difficulties, frustration, anger, and discouragement.** In that moment, the meaning of God's being as their refuge is that **God does not defend His people from every sorrow and pain but does stay together with His people in the continual difficulties and persecutions under which they grief.** Therefore, in that situation, David mentions **"Zion"** where God figuratively dwells in order to express God's salvation for His people (Jacob/ Israel) as the picture that God rescues His people out of captivity (v.7). **Yes, the suffering and the salvation are coexistent in this description.**
 3. Here, the term **"the poor"** is one of various pronouns describing God's people. Jesus affirmed that as the poor in spirit in Matthew 5:3. On the opposite side of those who rely on themselves but do not acknowledge God, the poor who are in suffering and difficulties(persecutions) look at "Zion" where God figuratively dwells and long for God's salvation. **They are saved in Jesus Christ.** When they struggle with the right way of life that the people of God should live, they should go through various evil and wrathful times, **God is still with them in Zion** in order to do salvation for them and provide grace with which they can continue the right spiritual race on earth.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. Even though we are God's children, COVID-19, Protest against Racism, and various matters in our life are existing in our life context. They are similar to "evildoers" in this text. So, we may have question like: "Does God prevent us from all of these kinds of difficulties because we are His people?" Let us consider (or discuss) about **"Coexistence of suffering and salvation."**
 2. In concurrent difficulties in our life, we, the saved who are united with Christ Jesus in faith, are supposed to rely on God with remembrance of God's being together with us in "Zion."
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.