

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #20 (August 12, 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 188 & 199 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 82:1~8

- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (*God's Stand*)**
 1. This psalm guides us to look at God, the ultimate Judge, in this unjust and evil situation of the world.
 2. “The divine council” in verse 1 is “the divine court of God.” In that court, God judges the “judges” (rulers and gods). In verses 2~4, we can see what God judges them. They (judges, rulers, and gods) “judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked” (v.2). If they turn against the evil ways, then they will “give justice to the weak and the fatherless” and “maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute” (v.3). What God judges them is whether or not they do justice for the powerless. This is the right way for them. But, God, in the real situation, emphasizes that way again in verse 4. “Rescue the weak and the needy” is that. They should “deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (v.4). As we saw in verse 2, they hand in hand with the wicked. They should turn against their former steps with the wicked and let the weak and powerless live.
 3. “They” in verse 5 indicates those who were mentioned above as the judges, rulers, and gods. Even though God commands that they should do justice, they without “knowledge nor understanding” and “walk about in darkness” (v.5). Their walks, after all, shake “all the foundations of the earth,” which means all the places where God is ruling. In other words, they make the world chaotic. In verse 6, “I” means “God.” He reveals the true identity of those who walk against God’s will and order. According to Canaanite mythology, the judges or rulers were considered as “gods and sons of gods.” In that sense, they were very powerful. God used that concept to approach and judge them who considered themselves powerful over all, even God. But, God clearly mocks and mentions that they will die at the end (v.7). They considered that they enjoy their power, privileged life, and glory forever. But, God declares that the end of their life is death, the most desperate condition.
 4. Asaph, the writer of this psalm, concludes this by his own utterance. That is the request to God to stand for His people who are under suffering and persecution, not to mention all the weak and powerless on the planet (v.8). This request means that God would judge them as the ultimate Judge.

- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. We may be like the judges (rulers), from time to time, and pursue the life in evil and wicked to achieve our goal, the powerful and privileged life, and glory. We may consider if we are in that way. Please have a moment to think about our life and share together.
 2. We, from time to time, may be like the weak, the fatherless, the afflicted, the destitute, and the needy. COVID-19 is one of the reasons for that. In this difficult situation, we can find the “hope” again: God’s stand, so to speak, the judgment of God. The existence of that ultimate judgment comforts us and provides us the valor to live as God’s children. Why don’t we rely on Jesus Christ with prayer in order to stand firm in that way?

- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.