

**Wednesday Word Meditation Material #21 (August 19, 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 377 & 544 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 84:1~12
  
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (*The Born To Be Blessed*)**
  1. This psalm reveals that those who are with God are truly the born to be blessed.
  2. “Your anointed” in verse 9 refers to kings. So, this psalm might be written before the captivity of Judah to Babylon. Based on the contents, this psalm might be written in one of the three main feasts (Passover, Feast of Harvest, and Feast of Ingathering).
  3. In verse 2, the writer of this psalm longs for the courts of God. The dwelling place (v.1), the courts of the Lord (v.2), altars(v.3), and house(v.4) are used for describing the eagerness and necessity for being (staying) with God. Then, he expresses the stability from being (staying) with God in verse 1, “how lovely is,” in verse 3, “Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,” and in verse 10, “For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” In verses 5~8, the writer depicts God as “the One who gives strength” (implied meaning) (v.7) and “the One who hear the prayer” (v.8). The relationship of the writer with God is shown here as intimate and right. In verses 9~12, the writer describes the relationship of the Judahites with God as “sun” (v.11) and “shield” (vv. 9, 11) “bestows favor and honor” (v.11). So, in this psalm, we can see the provision, protection, and care of God begun with God’s being together. Those who are being with God are blessed and expressed in verse 4, “those who dwell in your house,” in verse 5, “in whose heart are the highways to Zion,” and in verse 12, “one who trusts in you!” Therefore, in summary, the blessed are those who are together with God, provided strength from God, and relying on God for every matter.
  4. Judah did not become God’s people by themselves nor saved by themselves. Rather if they were chosen to be God’s people by God, then “the blessed” expressed in this text must be the result of “grace of God.” In that stance, we can notice that “Judah was born to be blessed” by God’s grace because, no matter what they thought and behaved, this blessing was given to them and the blessing is ultimately “salvation.” Of course, the history proved that Judah could not keep that position, “the blessed,” by themselves.
  5. One really thankful thing is that Jesus Christ, by being killed on the cross and resurrected from the dead, fulfilled the salvation, put us into that salvation, and called us “spiritual Israel.” So, we are born to be blessed. Differently from today’s psalm, which shows us that we should eager for God, find Him, stay with Him, and be with Him – this way was failed to be kept as Judah showed us – God Himself comes to us, the weak and needy, and embraces and stays together, and cares us.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
  1. We, in difficult situation due to COVID-19, may experience hard time in body and spirit. In that situation, we could have moment to think about the being together with Jesus Christ(blessing, salvation). No by our own effort but by God’s grace, we are born to be blessed. Let’s think of this fact and share together!
  2. Rather than relying on considerable ways (money, prestige, and power), which look effective and powerful, why don’t we eagerly rely on Jesus who is with us in order to live like “born to be blessed”?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.