

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #22 (August 26, 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 379 & 543 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 85:1~13

- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (*On The Restored Way*)**
 1. This psalm is deemed as the pair of the previous psalm 84 in terms of time. In terms of time, psalm 84 was written before the Babylonian captivity (or exile) and this psalm was written after that. For that reason, this psalm is considered as the psalm for meditation, thanksgiving, and praise for God's salvation grounded on forgiveness and mercy and steadfast love as well as encouragement of obedience to God.
 2. In verses 1~3, especially in verse 1, "you restored the fortunes of Jacob," and verse 3, "You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger," we can see that this psalm was written after the Babylonian exile. In order to emphasize God's initiative forgiveness in the process of restoration from Babylonian exile, the writer clarifies that God's sovereignty restored Judah (Israel) with "forgave the iniquity"(v.2), "covered all their sins"(v.2), "withdrew all your wrath"(v.3), "turned from your hot anger"(v.3).
 3. In verses 4~6, the write requested God's mercy on Judah who were still weak and sinful. Specially, in verse 4, "restore us," the writer implies that Judah could not stand upright before God without God's sovereign work. In verse 6, the expression, "revive us again," shows us that Judah could not overcome the sin regulated in His Word, which drives them to death according to "the wage of sin is death"(Rom 6:23), so that the death-unescapable beings on account of their sins could stand (live) again by "God's sovereign revival work" alone.
 4. In verse 7, the writer told us that under the work of God's mercy, Judah would rejoice God's salvation. That place where Judah can rejoice God's salvation is conditioned for verse 8. That is to be listening and obeying the Word of God but not turning back to folly and disobedience. For the obedient to the Word of God is for acknowledging God as God.
 5. That kind of restored life could experience the restoration of all the areas of life. In other words, the steadfast love, truth, righteousness and peace, faithfulness, righteousness, what is good, land produces, and righteousness and making God's footsteps a way, in verses 10~13, are describing so-called, "heavenly environment." On this earth, we cannot see the perfect picture together with all of these. But, we can expect this full perfect picture in heavenly kingdom. Here, God's footsteps mean the way that all God's people should continue to follow by relying on HIM. Differently put, On The Restored Way, Judah (Israel) should consider "God's sovereign grace of salvation" and should follow God's footsteps – the way that God's people or the saved should go – based on God's Word.

- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. By the grace of Jesus' cross and resurrection, we are restored. Then, where are you going? Do you have any other thought other than thankful heart for Jesus' grace? Let's think about these and share together!
 2. Let's share what Judah could feel on God's salvation after Babylonian exile!
 3. On the restored (saved) way, to whom do you want to submit your matters and situation which are burdensome due to COVID-19? Why don't we pray for submitting them all to Jesus Christ?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.