

**Wednesday Word Meditation Material #31 (October 28, 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 483 & 487 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 96:1~13
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*Idols Under Sky*)
  1. In this psalm, we can find the fundamental norm to differentiate God from Idols. That is “sky.” That is based on the condition(premise) that God made sky and idols are under it.
  2. Through verses 1~3, the writer of this psalm urges and encourages that the whole world should praise God and share Him with their neighbors because YHWH God deserves the praise. Within verses 4~6, he or she compares God to idols by expressing that God is greater than idols. According to verse 5, “For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols.” Yes, the idols are worthless. Why? The reason is following. “The LORD made the heavens.” Therefore, the reason why other gods (people just called them “gods”) are worthless than YHWH God (or LORD God) is that they are under sky (literally, “heavens”). YHWH God, the Author of this world (sky), who made that, exists above and below sky (heavens). But, the idols are only below sky. So, they cannot reach God. This expression connotes deeper meaning than that. When we say that God made sky (heavens), it also means that God is not made by humans’ imagination and reason. In addition to that, it means that God is not confined in their imagination and reason. Just because God is out of humans’ imagination and reason, God is in totally different dimension from idols (gods) that humans’ imagination and reason. In verse 6, “before Him” and “in His sanctuary” are same as “before the presence of God.” So, “splendor,” “majesty,” “strength,” and “beauty” are before the presence of God, the Creator. Verses 7~9 seem the repetition of verses 1~3. To praise God is quite right for those who became the people of “God the Creator,” who is totally different Being from the idols (gods), and are under His guidance and protection. Verses 10~13 reveal the heart of this psalter, describing that the Creator of the sky is the Owner of the world and reigns everything in the world (v.10), will judge all the people with equity (vv.10, 13). Because God is the Judge and Adjudicator, the whole world which God created (stably) glad, rejoice, and sing for joy as shown in verses 11~12.
  3. If it is true that YHWH God really created this world, the sky, reigns, and judges this world, then even now, after more than 2,000 years passed from the time when this psalm was written, God should be in that position. Because He is over humans’ imagination and reason, God should exist in no matter what situation in the world history and should have same splendor, majesty, strength, and beauty as He did in the past. God, through Jesus Christ, fulfilled His redemptive history for His people who were in their sin based on this fact that God is the Author(Owner) of this world and judge over that.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
  1. Do you believe that God, who created and reigns the world, put COVID-19 under His control?
  2. We indeed believe that God created this world. But, now under COVID-19 pandemic, we experience difficulties in our current life context, so we may rely on the idols. What kinds of idols do we have in us?
  3. If we, as the psalter confesses, look at Father God and believe that God saved us through Jesus Christ and reigns this world, we are supposed to rely on Father God again and solemnly submit all our burdens to Him!
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.