

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #32 (November 4, 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 488 & 490 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 97:1~12
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*What the Idols Should Do*)
 1. In this psalm, we can find that the idols (the false gods) should worship God the Creator along with all other creatures as well as who we should rely on is God alone.
 2. In verse 1, reveals that God is the Creator and Ruler of the world with the phrase, “The LORD reigns,” and the on account of His reign, “let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!”(v.1). “Clouds and thick darkness” reveal the grandeur of God’s reign and His reign is founded on “righteousness and justice.” The “fire” of judgment comes out of God’s throne and fulfills the “justice” (v.3). Verse 4 describes that the “lightning” of God lights up the world, and the whole world fear that. In verse 5, we can see that the world fears God’s reign as the mountains melt “like wax” before the LORD. Also, “the heavens proclaim his righteousness” (v.6) declares that God’s reign is shown to all the people on earth. Therefore, verse 7 is natural conclusion from the previous expressions on God the Creator and Ruler: all the people should “worship” God by confessing God as Creator and Ruler. Among the worshipers of this God, the “gods (idols),” which clearly knows that God is the Creator of this world, should exist and worship God, too. This is very unique argument and expression. The fact that not only God’s people but also the idols, which were made by worldly men and worshiped by them (they are not self-existing “gods” but coined by human beings and called “gods” by them), should worship God testifies that they are nothing and their destiny is under God’s reign.
 3. Then, continually, one fact that there are some people who rejoice because of the vivid reign of God is added. They are “Zion”(v.8), “daughters of Judah”(v.8), “you who love the LORD”(v.10), “saints”(v.10), “the righteous”(vv.11, 12), “the upright in heart”(v.11), They all mean “people of God.” They, because they believe that God who is “most high over all the earth” and “exalted far above all gods”(v.9) reigns and judge the world, can rejoice and appreciate(v.12) and stand on worshippers’ place even though “evil”(the hand of the wicked) seems strong and troubles the believers(v.10).
 4. Father God, who created and reigns the world, judged “people of God” “righteous” (the upright in heart) by delivering them from “evil,” that is to say sin(death), through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He transformed our status from “sinner” to “the righteous.”
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. As a transformed, do you live God-worshipping life in acknowledgement, joy, and appreciation of God?
 2. In the “hard and difficult” disease called “COVID-19,” which is considered as “evil” (the hand of the wicked), do you have any other “gods” than “God the Creator” to rely on (worship), with self-made false faith that they will lead and protect your ways to go? After meditation, let us share together!
 3. Rather than relying on idols(man-made and called “gods”), which should kneel down before God, why don’t we have a prayer time to rely on Jesus who is with us through the Holy Spirit based on His union with us via His cross and resurrection for us for the heavy, important, difficult, and hard issues in our life?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.