

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #38 (December 16, 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 109 & 115 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 103:1~22
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (*Understanding*)**
 1. This psalm is written by David for praising (exalting and acknowledging) God. His attitude to praise God based on his own experience is shown in verse 1, “all that is within me.” They must be the invisible inner being, such as heart, thought, intention, will, passion, etc. However, in Israelite expression, there is no way to praise God in separation between inner being and outer being of man. So, although “all that is within me” means invisible being, the clause should be considered with David’s body (outer being). In other words, David now praises God with all his being, both inner and outer.
 2. The reason for David’s whole being to praise God follows in following verses. God provided “benefits” (v.2), solved problems of “iniquity” and “diseases” (v.3), redeemed “life” (v.4), “satisfied” Israel (or David) (v.5), did righteousness and justice (v.6), let Himself be known to Israel (v.7). So, David praises God saying, “God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (v.8) and “He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever” (v.9). Against the wrath of God, David confesses God’s generosity saying, “He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities” (v.10). In the same vein, verses 12 and 13 are followed. They are “as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us” and “[A]s a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.” David who confessed that without God’s grace he could not live and confirms and emphasizes that the grace of God is “from everlasting to everlasting” by comparing to human beings, who are “short and limited” (vv. 15~17).
 3. **Now, the core of this text is the reason why God is so generous to His people. Verses 11 and 14 provide the reasons. One is “steadfast love(obligation)” and another is “For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”** God obligates His chosen people until the end because they are too weak. If anyone who is **“understanding”** this compassion of God on us, then they should praise Him as David did. This is “what they should do” embedded in verses 18~22.
 4. The “obligation” of God and His “compassion” on Israel, the chosen of God, has been accomplished by “Jesus’ cross.” In Christ Jesus, God completed His “obligation” for us by putting us into the accomplished salvation. of God. He continues to guide us, who are still weak, in our everyday life with “compassion.”
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. During COVID-19, we are in seasons of Christmas 2020. Are we, who are saved in Christ, getting know more about the meaning of Christmas (Jesus’ birth) in experiencing God’s “obligation” and “compassion” nowadays? Or, in total opposition, are we living in dark hours with laboring journey? Let us think about this and share together!
 2. Is God whom we understand to be praised by our whole being (praise and acknowledge)?
 3. We pray that all of us would be able to appreciate and enjoy the meaning of Christmas (Jesus’ birth) with prayer, by relying on Jesus who is in us, not to mention **“understanding”** God’s “obligation” and “compassion”!
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.