

Day 24 Tuesday March 24 Isaiah 30:18

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! 虽然如此、主仍等候、要施恩与你们、要兴起怜悯你们、因为主是行仁义的天主、凡仰望主的便为有福。

This verse declares the heart of the LORD for His people. Earlier in the passage, v. 15-16 says: *This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee...*

God spoke through Isaiah to His stubborn people who would rather depend upon other nations or other sources than the LORD for being saved from disaster. The LORD wanted them (and us!) to turn to Him (repentance) and find rest – surrender in Him and they would experience His saving power. Giving up on our own help & strength is required if we are to trust in Him and learn to be still/quiet before Him. His people, instead of obeying Him, came up with their own plans to save themselves: to flee on swift horses but no one can outrun the Sovereign LORD! His heart LONGS, He greatly desires to show them grace, mercy, compassion! He is full of these! However, He cannot just overlook rebellion – He is a God of justice so there are consequences. Those who turn to Him, those who wait for His grace and compassion, will find these once they stop trusting in their ways and turn in repentance to Him. Think of someone you know today who has not yet turned to the LORD, is not trusting in His salvation, and is not waiting on Him. Pray that they will hear His call. Read over the verse a few more times and praise God for who He is!

QUOTE: "When God lays a burden on our hearts and thus keeps us praying, He obviously intends to grant the answer." J. O. Sanders

PRAYER: Den & Dia S used to work in a large country but now they work from this one producing media very effectively. Pray that many will see the media that is produced and turn to Christ.

SONG: O GREAT GOD

O great God of highest heaven, Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme, Conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain, That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me, Make me Yours forevermore

VERSE 2 I was blinded by my sin, Had no ears to hear Your voice
Did not know Your love within, Had no taste for heaven's joys
Then Your Spirit gave me life. Opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son, Gave me endless hope and peace

VERSE 3 Help me now to live a life That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised With my every thought and deed

O great God of highest heaven Glorify Your Name through me
Music & words by Bob Kauflin. Based on The Valley of Vision prayer "Regeneration." © 2006
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Day 25 Wednesday March 25 Psalm 147:11

The LORD favors those who fear Him, those who wait for His lovingkindness. 惟喜悦敬畏他的、和盼望他恩的人。

The LORD does play "favorites" – He favors those who fear Him! Why? Those who fear Him, who hold Him in greatest esteem, who "tremble at His word" (day 2), who order their lives around the fact that He is the great & mighty God and we are unworthy servants (day 14) understand the true orientation of the universe. Yesterday we read: "Blessed are all who wait for Him!" Today: "The LORD favors those who wait for His lovingkindness" (covenant love, faithful mercy). In Exodus 32, the children of Israel waited impatiently for Moses to return from his **40 days** on the mountain with God. Instead of fearing the LORD and continuing to wait, they told Aaron to "Make for us gods who will go before us." Aaron took their gold and had it fashioned into a golden calf and then he said: "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." Then, they held a festival "to Yahweh" (a "let's make Yahweh very angry" festival) which broke out into something like a wild, drunken party filled shameful deeds & loud revelry. These people had seen with their own eyes the great & powerful works Yahweh had done in setting them free from slavery in Egypt. They had heard with their own ears to not make an idol or bow down to any image. But they were tired of waiting and wanted to move on with their own brand of "religion." We know how that impatience turned out. NOT GOOD. It's not easy to wait. We would rather God act when we think He should act and if He doesn't fit into our schedule, we'll act in the way we see fit. This, of course, is NOT fearing the LORD. This is giving up on His lovingkindness or at least thinking that what He brings will not be enough for us – it's not worth waiting for. Remember, He longs to be gracious to you, He rises to show you compassion. When we refuse to wait upon Him, we miss out on experiencing these blessings. Better to wait for His lovingkindness, His direction, His answer, His presence. After all, "Your lovingkindness is better than life!" Psalm 63:3 How are you doing in waiting on the LORD?

QUOTE: "If our faith is to have a firm foundation, we must be convinced beyond any possible doubt that God is altogether worthy of our trust." A.W. Tozer

PRAYER: Remember Jason before the Lord as he waits for news about the extension of his visa status. Lily S. is also asking for prayer as she desires an H1-B visa. Pray as we all wait for the post-virus phase!

SONG: Ascribe Greatness (Deut. 32:3-4)

Ascribe greatness to our God the Rock,
His work is perfect and all His ways are just (repeat these two again)
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Good and upright is He (repeat)

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Day 26 Thursday March 26 Revelation 3:2

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die. For I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

你应当儆醒、坚固那所剩下、将要衰微的德行。我见你的行为在天主面前不是完全的。

These are some of the words that the risen, glorious Lord Jesus spoke to His church in Sardis. They “had a reputation of being alive” but He regarded them as...dead! (v.1) He ALWAYS knows the truth about our spiritual condition no matter what others may think about us. At one time they had been living for His glory, but that time had long passed and now they had forgotten their former zeal, repentance, and obedience (3:3). They were commanded to WAKE UP and take action before it is too late. The city of Sardis had been breached before in its history when they failed to carefully watch and were confident of their situation, so these words were appropriate for them to hear. Jesus has the power to even wake the dead (John 11 – Lazarus) and so His voice calls to His church to awaken from its dire position. God had much more for them to do. When we are spiritually asleep, we miss so much opportunity in His Kingdom’s work. Meditate upon this verse today. Ask the Lord to evaluate your level of alertness to the Spirit. Ask Him to help you refocus your deepest efforts upon what God would have you aim to complete. Remember, only treasure in heaven lasts not what we can gain here.

QUOTE: We are at this moment as close to God as we really choose to be. True, there are times when we would like to know a deeper intimacy, but when it comes to the point, we are not prepared to pay the price involved. J. Oswald Sanders

PRAYER: We got off to a good start last Sunday with our first all “E-Service” using Zoom. Pray that this effort will bear fruit and that others can connect and sense God’s Spirit at work as we do the best we can in meeting together.

SONG: [Holy Spirit, Breath on me](#)

Holy Spirit, breathe on me, until my heart is clean;
let sunshine fill its inmost part, with not a cloud between.

Chorus: *Breathe on me, breathe on me; Holy Spirit, breathe on me;
Take Thou my heart, cleanse every part, Holy Spirit breathe on me.*

2. Holy Spirit, breathe on me, my stubborn will subdue;
teach me in words of living flame what Christ would have me do.
3. Holy Spirit, breathe on me, fill me with power divine;
kindle a flame of love and zeal within this heart of mine.
4. Holy Spirit, breathe on me, till I am all Thine own,
until my will is lost in Thine, to live for Thee alone.

Day 27 Friday March 27 Luke 15:10

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. 耶稣说、我告诉你们、一个有罪的人悔改、天主的使者也是这样为他欢喜。

In Luke 15, our Lord told three parables about lost things being found. The setting of these stories: *Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”* (15:1-2) So, Jesus told them about a man leaving his 99 sheep to go out and find the one that was lost. Then, a story of a woman who had to diligently clean her house to find her lost coin of much value. The last one is the best known, the lost (Prodigal) son. In all three the conclusions are the same. When the lost are found there is great joy! God welcomes repentant sinners just as Jesus was welcoming those whom the Pharisees and teachers of the law had written off as people to be despised. One of their big problems with Jesus: If He was the Messiah then why would He have anything to do with “sinners?” So, He told them that “the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.” (Lk. 19:10) For those who realize that their sin is a problem, Jesus’ rescue mission is good news! Behind the scenes, even when one sinner repents and turns to Jesus, the angels in heaven celebrate! The problem with the Pharisees & teachers of the law? They thought they had no need of repentance and therefore had no need for anyone to rescue/save them. This IS the difference between those who hunger and thirst to be made righteous and those who are still dead in their sins and trespasses (Eph. 2:1). Once we belong to Jesus, we are made part of the rescue team! He still does the saving, but we get to tell those who acknowledge their need for forgiveness of sin where they can go to have their sins washed away. Once they repent and turn to Jesus (as we have done), we can rejoice with the angels! Meditate upon this verse and think about the heart of God that instigated this joyful enterprise!

QUOTE: “Since He looked upon me my heart is not my own, He hath run away to heaven with it.” Samuel Rutherford

PRAYER: Pray that you will have the joy this year of seeing someone you are praying for truly meet Jesus. Ask God to help you in prayer and proclamation.

SONG: [Since I have been redeemed](#)

I have a song I love to sing since I have been redeemed, of my Redeemer, Savior, King since I have been redeemed.

(chorus) **Since I have been redeemed,**

**Since I have been redeemed I will glory in His name,
Since I have been redeemed, I will glory in my Savior’s name.**

2. I have a Christ who satisfies since I have been redeemed,
To do His will my highest prize since I have been redeemed.
3. I have a home prepared for me since I have been redeemed,
Where I will dwell eternally since I have been redeemed.
4. I have a joy I can’t express since I have been redeemed,
All through His blood and righteousness, since I have been redeemed.

Day 28 Saturday March 28 John 10:27

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

我的羊听我的声音、我认识他们、他们也跟随我。

Here is our Lord's own summary of what it means to have Him as one's Good Shepherd (John 10:11). When the Shepherd speaks, His sheep listen! Why? They are His sheep! You can tell those who belong to the Good Shepherd: they obey His commands (John 14:23,15:10-14) not because they are trying to earn a place with Him but because they are His sheep already and listen to His voice.

Listening and obeying go together. Don't you think the Good Shepherd's words are just what His sheep need to hear? Beyond listening, there is **relationship** between the sheep and their Shepherd – "I know them!" Finally, His sheep follow Him. All three verbs: 'listen,' 'know', and 'follow' are present tense verbs which should be understood as: *My sheep are listening to my voice, I am knowing them, and they are following me.* Sheep depend upon their shepherd. Sheep are both known by the shepherd and know his voice. When the shepherd moves, they follow him wherever he goes. Their lives are spent following the shepherd, listening to his voice, and enjoying his loving care, provision, and presence. People who claim to know Jesus but don't listen (obey) to His voice and aren't following Him are not His sheep. He says in another place: "I never knew you." (Matt. 7:23) Rejoice today in the Good Shepherd! Spend time thinking about His loving words here. Ask that you will hear His voice more clearly as you read His word and are led by the Spirit. Picture in your mind being a sheep following your loving Shepherd.

QUOTE: "Can Christ be in thy heart, and thou not know it? Can one king be dethroned and another crowned in thy soul, and thou hear no scuffle?" William Gurnall

PRAYER: Remember in prayer Luke & Leanne Turk, brave sheep who have followed the Good Shepherd to the Central African Republic where they are bearing much fruit. Leanne heads a nursing school so greatly needed in that part of the world. Luke keeps everything running. Both are making disciples, doing the work of evangelism, training many, and loving people. Ask for God's hand of protection & blessing to be upon them. Ask that those who have been sent out will be effective Christian nurses. Remember their songs in prayer: Benjamin, Bobby, & Timoté.

SONG: [Good to me](#)

I cry out for Your hand of mercy to heal me. I am weak, I need Your love to free me. O Lord, my Rock, my strength in weakness, Come rescue me, O Lord.

You are my hope, Your promise never fails me.

And my desire is to follow You forever. For You are good, for You are good, For You are good to me.

For you are good, For You are good for You are good to me.

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SUNDAY March 29

Our verses from the week:

Ephesians 5:15-16 **Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

所以，你们行事为人要谨慎，不要像愚昧人，却要像聪明人。 16 要把握时机，因为这时代邪恶。

Isaiah 30:18 **Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!** 虽然如此、主仍等候、要施恩与你们、要兴起怜悯你们、因为主是行仁义的天主、凡仰望主的便为有福。

Psalms 147:11 **The LORD favors those who fear Him, those who wait for His lovingkindness.** 惟喜悦敬畏他的、和盼望他恩的人。

Revelation 3:2 **Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die. For I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.** 你应当儆醒、坚固那所剩下、将要衰微的德行。我见你的行为在天主面前不是完全的。

Luke 15:10 **Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.** 耶稣说、我告诉你们、一个有罪的人悔改、天主的使者也是这样为他欢喜。

John 10:27 **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** 我的羊听我的声音、我认识他们、他们也跟随我。

Listen to the wonderful song/hymn below if you don't know it!

[ALL PRAISE TO HIM \(soft version\)](#) [ALL PRAISE TO HIM \(more upbeat\)](#)
All praise to Him, the God of light, Who formed the mountains by His might,
All praise to Him Who names the stars that sing His fame in skies afar,
All praise to Him Who reigns in love, Who guides the galaxies above,
Yet bends to hear our every prayer, With sovereign pow'r and tender care
VERSE 2

All praise to Him whose love is seen in Christ the Son, the Servant King
Who left behind His glorious throne, To pay the ransom for His own
All praise to Him Who humbly came to bear our sorrow, sin, and shame
Who lived to die, Who died to rise, The all-sufficient sacrifice
VERSE 3

All praise to Him whose pow'r imparts the love of God within our hearts
The Spirit of all truth and peace, The fount of joy and holiness
To Father, Son, and Spirit now, Our souls we lift, our wills we bow
To You, the triune God, we raise
With loving hearts our song of praise

Based on the hymn, "All Praise to Him Who Built the Hills" by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) Music and additional words by Matt Merker and Bob Kauflin © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI) Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Churches. Used by permission, CCLI #377598

Day 29 Monday March 30 Psalm 46:10-11

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. 你们都当休息、当知惟我为天主、列邦必敬崇我、全地必敬崇我。万有的主保佑我们、雅各的天主护庇我们、细拉。 Psalm 46 should be read in its entirety as it will be a help to all of us during this season of uncertainty in the world. It starts this way: *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...*(vv.1-2) The reason God's people are not to fear even though catastrophic events may be happening: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble! Verse 6 adds: *Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.* Psalm 46 is a great reminder of who is in control of everything – God Almighty! As long as we are taking our refuge in Him, we have nothing to fear. Earthquakes and landslides (v. 2) are frightening! Revolutions and upheavals bring chaos (v.6). There is a day coming when all the turbulence, disasters, pandemics, wars, upheavals, and the like will cease (v.9). In the meantime, our job: BE STILL (find your rest, quiet yourself in His presence) and KNOW that “I am God.” Think deeply upon just who God Almighty is. Spend time exalting Him in praise & prayer. Let any fears, troubles, doubts, turmoil within find how small they are before Him. We exalt Him among the nations when we participate in His mission (Matt. 28:18-20) that is: Making disciples, proclaiming the gospel, teaching, baptizing, supporting financially and through prayer those who have been sent out. Read verse 11 several more times to remind yourself just who is with us, coronavirus or not!

QUOTE: “The Christian is strong or weak depending upon how closely he has cultivated the knowledge of God.” “God never hurries. There are no deadlines against which He must work.” A.W. Tozer

PRAYER: Pray that we as a church may grow in more intimate knowledge of God and learn to truly “be still and know that He is God.” Lift up a particular brother or sister by name.

SONG: [Blessed be the Lord God Almighty](#)

Father in heaven how we love You, We lift Your name in all the earth
May Your kingdom be established in our praises
As Your people declare Your mighty works.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, Who reigns forevermore

2. Jesus among us how we need You We call upon Your holy power
As we're casting all our cares upon You, Savior
In Your arms we're resting every hour

Bob Fitts 1984 Scripture In Song CCLI #377598

Day 30 Tuesday March 31 1 Tim. 4:7b-8

...Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 自己练习敬虔的道理。练习身体益处还少、惟独敬虔、凡事都有益处、叫人能得今生、来生所应许的福。 This is a great verse to memorize & meditate upon because it is something that we are to pursue all our lives. We do not become godly by accident but rather through training ourselves to be like God in His moral character and action. It is a present tense command word: **Keep on training** (NAS disciplining)! The word Paul uses has to do with vigorous exercise. Our word gymnasium comes from this Greek word. Paul compares our disciplined exercise in seeking to be godly with bodily exercise which indeed has some value as we know. But its value is limited as our physical bodies will one day pass away, but godliness is great for this life and the one to come! However, seeking to be like Jesus is not optional (1 John 3:3). How do we get into this training? Some of the best ways are through “spiritual disciplines.” Regularly setting aside time to: pray, read God's word, memorize it, be silent before the Lord, give, fast, serve, celebrate, worship, and more. We also have to train ourselves to resist temptation, to say no to sinful opportunities, and have our minds set on things above (Col. 3:2) - much the same way a person has to say no to a diet of lots of junk food and sitting on the couch all day & night. Every time I resist the temptation to be selfish, watch over my speech, and guard my heart I build up spiritual muscles. I have found that when I do discipline myself in diet and exercise, it often spills over into areas of spiritual discipline. Know that Christ is for you in this training. He wants to see His character of grace, mercy, compassion, generosity, selflessness, joy, and self-control reflected in our lives. He gives us all we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). If you haven't been enjoying some godly exercising, get started today by memorizing and meditating on this verse. Start your workout with small steps. Marathons are run by those who started with shorter distances and worked their way up by...regular training! Ask the Lord to show you where ungodly attitudes, sinful behavior, or Satan's lies are holding back your training.

QUOTE: “Spiritual disciplines are not about making you more precious to God. They're about making God more precious to you.” Matt Smethurst

“We do the things we CAN do (like pray, fast, meditate on Scripture) so that we can do the things we CAN'T do (like love our enemies, die to self).” Richard Foster

PRAYER: Think of three brothers or sisters in our church family and pray for them to find joy in spiritual discipline. Who did you pray for?

Song: [My faith looks up to Thee](#)

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

2. May Thy rich grace impart, Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee, Pure warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs around me spread, be Thou my Guide; Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

4. When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold sullen stream over me roll; Blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove;

O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!