

## **PSALM 118 – Praise of God for His Everlasting Mercy and Goodness!**

6/12/21 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com)

### **SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY – John Petersen, Alfred Smith – Graham Crusade Choir (2:56)**

*A pilgrim was I, and a wandering, In the cold night of sin I did roam,  
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home.*

*(Chorus):*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life;  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.*

*He restoreth my soul when I'm weary, He giveth me strength day by day;  
He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way. (Chorus)*

*And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, And I shall feast at the table spread for me;  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.  
All the days, all the days of my life.*

**PSALM 118:** Psalm 118 is the last of Hallel psalms. It is a psalm that is known as Messianic psalm, that is it is a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. As Jesus sang this psalm with His disciples He was fully aware of the fact that portions of it refer directly to Him. I wonder how it would be singing the psalm knowing it's talking about you.

Luther's quote re Psalm 118 being his favorite Psalm to Abbot Frederick of Nurenberg:

*This is my Psalm, my chosen Psalm. I love them all; I love all holy Scripture, which is my consolation and my life. But this Psalm is nearest my heart, and I have a peculiar right to call it mine. It has saved me from many pressing dangers, from which nor emperor, nor kings, nor sages, not saints, could have saved me. It is my friend; dearer to me than all the honors and power of the earth. But it may be objected, that this Psalm is common to all; no one has a right to call it his own. Yes, but Christ is also common to all, and yet Christ is mine. I am not jealous of my property; I would divide it with the whole world. And would to God that all men would claim the Psalm as especially theirs! It would be the most touching quarrel, the most agreeable to God. A quarrel of union and perfect charity.*

### **Vs. 1-4 The faithful are called to magnify the everlasting mercy of the Lord!**

***Psa 118:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.***

***Psa 118:2 Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever."***

***Psa 118:3 Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever."***

- **To everyone, let us say:** O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: because His mercy endures forever. Let Israel, the nation, now say, that His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Aaron, the priesthood, now say, that His mercy endures forever!

***Psa 118:4 Let those who fear the LORD now say, "His mercy endures forever."***

- This includes us! Let us say it! "His mercy endures forever."

### **Vs. 5-18 A narrative of his experience and an expression of his faith!**

***Psa 118:5 I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.***

- We sometimes get so narrow in our view, we think of ourselves. We need to be expanded; the Lord puts me in a large place and broadens my horizons, my visions.

***Psa 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?***

- *The LORD is on my side; (118:6).(Heb 13:6) So we may boldly say: "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?"*
- The Lord is on my side because I am on His side Because the Lord is on my side, because the Lord is my strength, because the Lord is my defense and because the Lord is with me I will not fear what man can do to me. I love that kind of confidence that comes from realizing. When you begin to fear or when you begin to anxious thoughts just remember the Lord is on your side and “If God’s before you who can be against you?”

***Psa 118:7 The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.***

- He sticks up for me. My enemies aren’t going to triumph over me; I will triumph over them because the Lord will take my part.

***Psa 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.***

- How many of you have put your confidence in a person and you’ve turned out to be disappointed you? It’s better to put your trust in the Lord and never be disappointed. He’ll never let you down. He said, “I will never leave you or forsake you!”

***Psa 118:9 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.***

- Princes, politicians! So often, they can let you down!

***Psa 118:10 All nations surrounded me, But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.***

- Though the whole world be gathered against me God is on my side and I’m going to come out victorious. The Lord and we can whip anybody and everybody.

***Psa 118:11 They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.***

***Psa 118:12 They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.***

- My enemies tried to destroy me! They tried to bring me down.

***Psa 118:13 You pushed me violently, that I might fall, But the LORD helped me.***

- But the LORD is on my side! I’m not going to fear though all my enemies encircle me! I’m going to come out victorious. They tried to destroy me that I might fall but the Lord is my help!

***Psa 118:14 The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.***

- He delivered me. It’s glorious to know the strength of the Lord. In seeing the victories of the Lord, the songs of praises and triumph of victory through Jesus Christ.

***Psa 118:15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation Is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.***

***Psa 118:16 The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.***

***Psa 118:17 I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD.***

- Jesus said, “He who lives and believes in Me will never die”.
- He’s put me through some real trials, gone through some deep water but I’m still here.

***Psa 118:18 The LORD has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.***

***Vs. 19-21 He asks admittance into the house of the LORD and begins his acknowledgment of the divine salvation.***

***Psa 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, And I will praise the LORD.***

***Psa 118:20 This is the gate of the LORD, Through which the righteous shall enter.***

***Psa 118:21 I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation.***

***Vs. 22-27 The priest and people recognize their ruler, magnify the LORD for Him, declare Him blessed, and bid Him approach the altar with His sacrifice.***

***Psa 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.***

***Psa 118:23 This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.***

- Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, upon which the church is to be built, which was set aside, rejected, by the religious leaders of Judaism. God has made Him to be the Chief Cornerstone, upon this rock I will build My church. The confession of Peter that “You are the Messiah the son of the living God”. When Peter was brought before the Sanhedrin and he was being challenged and questioned because of the miracle of the lame man being healed, Peter said “*Act 4:11 This is the 'STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY YOU BUILDERS, WHICH HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.*”
- It was the Lord who made Him the Chief Cornerstone. The day of redemption. God’s day of bringing the Messiah. If this is a reference to the very day that the Messiah came.

***Psa 118:24 This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

- One special day! Often people wake up on a beautiful morning when the sky is clear and the sun is coming up, and say, “Oh this is beautiful”. No, He’s not talking today, He is talking about one special day in the history of man when He would keep His promise and send the Messiah. That day came, it was the day of man’s redemption, the day of the fulfillment of God’s promise, the day in which the Messiah made His entry into Jerusalem according to the prophecy of Zachariah riding on a donkey, the humble Lord riding on a donkey. That was *the day that the Lord has made*. The very next verse in Hebrew starts “Hosanna” – *Save now!*

***Psa 118:25 Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.***

***Psa 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.***

- Jesus’ Triumphal Entry! That’s what they were saying while He was riding on the donkey. The day that the Lord had made, the day that the Lord had prophesied and here was the Messiah riding in on this donkey according to the promise and right on schedule. 483 years after the commandment, in Nehemiah chapter 2, had gone forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, right on schedule. The disciples, recognizing it, began to quote this psalm.
- The Pharisees, when they heard the disciples quoting the psalm and knowing that it was a psalm that related to the Messiah said “Lord, you better tell them to shut up, that’s blasphemy”. You remember the answer of Jesus? “If they at this moment would hold their peace the very stones would start crying out for this is the day that the Lord has made.” If man doesn’t rejoice and be glad in it then the stones themselves will begin to rejoice, they’ll cry out the praises unto the Messiah. But in looking at Jerusalem, Jesus began to weep. Luke’s gospel chapter 19 tells us that as He wept, saying, “O Jerusalem, if you only knew the peace you could have with this thy day”. The day of peace but man rejected and set aside the Stone. The Stone that was rejected by those builders, the religious leaders of that day, God has made to be the Chief Cornerstone.
- It’s a very pertinent psalm, prophetic of our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem, the presenting to Israel their Messiah who was rejected by the builders, the religious leaders.

***Psa 118:27 God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.***

- Then the declaration. God is the LORD, which has showed us light!
- ***Bind the sacrifice*** - Jesus who came as the Messiah, the Savior, became the sacrifice. Nailed to the cross He became the sacrifice for our sins.

***Vs. 28-29 The grateful Hero Himself exalts God the ever merciful!***

***Psa 118:28 You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You.***

***Psa 118:29 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.***

- Surely the goodness of God was manifested, His mercy was manifested. They all came together in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Messiah, our Lord and Savior.
- LORD, we thank You for Your word and Your Holy Spirit, for all that You are and all that You've done!

***"CORNERSTONE" (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less) Hillsong (3:28)***

*My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' name (2X)  
Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!  
When Darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.  
Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all! He is Lord! Lord of all!  
Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord! Lord of all! Lord of all!!*

***PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:***

***PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!***