

KINGDOM MINISTRY
Christian Celebration Center Church
CAYA Notes
November 18, 2012
Pastor Stanley Chase

“To Be or Not To Be: Is That The Question?”

Sermonic Scripture Psalm 34: - (King James Version) -Read

Today brothers and sisters I would like you to ponder the question **“To be or not to be: Is That the Question?”** .

Or could the question be “To Cry or Not to Cry”... “To Pray or Not to Pray:.. “To Love or Not to Love” ...”To Hate or Not To Hate”; all of these topics present quite a dichotomy or opposing positions!

In the 34 Division of the Psalms the writer praise the Lord for a miraculous deliverance from great trouble. His testimony encourages all afflicted believers to believe that they may also experience the goodness of the Lord.

As I studied this Psalm and considered its content a more relevantly question was dropped into my spirit as we are approaching this Thanksgiving Holiday ...”To give Thanks or Not to Give Thanks” to put it in God language...”**To Praise or Not To Praise : That Is the Question?”**

This division of the Psalms falls into **two main message:**

1. In **versus 1-10** the palmist is summoning us to join him in **giving thanks to the Lord.**
2. In **versus 11-21** we are given instruction on **how to live a long and happy life.**

Why give thanks/praise:

In this 34 Division of Psalm God revealed 10 promise:

1. The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear him and delivereth them-vs.7
2. There is **no want** to them that Fear Him. –vs. 9
3. They that seek the Lord **shall not want any good thing.**
4. The eyes of the lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open unto their cry- vs. 10,15,17
5. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil – vs. 16
6. The righteous cry and the Lord heareth, and deliverth them out of all their troubles –vs. 17
7. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth much as be of a contrite spirit – vs. 18
8. Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all- vs. 19
9. Evil shall stay the wicked and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate –vs. 22
10. The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate- vs. 22

If those ten promises are not enough for us to want to praise God; I want you to consider that also contained in the **34 Division of the Psalms** are “**ten blessings of God**”:

GOD...

1. Answers prayer – vs.4
2. Delivers from all fear – vs.4
3. Enlighten His people – vs.5
4. Gives His people boldness – vs.5
5. Saves from all trouble –vs. 6-7

6. Supplies all wants of His people vs. 9-10
7. Punishes the wicked to curb all sin and rid His creation of it – vs.16
8. Remains near the broken in heart and save the contrite in spirit –vs.18
9. Redeems souls of His people vs.22
10. Prosper all who trust Him – vs.22

To Praise or Not To Praise ...That Is the Question!!!!

How to live a long and happy life.

In this 2nd message the psalmist shares instruction; as well as something we might encounter... the psalmist wrote these words **Many are the afflictions of the righteous...** the word of God says that faithfulness does not guarantee believers freedom from trouble, pain, and suffering in their lives...in fact Jesus taught that we are to expect it (John 16: 1-4,33. The bible provides numerous examples of godly people who experienced a significant amount of suffering for a variety of reasons—e.g., Joseph, David, Jeremiah, and Paul...**then there is you and I.**

So you might ask the age old question that never seems to die away...

“WHY” ... WHY AFFLICTIONS; and MORE IMPORTANTLY WHY ME?

“I AM GLAD YOU ASKED ...I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A FEW ANSWERS FOR YOU!!!”

12 Causes of Afflictions:

1. Sin -(Gen.3:16; Ps.25:18)
2. Backsliding -(Ps. 119:67)
3. Misuse of tongue -(Pr. 26:28)
4. Resentment - (Gen. 16:4-11)
5. Pride -(Job 33: 14-29)
6. Impenitence –(Pr. 1:30-31; Rev. 2:21) { not feeling sorry for sin}
7. Born In it -(Job 5:16)

8. Mistreatment of others –(Gen. 27:1-46; Gen. 32:11 , Gen. 42:21)
9. Hardness of Heart –(Ex. 4: 12
10. Idolatry –(Judges 10: 6-10 ; 2King 1:17
11. Forgetting God -(I Samuel 12:9-10)
12. Hypocrisy –(Mt 23)

12 Kinds of Afflictions:

1. Men afflicting men
2. Men oppressing widows
3. Husband mistreating wives
4. Masters oppressing slaves
5. Conquerors afflicting the conquered
6. Self-afflicting the soul by fasting
7. Wicked men afflicting their neighbors in various ways
8. Wicked persecuting the Godly
9. Gentiles oppressing the Jews
10. Heavy responsibility
11. Suffering of Christ - (Isa. 58:4)
12. Various agents of God according to God’s principle of “reaping and sowing”

12 Ways Man can be afflicted:

1. Slavery and oppression
2. Hardships of various kinds
3. Family Troubles
4. Barrenness
5. Cursings
6. Imprisonment
7. Tribulation and persecution

8. Crucifixion
9. Fasting to Afflict the soul
10. Conquest – being defeated in war
11. Physically suffering
12. Poverty and hunger

As I pondered the causes I asked the question God why are we subjected to afflictions... the answer was afflictions have a purpose!

12 Purposes of Afflictions:

1. To work good in one- (Ps. 119:71)
2. To hide pride from man- (Job 33: 14-29)
3. To demonstrate God's Faithfulness – (Ps. 119:75)
4. To test sincerity (Mk. 4:17; Job 1-2; Jas. 5: 10-11)
5. To refine, purify, and increase fruitfulness –(Isa. 48:10; Jn. 15:2; Heb. 12: 10-11)
6. To increase power and grace –(Rm.5: 1-8; Jas. 1: 2-4; 4:7; I Pet. 5:9)
7. To bring back God-(Hos. 5:15; Job 33:14-29)
8. To humble and correct- (I Sam. 12:14; Ps. 89: 30-32; Heb. 12:5)
9. To make examples – (I Cor. 10:5)
10. To manifest Love - (Ps. 3:11-12; Heb. 12: 5-10; Rev. 3: 3-19)
11. To give reward –(Rom. 8:17; 2Cor. 4:17; Jas. 1:12; I Pet. 1:7 & 4:14)
12. To learn obedience and truth – (ps. 119:71; Heb. 5:8; Heb. 12:5-10)

To have a happy long life or not to have a happy long life ...

We have talked about the salt; let's talk about the sugar...for in our afflictions God has made **promises that will result in our happiness because God will:**

1. Hear the afflicted
2. Save them (us)
3. Have mercy upon them (us)
4. Deliver them (us) from fear
5. Deliver them (us) out of all our troubles
6. Uphold them (us)
7. Reward them (us)
8. Be a refuge for tem (us)
9. Remember their (our) weakness
10. Hide them (us)
11. Consider them (us)
12. Give them (us) sufficient grace

Beloved not only can we have a happy life we can have a long life; the **34th Psalms** **reveals 18 secrets of long life:**

1. We must have freedom from fear –(vs.4)
2. Must receive the quickening from God- (vs.5)
3. We must have boldness ...freedom from shame
4. We must have freedom from trouble-(vs.6)
5. We must have Devine deliverance –(vs.7)
6. We must be partakers of God’s life –(vs.8)
7. We must have absolute trust in God- (vs.8)
8. We must have a fear of God –(vs. 7-9)
9. We must have freedom from want – (vs.9-100)
10. We must seek God first (vs. 10,15; Mt. 6:33)
11. We must receive Godly teaching – (vs.11; 2 Tim. 3:15)
12. We must control the tongue – (vs. 12-13)
13. We must embrace Godliness-departing from evil
14. Consecration to do good –(vs.14)
15. Must seek and pursue peace –(vs.14)
16. We must experience brokenness and become humble
17. We must gain salvation of our soul
18. Be prosperous ---free from worry

Summary:

Beloved I was sent to deliver a message to you today on the eve of thanks -giving that for Jesus to come down to this sin sick world... to walk on this earth for 33 years as a man... to heal the sick and to raise the dead... to carry an old rugged cross to a hill called Golgotha...to hang on that cross from the sixth to the ninth hour and die... to be placed in a borrowed tomb and stay there for a few days and a few nights and to rise on the third day morning with all power in your hands; **was not the question...no beloved this was not the question** ...this was the **ANSWER !!!**

Saints the question I raised “To Have a Happy Long Life or Not to Have a Happy Long Life” has been answered; for Jesus said...

- **Jn. 10:10 b: (Read)**

The question I raised “To Praise or Not to Praise” has been answered by the by the psalmist who wrote:

- **Psalm 15: (Read)**

The question is not “To be or Not To Be”. The real question is “**To Trust in God or Not To Trust in God**” ...that is the question.

“I Can” says God. I’m talking about Biblical Hope an assurance in the heart, even a firm confidence concerning future things based upon God’s promises and revelation. I’m talking about a hope that is linked inseparably with a firm faith and a confident trust. The psalmist very clearly when he parallels “trust” with “hope”...

Psalm 146:3-5 - (Read)

The Final Answer Is:

“**To Believe**” in Him; who comes to you and finds ways to steady you in the midst of the storm, and brings you through with honor and dignity.

The psalmist said it best:

To look around is to be distracted (Ps. 77:3)

To look within is to be miserable – (Ps.77:1)

To look expectantly to God brings blessings – (Ps. 121:11)

I was once asked why I whistle and seem happy all the time and as I pondered that and my thought was I believe... therefore I praise; but there is an old hymn that answers that question as well as summarizes this message the comfort that Believing Brings ...”***His Eye is On the Sparrow***”

Why should I be discouraged and why should the shadows fall?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home?
When Jesus is my portion, my constant Friend is He,
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.

(Refrain)

I sing because I'm happy;
I sing because I'm free;
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know He watches me.

Let not your heart be troubled; these tender words I hear;
And resting on his goodness I lose my doubts and fears;
For by the path He leadeth but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.

(Refrain)

Whenever I am tempted; whenever clouds arise;
When songs give place to sighing; when hope within me dies;
I draw the closer to Him; from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.

(Refrain)

