

Monday, 7 November 2016

2 Chronicles 20:14-15, 20

And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ...And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."

How many times have I faced a situation where I was convinced that all was hopeless, I was about to become burnt toast? Too many to remember.

Yet the solution is so simple and straight forward. **Trust** in the LORD your God and **obey** His word, and you will succeed.

Tuesday, 8 November 2016

2 Chronicles 32:7-10, 20-21

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. After this, Sennacherib king of Assyria, who was besieging Lachish with all his forces, sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying, "Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, 'On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem?... Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword.

Sennacherib continues his diatribe and threats, pointing out all the other nations that have fallen to the Assyrians. But

Hezekiah and Isaiah remained firm and the LORD, God the Almighty struck down the Assyrians and their boastful, self-sufficient King.

I need to remember this story when the Evil One tries to fill me with anxiety, with a fear of what the future is bringing. I need to let go of the anxiety of Philippians 4:6 and replace it with the peace of God through prayer and thanksgiving. The result will be a mind that can focus upon the true, the honorable, the just, the pure, the lovely, the commendable, and the excellent.

Wednesday, 9 November 2016

Ezra 7:26

Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment."

My reaction, upon first reading of this passage, was, "Whew, glad I don't live in a theocracy" but a little reflection made me realize that almost all the laws of the United States are based on the 10 Commandments. We may not want to admit that but they are.

However, today as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, I face a far more serious penalty for disobedience. Loss of communion with my Father, His son and the Holy Spirit.

Someday, as I stand before that Great Throne, will I hear those awful words, "I know you not." (Luke 13:23-28)

To obey is to believe, to trust, to have faith and to commit to the LORD, God, the Almighty. It is not to say the Sinner's Prayer and go on my merry way.

Thursday, 10 November 2016

Nehemiah 9:16

"But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.

The story of Israel is a story of failure and repentance. The story of the Church is one of turning away to other gods and repentance leading to revival and restoration.

Psalms 80:7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Friday, 11 November 2016

Nehemiah 9:17

They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

Another statement of the LORD, God the Almighty's eagerness to forgive and restore. How much longer will His grace and mercy be extended to us, the rebellious church? The day is approaching in which all prophecy will be completed and He will return. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Saturday, 12 November 2016

Psalms 9:10-11

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!

Sing praises to the LORD! Sing praises! How precious to experience the sweet savor of renewed trust and find that He is still there. How sweet to be able to announce to all that the LORD has done great things for me.

Lord's Day, 13 November 2016

Psalm 119:17, 24

Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

This living in the Kingdom is not easy, it is filled with many potholes called trials, distractions called temptations and the writhing of the old man in his death throes. But Your word and testimony is ever at hand to counsel and lead me through the quagmire, it spreads the beauty of life in the Kingdom as a prize within my grasp readily at hand as I learn to delight in Your Law. Praise You for You deal bountifully with Your servant.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



November 7-13, 2016

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven
The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318
Essex Junction, VT 05452

or at
The Fellowship of Ailbe, voices@ailbe.org
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.