

## The Weekly Word

July 6-12, 2015

Hopefully you are enjoying the summer. While you do, keep up your Bible reading...  
Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link... <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>.

### Monday, July 6: 2Corinthians 13- Examine yourself...

The words of verse 5 stuck to me like superglue. *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.*

Examine myself... test myself...

God bids me to do the hard work, the really hard of looking inside to make sure my life is not a shame or a façade but is one of real and genuine faith.

Have I truly surrendered to Jesus as Lord or am I just pretending?

Do I care more about what God thinks of the way I live or what other people think about me?

Am I giving effort to living my faith?

Do I do what I read in the Bible or not?

If I were put on trial for being a Christ follower would there be enough evidence to convict me?

At this point I get what God is saying to me, now I have to step away from the keyboard and do it. I suspect if you are reading this you have examination work to do, too.

*God, grace me with eyes to see as I look inside... God, grace me with courage to be honest with myself... God, grace me with strength to deal with things You show me. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### Tuesday, July 7: Psalm 47- ...Remember what God has done...

What a wonderful way to start the day... This Psalm bursts on to the page with an exuberant display and declaration of the wonders of our God.

*Clap your hands, all you nations;*

*shout to God with cries of joy.*

*For the LORD Most High is awesome,*

*the great King over all the earth (1-2).*

From here the Psalmist recites some of the wonders and great things God has done for His people.

It is good to delight in God. It is good to sing God's praises. It is good to get excited about God and marvel in the wonderful things He has done.

I sit on a beautiful morning... a light breeze brushing my cheeks. Thousands of colors and hues dance in the sunlight as nature shines. God made it all. The Lord created and then placed me in the midst of the world to see and enjoy it. Oh, the wonders of the Lord, my God.

There was a Saturday on my recent trip to Africa when my computer was down to almost no charge and I had much work to do. The computer sent me a message that would have to 'go to sleep unless I plugged it into a power source.' I packed up and went in search of electricity. I walked everywhere on campus... no electricity anywhere. Kai... I walked back to my room. 'What would I do?' I sat down at my computer to make sure everything was saved. 2% battery!

As I was about to close my laptop, I heard the sound of the electricity coming on. God, be praised. I worked and charged my computer for many hours the rest of that day.

This is a small thing, but a God thing...

*Clap my hands, William Gestal;  
shout to God with cries of joy.*

*For the LORD Most High is awesome,  
the great King over all the earth*

And so I sat this morning remembering and thanking God for the many ways, BIG and small, that He has shown Himself to be an awesome and most high God!

*Praise be to the Lord...*

*praise the Lord most high.*

*Strike the drum, sound the trumpet;*

*crash the symbol, pluck the strings*

*Clap your hands, all you nations;*

*shout to God with cries of joy.*

*For the LORD Most High is awesome,*

*the great King over all the earth*

*Alleluia. Amen*

### **Wednesday, July 8: Psalm 48- Delighting in God...**

Another morning of praise and lofty thoughts about our God. Psalms like this one lift my spirits and I soar to heights of praise for my God, the God of all creation. This morning, I sing with the psalmist (1-2, 9-10, 14):

*Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,*

*in the city of our God, his holy mountain.*

*Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth,*

*like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. ...*

*Within your temple, O God,*

*we meditate on your unfailing love.*

*Like your name, O God,*

*your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;*

*your right hand is filled with righteousness. ...*

*For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

O happy day... O happy day, my God reigns. He is exalted. His name is known around the earth. People from every corner of the world know and praise His name. And today I add my voice to the chorus of praises who sing to our great and mighty God.

As I sit this morning I am simply delighting in God... God, my Savior. I meditate on thoughts of Him. I delight in His grace and mercy and forgiveness and love...

*Praise to the Lord the almighty, the king of creation.*

*O my soul praise his because he is my health and salvation*

*All you who bear, now to his temple draw near*

*Join me in glad adoration!!!*

*Praise and honor be to You, my Lord and my King, my God. Amen.*

### **Thursday, July 9: Psalm 49- Assurance in death...**

There is no escaping the inevitable... death will come to all of us. And there is no escaping thoughts of my own death someday as I read this Psalm.

The surety of one's death is the theme of this Psalm, but this is no morbid look at death. Instead it is a reality check, a reminder that death comes to all of us.

And following the lead of this Psalmist, I entertained the reality that someday I, too, will die. Is that the end? Is the hole in which they place my body, my final resting place? When my body decays and returns to dust... is that it?

I believe not. My heart resonated with the assurance of the Psalmist, *But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead; he will surely take me to himself* (15). I believe this with all my heart. I believe that upon death God will take me to be with Him, not because I somehow deserve that because I have been so good. Nor do I believe this because God takes everyone to be with Him after death.

No, I believe this because Jesus promised that those who have faith in Him will be raised from death to life for eternity. My assurance of life after death is faith in Jesus...

The New Testament teaches me that faith in Jesus gives us the assurance of resurrected life after death... so to Jesus I cling. In life and in death, I cling to Jesus.

What or whom do you cling to?

Think about it... because death is inevitable.

*Lord God, I am so thankful and grateful that You guarantee my future resurrection. I am humbled and in awe of You... thankful for Your gift to believe. I worship, adore and serve You, God... Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit. I praise You and I pledge my life to You.*

*Lord, I am Your vessel, use me as You will, for Your honor, glory and the announcement of Your name in all the earth. Through Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

### **Friday, July 10: Psalm 50- God speaks...**

My immediate thought, as I opened and began reading, was God speaks. *The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to where it sets* (1). We are blessed to have a God who speaks. He leads. He guides. He is not some mute idol or stone figurine. Our God is a living God who communicates.

As I continued reading I saw that, in this case, God's speaking calls us to account. *"Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am God, your God* (7). The judicial language sends terror up my spine. God, my judge, knows. He need not wait for others to testify against me, He Himself will testify against me. God sees the secret places of hypocrisy. Nothing in my life is hidden from Him.

Eventually God confronts duplicity and reveals our sin. *But to the wicked person, God says: "What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you* (16-17). The Lord leaves no doubt that He sees... He names some of the sins, declaring that He truly does see and hear what we think are hidden.

This Psalm brings me to a place of confession...

I am thankful for New Testament promises like 1 John 1:9 as I bow my head and life in confession... *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*As I woke this morning there was a song playing,*

Lord, I need You; O I need You.

Every hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness, O Lord how I need You.

*Lord, as I bow in prayer those words are so true. I dare not stand before You in my strength or goodness alone. Were I to do that, Your wrath would be heavy upon me. Instead I stand before You a sinner, blessed that my sins are covered and atoned for by the blood of Jesus, my Savior.*

*Lord, hear my confession... and purify me from all my transgressions so that I might lead a life that matters, that makes a difference for You in this world. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **Saturday, July 11: Psalm 51- Facing my sin...**

I have never committed adultery. I have never had someone killed to cover up a sin; such is the background of this Psalm of David. But I have sinned. I have grieved God and hurt other people and I have tried to cover it up, so this Psalm touches a sore spot in my life. Even though it confronts me with my sin, this Psalm leads me to confession and joy of restoration when I am honest with God and confess my sin.

Such is the dance of the Spirit I engage in this morning. Facing my sin, confessing my sin, experiencing the love of God flood and energize my life. Then renewing my commitment to make His name known to others.

*Lord, You are so good. You receive me back no matter what. You embrace me with Your love. You set my feet on Your solid ground. Oh to experience Your love and forgiveness, there is no sweeter breakfast in all the world. There is no sweeter way to start the day. You are good and I bow before Your goodness. Thank You, O Lord, for Jesus who purchased my pardon and forgives all my sins on the cross. Praise to You Father, Jesus and Spirit. Amen.*

### **Sunday, July 12, 2015, Sunday Worship**

*If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list... I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.*

*If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at [office@pcogonline.org](mailto:office@pcogonline.org).*

Click here for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.