

Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Monday 23rd March

Psalm 5

Our second strange week! But one that God can be glorified in, and we can draw near to him.

An interesting Psalm today. David knows he is a sinner, but draws a clear distinction between a redeemed sinner and an arrogant one.

He dwells on God's holiness, yet draws near to him with familiar confidence. God's holiness repelled non-believers, and causes the faithful to long for holiness themselves.

1 Listen to my words, Lord,
consider my lament.

2 Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

My King and My God delights in our prayers

3 In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

Confidence based on God's character, not mine

4 For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

5 The arrogant cannot stand
in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

6 you destroy those who tell lies.
The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, Lord, detest.

This should include me... BUT....

7 But I, by your great love,
can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down
towards your holy temple.

No social isolation here! We're invited to worship, and more than that, to dwell in God's presence.

8 Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness
because of my enemies –
make your way straight before me.

Our desire for holiness in our lives is a consequence of our relationship with him, not a precondition. He loves us so we long to please him.

9 Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
their heart is filled with malice.

Their throat is an open grave;
with their tongues they tell lies.

10 Declare them guilty, O God!
Let their intrigues be their downfall.
Banish them for their many sins,
for they have rebelled against you.

We leave those who do wrong to God. There is no place for personal hate.

11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Our joy as we rest in his almighty arms.

12 Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favour as with a shield.

David too lived in an uncertain world, with more than his share of problems.
But one thing is certain (and amazing!): God's blessing!