

Walking Through it All

One of the ways to read your Bible in times when you are walking through the Valley of Death's Shadow -- or any other desert place -- is to look for timeless principles, promises and commandments. God is always the same, so the ways in which He dealt with His kids *way back when* remain the same for us today. Among my favorite lookouts in the Bible are the Psalms, Deuteronomy, Proverbs, and Isaiah.

I was thinking about this Psalm last Wednesday during our fasting time, and one of the men in our church made reference to it in a letter he wrote me this week. (By the way, the letter is worth your reading, too). So I thought it would be fun to explore it together today.

Bible study isn't supposed to be some mysterious activity only for preachers and theologians. The best way to approach God's Word is to come simply and sincerely, believing that God knows how to get a message through to you so you can hear it and hold onto it. You don't need to *impress* Him -- just let Him *impress* you with His words.

Principles

¹¹ But the humble will inherit the land, And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

²¹ The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives. ²² For those blessed by Him will inherit the land; But those cursed by Him will be cut off.

²³ The steps of a man are established by the LORD; And He delights in his way. ²⁴ When he falls, he shall not be hurled headlong; Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land, And dwell in it forever. ³⁰ The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. ³¹ The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.

Promises

⁴Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it, ⁶ And He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday.

²⁵ I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread.

³⁴ Wait for the LORD, and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

³⁹ But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble. ⁴⁰ And the LORD helps them, and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked, and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him.

Commands

¹Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. ²For they will wither quickly like the grass, And fade like the green herb. ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

⁷ Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret, *it leads* only to evildoing.