



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

# Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

June 30th, 2021

“Song of Loving God”

Psalm 116

**SUBJECT.** — This is a continuation of the Paschal Hallel, and therefore must in some measure be interpreted in connection with the coming out of Egypt. It has all the appearance of being a personal song in which the believing soul, reminded by the Passover of its own bondage and deliverance, speaks thereof with gratitude, and praises the Lord accordingly. We can conceive the Israelite with a staff in his hand singing, "Return unto thy rest, O my soul," as he remembered the going back of the house of Jacob to the land of their fathers; and then drinking the cup at the feast using the words of the thirteenth verse, "I will take the cup of salvation." The pious man evidently remembers both his own deliverance and that of his people as he sings in the language of the sixteenth verse, "Thou hast loosed my bonds"; but he rises into sympathy with his nation as he thinks of the courts of the Lord's house and of the glorious city, and pledges himself to sing "in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem." Personal love fostered by a personal experience of redemption is the theme of this psalm, and in it we see the redeemed answered when they pray, preserved in time of trouble, resting in their God, walking at large, sensible of their obligations, conscious that they are not their own but bought with a price, and joining with all the ransomed company to sing hallelujahs unto God.

Since our divine Master sang this hymn, we can hardly err in seeing here words to which he could set his seal, — words in a measure descriptive of his own experience; but upon this we will not enlarge, as in the notes we have indicated how the psalm has been understood by those who love to find their Lord in every line.

**DIVISION.** — David Dickson has a somewhat singular division of this psalm, which strikes us as being exceedingly suggestive. He says, "This Psalm is a threefold engagement of the Psalmist unto thanksgiving unto God, for his mercy unto him, and in particular for some notable delivery of him from death, both bodily and spiritual. The first engagement is, that he shall out of love have recourse unto God by prayer, verses 1 and 2; the reasons and motives whereof are set down, because of his former deliverances, verses 3-8, the second engagement is to a holy conversation, verse 9; and the motives and reasons are given in verses 10 to 13; the third engagement is to continual praise and service, and specially to pay those vows before the church, which he had made in days of sorrow, the reasons whereof are given in verses 14-19."<sup>1</sup>

*The Treasury of David*

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME V, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

PUBLISHED: 1878

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<sup>1</sup> David Dickson (c.1583-1663), Church of Scotland minister & theologian. The quote is from his 3-volume, *Explanations of the Psalms*, published in London, 1653-1655.

## Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 116

**Instruction.** Israel, in her great deliverance from bondage in Egypt, and deliverance from death by Pharaoh who hated them (vv3, 9), had every reason to love God (vv1-2) and devote themselves to Him (vv14, 16-19).

**Reflection.** No one has loved the heavenly Father like the Lord Jesus; and no one has responded to the Father's love with a love for God and devotion to God like our Lord (vv1-2; 14, 16-19). The pains of death and pangs of Sheol were no more true for any man than they were for the Lord Jesus Christ, suffering upon Calvary's tree (v3); and no one was more "*greatly afflicted*" than the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, and "*smitten of God, and afflicted*" (v10; Isa 53:3-4). Finally, although the death of the redeemed saints are precious in Jehovah's sight, there is one death which is **most** precious in His sight, that of His only begotten Son, Jesus Messiah (v15; Isa 53:10).

**Application.** Our love for God is always a response to His revealing His person and work to us first. ALWAYS! This is grace. Therefore, any good works springing forth from a life in love toward God, viz., calling upon the LORD (v2b), calling upon His name for deliverance (v4), commanding our soul to rest in Christ (v7), walking before the LORD (v9), believing God and confessing His truth (10), and obedience to God through His Word (v14), is a response of faith and a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord (vv13, 17; Rom 12:1b) because it comes by the mercies of God in Christ (v16; Rom 12:1a).

## Devotional Challenge from Psalm 116

**Respond to God's love with love to God.** "*We love Him because He first loved us*" (1 Jn 4:19). [vv1-2]

**Respond to God's sacrificial love with a living sacrifice for God.** "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*" (Rom 12:1) [v15]

**Respond to God by faith, else we will be tempted to do good works by selfish motives.** "*...for whatever is not from faith is sin*" (Rom 14:23). [vv12-13]

## What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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