

DEVOTION FOR THE THIRTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST

PSALM 143

O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgement, for no one living is righteous before you.

The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead. So, my spirit grows faint within me; my heart is dismayed.

I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit faints with longing. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.

In your unfailing love, silence my enemies; destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Deuteronomy 24:1-22

laws relating to divorce and relations with others

Questions for reflection

Why was a man not to remarry his former wife, if she divorced or was widowed?

What benefit did a newly married man receive?

Why were land owners not to take everything from their fields?

Romans 8:1-39

Living in the Spirit awaiting future glory

Questions for reflection

Why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?

What is the blessing of setting our minds on the things of the Spirit?

What enables us to bear the sufferings of this life?

“NO CONDEMNATION”

Paul begins the eighth chapter of Romans saying, “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” There is no condemnation, because Jesus has paid the debt owed for our sin and for the sin of the world. There is no condemnation, because through His rising from death, Jesus has lifted the sentence of eternal death from the heads of those who believe. He is the resurrection and the life and in Him we have the promise of rising to a new and eternal life!

Because there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, we can live each day in relationship with God, knowing He is our loving Father. Despite the continuing presence of the sinful nature, He treats us not as our sins deserve, but as a kind hearted parent seeking what is good for His children. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and so even the things we suffer as an effect of living in a broken world, point us to the glory that is to come at the return of Christ and the renewal of all things.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and so we live by the Spirit and seek to please God with our lives. Living in the Spirit, we know that in all things God is working for our good in time and our greatest good in eternity. We live each day in the confidence of God's love promised to us through our baptism into Christ Jesus. We know that nothing will be able to separate us from God's love, because there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

"PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY" (Public Domain)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
Let all who hear, Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who over all things is wondrously reigning.
And as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen. All that is needful has been,
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew, What the Almighty can do,
As with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen, Sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

PRAYER

We thank you Lord Jesus that you have done everything necessary to restore us to a good relationship with your heavenly Father and that there is now no condemnation. We bless you for the Holy Spirit imparted to us in our baptism, who daily and constantly nurtures, nourishes and sustains us in this grace. Bless us in all things to know that you love us, seek our good in time and will bring us to the greatest goodness in eternity. Always give us faith to believe that nothing will separate us from your love. In your name. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BEMEDICTION Psalm 37:4

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."