

Monday October 26th

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

² **Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.**

**Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.**

⁵ Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.**

I Timothy 1: 1-17

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope,

² To Timothy my true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Timothy Charged to Oppose False Teachers

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work—which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

⁸ We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

The Lord’s Grace to Paul

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Tuesday October 27th

Psalm 132: 1-12

Lord, remember David
and all his self-denial.

² **He swore an oath to the Lord,
he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:**

³ “I will not enter my house
or go to my bed,

⁴ **I will allow no sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,**

⁵ till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

⁶ **We heard it in Ephrathah,
we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:^[a]**

⁷ “Let us go to his dwelling place,
let us worship at his footstool, saying,

⁸ **Arise, Lord, and come to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.**

⁹ May your priests be clothed with your righteousness;
may your faithful people sing for joy.”

¹⁰ **For the sake of your servant David,
do not reject your anointed one.**

¹¹ The Lord swore an oath to David,
a sure oath he will not revoke:

“One of your own descendants
I will place on your throne.

¹² **If your sons keep my covenant
and the statutes I teach them,**

**then their sons will sit
on your throne for ever and ever.”**

1 Timothy 1: 18 to 2:7

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, ¹⁹ holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. ²⁰ Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Wednesday October 28th

Psalm 116

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.

² **Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.**

³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“Lord, save me!”**

⁵ The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

⁶ **The Lord protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

⁷ Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.

⁸ **For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,**

⁹ that I may walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

¹⁰ **I trusted in the Lord when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;**

¹¹ in my alarm I said,
“Everyone is a liar.”

¹² **What shall I return to the Lord
for all his goodness to me?**

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁴ **I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.**

Luke 6; 1-11

⁶ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

³ Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave

some to his companions.”⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shrivelled.⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath.⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shrivelled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored.¹¹ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Thursday October 29th Psalm 143

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

**² Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

³ The enemy pursues me,
he crushes me to the ground;
he makes me dwell in the darkness
like those long dead.

**⁴ So my spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.**

⁵ I remember the days of long ago;
I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.

**⁶ I spread out my hands to you;
I thirst for you like a parched land.^[a]**

⁷ Answer me quickly, Lord;
my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me

or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

**⁸ Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.**

**Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.**

⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,
for I hide myself in you.

**¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;**

**may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.**

¹¹ For your name’s sake, Lord, preserve my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.

**¹² In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;
destroy all my foes,
for I am your servant.**

1 Timothy 4

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

⁶ If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters¹ you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.¹⁰ That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Friday October 30th

Psalm 144: 1-9

Praise be to the Lord my Rock,
who trains my hands for war,
my fingers for battle.

**² He is my loving God and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples^[a] under me.**

³ Lord, what are human beings that you care for them,
mere mortals that you think of them?

**⁴ They are like a breath;
their days are like a fleeting shadow.**

⁵ Part your heavens, Lord, and come down;
touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

**⁶ Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;
shoot your arrows and rout them.**

⁷ Reach down your hand from on high;
deliver me and rescue me

from the mighty waters,
from the hands of foreigners

**⁸ whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.**

⁹ I will sing a new song to you, my God;
on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you.

1 Timothy 5: 1-16

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

³ Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ⁵ The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. ⁶ But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. ⁸ Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹ No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰ and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

¹¹ As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. ¹² Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. ¹³ Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. ¹⁴ So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. ¹⁵ Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

¹⁶ If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.