

HAPPILY HOPING IN OUR CREATOR FATHER

Psalm 146; text verses 5- 6

November 15, 2020

Psalm 146:5-6 (NIV) Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-- the LORD, who remains faithful forever.

I. The Privilege We Have as Human Creatures

A. The amazing privilege is that the Creator of this vast universe would want a relationship with us, his human creatures.

1. We live on a huge universe in which this earth is but a speck of dust.
2. Yet, the Creator made us to be creatures to whom he would reveal himself, a creature to whom he would speak and with whom he would interact.
3. He made us to be creatures, whose actions he would pay attention to, and whose requests he would consider.

Psalm 8:3-4 (NIV) When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

4. What is even more amazing is that when we humans rebelled against him, God pursued us that he might continue to have a relationship with us.
5. And it is even more amazing what the nature of that relationship would be.

B. The privilege of being God's children through Jacob

1. Verse 5 refers to the great Creator as the God of Jacob.
 - a. The Psalmist here is referring to the promise that God had made first to Abraham in Genesis 17: 7, the promise that he would be Abraham, his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob's God and the God of their children after them.
 - b. Jacob is mentioned because the people who God chose as his own were Jacob's descendants.
 - c. God later changed Jacob's name to Israel.
 - d. And God's chosen people were the Israelites, the Children of Israel.
 - e. Out of all the creatures on this planet the Creator of this universe chose to have a relationship with human beings, and of all the human beings he chose to have a special relationship with Jacob's family and his descendants.
2. God considered the Children of Israel to be his sons, his children.

Exodus 4:22 (NIV) Then say to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,

C. The Privilege We Have of Being God's Children in Jesus Christ

1. The sad truth of the Old Testament is that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's children often did act like children of God and they often rejected him.
2. That is why God sent his Son Jesus as a sacrifice to atone their sin that they might be his children again by believing in him.

John 1:11-13 (NIV) He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

3. "All who receive him (that is, Christ)" includes more than just the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

4. It includes whoever who believes in Jesus as their Savior.

Romans 4:16 (NIV) Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

5. Not only is Abraham the father of all who believe, but if we believe in Jesus, God is our Father.
6. The apostle John proclaimed this truth to all Christians, Jewish and Gentile believers.

1 John 3:1a (NIV) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

7. When Jesus was here on earth to save all of us who are one with him by faith, he taught us to pray addressing his Father as "our Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 6: 9)

Questions:

- 1) How does it comfort me to know and realize that the God who made this huge universe decided to make us as creatures to whom he would reveal himself and with whom he would have a relationship?
- 2) How do I understand the fact that God chose to have a special relationship with some human creatures, Jacob's children, and not with others?
- 3) How does it comfort me to know that even when we humans rebelled against God, and continue to do so, that God continues to desire a relationship with us, sacrificing his own Son to make that happen?
- 4) How does it comfort me to know that of all the people God would choose to call to faith in Jesus, he chose me?
- 5) How does it comfort me to know that Jesus taught all who are one with him by faith to call his Father, our Father in heaven?" How does that assure me that my prayers will be answered?

II. The Importance of Continuing to Believe in our Creator Father

A. Not only do we become God's children by faith in Jesus Christ, we also continue to know God blessings as we continue to trust in him.

1. As Christians we continually confess "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."
2. And we find comfort and hope as we day by day put our faith and trust in God our Creator, who is our Father.

B. We often have a difficult with trusting anyone; and rightly so, because people often let us down.

1. That includes those we love and who love us.
2. That includes our leaders.
3. Our scripture warns us not to trust "in princes."

Psalm 146:3-4 (NIV) Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

- a. They die
- b. Their plans come to nothing.

C. The one made who made this world continues to rule over it, so that, in spite of sin and brokenness, life continues..

1. We have a lot worries today about pandemics, global warming, even global nuclear war.
2. Certainly, we must be good stewards of creation and we must be peacemakers.
3. But we are comforted in believing that our Creator God who reigns above and who has this world in his hands has chosen us as his children and has us in hands.

Matthew 10:29-31 (NIV) Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So, don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Questions:

1. Do I trust in my Creator Father each day? Has it given me comfort and peace? If not, does the fault lie with my Creator or with my faith? What can I do about that?
2. When is the last time that a person I trusted let me down? Why did he/she do so? Does the answer to that questions help me? Why or why not? Have I let others down? Why did I do that?
3. When is the last time one of our leaders let us down? Why was that? What should this say to us as we fulfill our responsibility to vote? Why should this make us humble about our political preferences? Why should this stimulate us to pray for our leaders?
4. We hear many calls today about what we must do to save the earth. How should I as a Christian respond to such calls?
5. How does trusting in my Creator Father comfort me as I consider the problems in our world?

III. The Benefits Our Creator Father Promises His Children

A. He does not promise they will not suffer

1. In fact, his benefits come to his suffering children.
2. We clearly see this in verses 7- 9.

Psalm 146:7-9 (NIV) He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

B. The help we receive is directly related to the hope that is ours in Christ.

Psalm 146:5 (NIV) Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

1. A few moments ago, we heard the verse which declared that the rulers of this world were mortals who do not live forever.
2. But in John 3:16 we also heard the words that those who believe in Jesus have eternal life.
3. Verse 10 points to the Lord's eternal reign.

Psalm 146:10 (NIV) The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD

4. We are looking forward to the day, when at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2: 10- 11)
5. And when that day comes, we will eternally live with him on the new earth, the home of righteousness, and he will wipe away all our tears.

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

C. Our Creator Father also promises help today.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NIV) For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

1. Until we finish our life's course that he has set for us, by faith we know he will sustain us and enable us to complete it.
2. When we say, "I believe in the God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth" we are saying that we believe that God our Father who made the heavens and earth will satisfy all our needs on the new heaven and earth, and that he who sustains life on this planet will sustain us until we get there.
3. In fact, he will make sure we arrive.

Questions:

- 1) What in my life today is causing me suffering? How does believing in my Creator Father help me as I go through this? Will having enough faith take my suffering away? (See 1 Corinthians 12: 7- 10) Or does trusting my Creator Father strengthen my faith? (See 1 Peter 1: 6- 7)
- 2) Some people would say that my waiting for the new earth for God to fulfill his promise to help me is my waiting for "pie in the sky when we die." How would I respond to that? Is there any conflict between my waiting for this ultimate fulfillment to suffering and my working to alleviate suffering in my life and in the world today?
- 3) As I struggle to complete the course God has set for my life, how does it help me to know that my Creator Father, who sustains life on this world, will sustain me?