

Sunday, March 22, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken." (*Psalm 62: 1-2*)

There's no doubt about it ... we are in a time of "waiting" as David alludes to in the Psalm. Maybe I should not speak for you. So I will speak for myself. I am in a time of waiting as we "wait" through this time of uncertainty. I find myself waiting for a few things: I'm waiting for the next batch of information about the status of the Coronavirus. I'm kind of addicted right now to keeping up with where things stand on the virus and its spread. I'm waiting to be told that the curve in "flattening out" as they say. I'm waiting to be told that there is a vaccine. I'm waiting for life to get back to "normal."

The only problem with waiting for these things is that I might as well also be waiting for the NEXT crisis that will come along in our world. As soon as this global crisis is over, the nations will go right back to threatening one another with war and domination. Then the news will be inundated with those kinds of things. (Actually, it's too bad that this Coronavirus crisis will not remind the planet Earth that we are all in this "thing" of life together. But I doubt that will happen.)

David shares great wisdom with us in Psalm 62. He says, "For God alone my soul waits..." He's really the only thing worth waiting for, because He's the only thing (the only One) who will not let us down. David says, "For God ALONE my soul waits..." He's not waiting for things that cannot be counted on. He's waiting for GOD ALONE!

David also says that He "waits in SILENCE." It's a confident "silence." It's a "silence" that causes David to know that he doesn't need to give God advice about how to run the world or even his personal life. He waits in SILENCE. This is much like the words of God in Psalm 46 that tell us: "Be STILL ... and know that I am God." David waits expectantly for good things from God. And He says, "He alone is my rock and my salvation." Again, nothing else is my "rock and salvation." Why not? Because they can change ... they can be lost ... they can let me down. But not God. In fact, God is "my fortress," as David says.

David also says that he will not be "greatly shaken." What does he mean? I think he means that even if he has time and moments of a certain level of anxiety or fear -- these will pass when he re-focuses his attention on God, who is ROCK! He can only be "mildly" shaken, or "temporarily" shaken, or "kind of" shaken, as we might say in our time. But we will not be "GREATLY SHAKEN." We will not give up or fall into deep despair. We are waiting for God alone, and we are waiting in humble silence...

Today being Sunday, I would like to provide you also with the opportunity for Confession and Absolution and a word of Prayer:

Confession:

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, and bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution (Forgiveness):

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Prayer:

Almighty God, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, Your ways are not our ways. In Your wisdom You have permitted this health crisis in our world. We implore You, let not the hearts of Your people despair nor our faith fail us, but sustain and comfort us. Direct all efforts that are being made to bring an end to this crisis. Bring hope and healing that we may find relief and restoration; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God's peace.

Pastor Jim