

Monday, May 25, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"**
(Psalm 91: 1-2)

As I write this devotional, it is a cloudy, rainy day. The sun is not shining. Correction ... it is shining just as brightly as ever. It's just not as visible because of the clouds. The sun is always shining – even at night. It's just shining on the other side of the earth. Some people find rainy days to be depressing. People often refer to rainy days as "gloomy." I try to keep myself from calling a rainy day a "gloomy" day. It would be more gloomy if it never rained. Rain brings life. No rain ... no life. Clouds bring rain. It can't always be sunny, or everything would dry up.

Life sometimes feels "gloomy" and dark because of what's happening. Life feels darker than we would like. We might even refer to certain times of life as "dark days." Does it feel like we are living in a "dark" time right now because of the coronavirus? I'm sure it does. It does to me, and my life hasn't been drastically affected by it – GLORY BE TO GOD! But when times are hard, it feels like "dark days." It feels like we are stuck in a shadow. But could it be that the darkness we are experiencing is because we are in the "shelter of the Most High" as the writer of Psalm 91 suggests? He tells us that the one who "dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the SHADOW of the Almighty."

It's a little darker in a shadow than it is in direct sunlight. But it's during the heat of the day that we seek out a place of shade. On a hot day, shade is a place of protection and relief. Maybe the days seem dark right now, but could it be that it's because God has moved closer and has cast His shadow over us?

I know this is a matter of perspective. It's a matter of faith. For those who don't know and trust in God, dark days are what they are because of the problem or crisis. But for those who do know and trust in God, dark days can be viewed as the time when God has moved closer to place us "under his wings," as it says in a later verse of Psalm 91. The Psalm goes on to say, "You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday."

Times of darkness are a matter of perspective. For those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that God always draws closer to us when we need Him most. The Bible says that "nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

God's peace!
Pastor Jim