

Week 4 - To all who call...

We are needy, we are in trouble, we are bankrupt, we are sick, we are hurting, we are dying; so why do we not come to this always good, always forgiving, always merciful God?

Jesus says to the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:17-18:

¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

God will freely give to all who call upon Him, but for the one who is content in himself/herself, they will not experience His goodness, forgiveness, & steadfast love.

QUESTIONS for THOUGHT:

- 1) Are you taking advantage of God's grace or are you trying to make it on your own?
- 2) Are you calling on Him for everything?

Each Day:

- 1) Read the Passage.
- 2) Answer study questions
- 3) Memorize the passage
- 4) Close with Song & Prayer

CHRIST OUR HOPE in LIFE and DEATH

Keith Getty & Matt Papa

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us night
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Chorus

Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore.

Chorus Twice

Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Listen to it here:

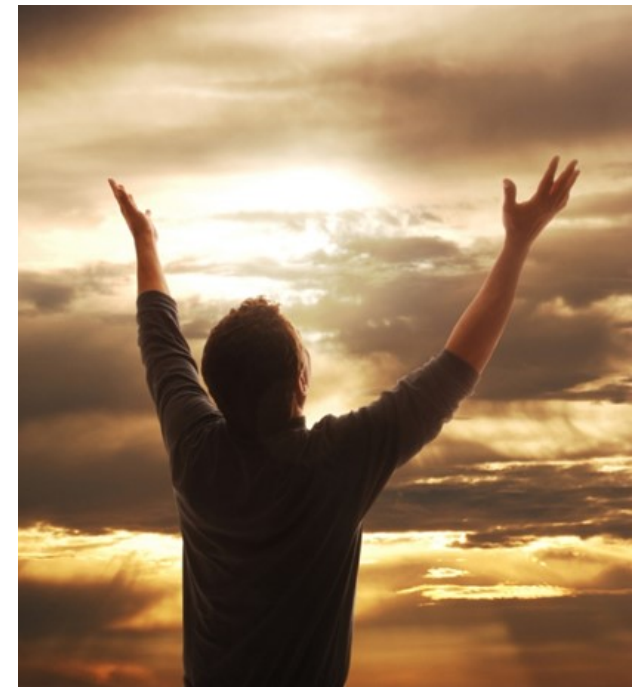
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oibli1rz7mw>

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June Memory Verse Song & Devotions

Psalm 86:5

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love
to all who call upon you.



Week 1 – God is good.

This has become a trite statement that many Christians will loudly declare when something good happens to them – God is good! The fact is that God cannot be anything other than good, because He has set the standard for what good is. We often try to claim the authority to determine what is good, but it is God that decides what is good and what is not good. If I were to ask you if a certain food is good, you may have a different answer to the same question as one of my children. So who's right? True goodness must have a standard, and God is that standard, therefore, God is always good no matter what is taking place in my life.

It is not surprising to find the Psalmist in a place of being “poor and needy;” We all find ourselves here at times. He is sad, he is discouraged, he needs salvation; but does he think for a moment that God is not good? No, as a matter of fact, that is the Psalmist's only hope: that God is good. Therefore, he appeals to that goodness for help and strength. When you think of God's goodness, do not limit it to good times, good feelings, or good seasons of life. He is always good whether we are thriving or surviving.

QUESTIONS for THOUGHT:

- 1) Are you poor and needy as the Psalmist was right now in your life? What are some areas of need that you have?
- 2) Do you tend to think only of God's amazing grace when things are going well in your life? Make a plan for how you will respond when things are not going well for you. (Hints from this Psalm - prayer, praising, & singing)

Close by reading all of Psalm 86 and singing the song of the month.

Week 2 – God is forgiving.

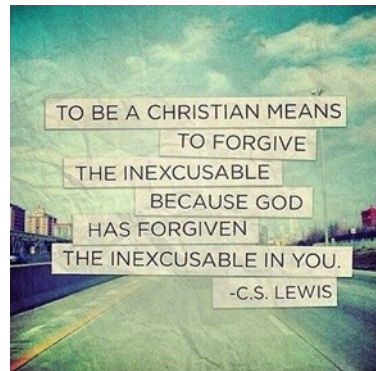
Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:36

Why would the Psalmist mention here that God is forgiving? Simple. Because he is asking for God's grace to save him from this dark moment in his life, and it is certain, just as it is certain for you and me, that he does not deserve God's goodness. That is why we call it grace: unearned or unmerited favor from God. We do not deserve God's help because we are all sinners, we have all betrayed Him, and we all have failed to fulfill God's purpose for creating us, to glorify Him (cf. Romans 3:23). Yet He still helps us, saves us, and blesses us with every needed grace when we call on Him. That is why the writer appeals secondly to God's forgiveness: because he and I need it. But not only do I need it, others need it also. Just as I am far from perfect, so is every other human on this planet. That is why Jesus has called us all to also be merciful or forgiving just as God, our Father, is forgiving.

QUESTIONS for THOUGHT:

- 1) Is there any forgiveness that you need right now from God?
- 2) Is there someone who needs your forgiveness right now? Forgive as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.



Week 3 – God is abounding in steadfast love.

The Hebrew word here translated “steadfast love” allows us to see the endurance of God's love for us. It does not go away on dark days and reappear on light days. God's love is never fickle; it is as constant as the North Star, and similarly can serve us as a mark of confidence as we navigate through this life. The Psalmist knows that when he is now in danger, he can confidently resort to God's steadfast love for refuge.

And what's more, God's love is not only steadfast, but He is abounding in that steadfast love. He is like a fountain of water that will never run dry, or even get weak in its supply. When I was growing up, there was a small community park in my hometown and every winter, the town would cut the water off to the park's few small water fountains. I remember on a number of occasions coming in April or May to play, getting extremely hot, tired and thirsty, running to one of the fountains for relief only to be disappointed because the town maintenance man had not turned the water back on yet. What a great disappointment – almost enough to make a 5 year old want to go home. Ok, not really! You will never come to God when He cannot supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phi. 4:19).

QUESTIONS for THOUGHT:

- 1) Why do you think that people often resort to God after trying other answers when we are promised His steadfast love?
- 2) Are you spiritually or emotionally thirsty today? Why not run to the Fountain of God's love?