

Encouragement Bulletin No. 141

Have you ever woken up at 4.a.m. in the morning, with a cold sweat, agonizing over some responsibility due TODAY? Better to get out of bed, make a cup of tea and ask God to help!!!! And HE DOES. Why? Because He is committed to every detail and minute of our lives. HE is involved in every TODAY!

Maybe TODAY is your birthday? Perhaps you have been asked to attend a celebration? You may have a decision to make? You may have an appointment with the doctor? You may have 50 emails to answer or messages to text on your iPod or Cell phone? There are many demands on you today and you may not have the time or the energy, or the inclination to reply. TODAY may be a hard time for you. There is sorrow, pain, hurt and bewilderment. Does GOD genuinely care? The lovely old chorus below says:

Yesterday, TODAY, forever, Jesus is the same
All may change, but Jesus never, Glory to His name.
Glory to His name, Glory to His name,
All may change, but Jesus never!
Glory to His name.

Jesus was concerned with daily living and responsibilities. He was concerned for His disciples and He taught them to pray. Below is a modern version of the Lord's Prayer; -

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us TODAY our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Another lovely prayer is taken from the Mothers' Union Service and prayer book. It is the personal prayer of its founder, Mary Sumner. Mary devoted her life in the UK to encourage Christian family values and was especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life. Her personal prayer each and every DAY was as follows; -

"All this day. O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for Thee; and every life I touch, do Thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. In the name of Jesus."

We read in the New Testament in the book of Hebrews Chapter 3 verse 13 ... encourage one another daily, as long as it is called TODAY so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness... TODAY if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts." Another translation says, "For as long as it still God's TODAY, keep each other on your toes so sin doesn't slow down your reflexes."

And again in Chapter 4 verse 7 "Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it TODAY ..."

We read in the Gospel of Luke 23: 42-43 when one of the thieves who was crucified with the Lord said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, TODAY you will be with me in paradise."

Music arranged to a Fiji Island folk melody is joyfully sung to these words,

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made. that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us TODAY and evermore. Amen.