

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday April 26th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



We need to be grounded and firmly planted in God's Word, for our lives, our hearts and souls to be fed by the scriptures... reading and learning and trusting in those promises that are food to our souls, 'I will never leave you or forsake you', Your God, the God of Israel, neither slumbers nor sleeps'.

Jesus said,
'Love the Lord your God with all your soul, all your strength and all your mind, do this and You will live.'
'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.'

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. (Psalm 1)

Roots are where the tree gets its goodness.

Roots provide the nourishment to feed the tree in order for it to produce green leaves and fruit.

Roots are where the tree gets its strength to withstand the battering of the severest weather and strong winds.

For all this to happen the roots need to go far down into the ground reaching to the place where they will be watered.

Without good roots the tree would blow over and die.

The psalmist compares the righteous man to a tree firmly planted.

Lord our roots get stronger and deeper, so that when the storms of life come and we all experience sorrow, grief, stress and troubles, we need to remember the promises that they will not overwhelm or break us.

Look at the trees around.

The young saplings are fastened to posts to keep them upright and to help them stay strong until their roots are well grounded. Young and new believers need the support of mature Christians to pray and encourage them, to help them stay strong until their faith is well grounded.

Older trees, especially those exposed to the elements, become bowed over. There is a tree high up on Exmoor that stands alone and exposed; it is almost bent to the ground, battered by the strong winds, but is not broken as it is firmly established and the roots grow deep. So with mature Christians the worries and pressures of life may batter us but we will never be broken if our roots are firmly established and deep.

Alyson Page

Psalm 46

Luther's Psalm.

When life falls apart we must run to God.
Does this Psalm speak to you in this
Corona Virus epidemic?

In the first four verses there are four poetic images

The Earth had given way,
The mountains had been tossed into the heart of the sea,
The waters roar and foam,
The Mountains shake and swell.
Then the Psalmist says Selah....Think about that!

Throughout the bible the mountains were always a symbol of stability. They don't move. Some of the ancients even believed that the pillars held up the sky. The sea represents chaos and instability a reversal of God's created order. God judged the world with a flood in the days of Noah. To the ancients again to take a cruise for pleasure was considered an impossible idea. You travelled over the sea as quickly as possible. In this time of Corona Virus there is a tendency to think that everything is out of control. That the world is falling apart. Before the virus we might have thought that things would go on in relative safety, but now all parts of life are so uncertain.

But how do we respond. Verse 2 says 'I WILL NOT FEAR'. Why because 'God is our refuge and strength, and He is a very present help in times of trouble.' As the people of God we are able to respond with confidence. The mountains might tremble but we won't shake for God is our Refuge and Strength. if we are prone to anxiety this might seem impossible. But we must not underestimate these powerful words.

The great Reformer Martin Luther was overwhelmed with anxiety and depression. Yet God used him mightily in the Protestant Reformation. Fearful of a thunderstorm he promised God that he would go into a Monastery to be a monk if he survived. Luther was looking for refuge. But entering the Monastery only increased his anxiety and depression. His devotions, confessions (often confessing to a Priest for several hours) gave him no peace. He sometimes returned to the poor Priest to confess more. He starved himself, refused warmth. Then when he became a Priest he was so fearful celebrating the Mass he ran out of the Church.



Eventually Luther found his true fortress in our Lord Jesus Christ. An Augustinian monk Johann Von Staupitz gave him a scripture. Staupitz was instrumental in helping Luther understand the basics of the gospel and pointed Luther to a God who was gracious and merciful and compassionate. This picture of God was a far cry from the cruel and exacting judge that presided over the troubled thoughts in Luther's mind. He shared with him from scripture that the Just shall live by faith. Rom 1v17 and others. .

'And so, the lights came on for Luther. And he began to understand that what Paul was speaking of here was a righteousness that God in His grace was making available to those who would receive it passively, not those who would achieve it actively, but that would receive it by faith, and by which a person could be reconciled to a holy and righteous God.' RC Sproul Justification by Faith Alone: Martin Luther and Romans 1:17. Knowing Christ as his fortress, God had wrought a great work in Luther's life as He does in every believer, God opened his eyes to see that he was made right with God through God given faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. He was bold enough to publish the 90 theses that accelerated the protestant reformation.

Sunday Exodus 14v14

'The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.'

Monday Isaiah 40 v 31

'He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.'

Tuesday Isaiah 41 v 13

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you"

Wednesday 2 Chronicles 7 v 14

"If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Thursday Deuteronomy 31 v 8

'The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'

Friday Philippians 4 v 19

'And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.'

Saturday Psalm 103 v 2

'Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits.'

Services of Prayers Hymns and Readings.

Prayer by Martin Luther.

Heavenly Father, dearest God,
I am an unworthy, poor sinner,
not worthy to lift my eyes or hands to You
or to pray.

But since You have commanded us all to pray,
and since You have promised to hear,
and since You have taught us by word and example
through your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

I come to you,
according to your command,
obedient to you,
and relying on your gracious promise,
and in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ,
with all your holy Christians on earth,
I pray as he has taught me:

The Lords Prayer...

Source: Martin Luther, in *Die Gebete Luthers*,

Bible Reading Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of
the sea;

3 Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the
city of God,

The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has made desolations in the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariot in the fire.

10 Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Hymn From The Psalter 1912ALT

1 God is our refuge and our strength,
Our ever present aid,
And, therefore, though the earth gives way,
We will not be afraid;
Though hills amidst the sea be cast,
'Though foaming waters roar,
Yea, though the mighty billows shake
The mountains on the shore.

2 A river flows whose streams make glad
The city of our God,
The holy place wherein the Lord
Most High has His abode;
Since God is in the midst of her,
Unmoved her walls shall stand,
For God will be her early help,
When trouble is at hand.

3 The nations raged, the kingdoms moved,
But when His voice was heard,
The troubled earth was stilled to peace
Before His mighty Word.
The Lord of hosts is on our side,
Our safety to secure;
The God of Jacob is for us
A refuge strong and sure.

4 O come, behold what wondrous works
The Lord's great might has wrought;
Come, see what desolation great
He on the earth has brought.
To utmost ends of all the earth
He causes war to cease;
The weapons of the strong destroyed,
He makes abiding peace.

5 Be still and know that I am God,
o'er all exalted high;
The subject nations of the earth
My name shall magnify.
The Lord of hosts is on our side,
Our safety to secure;
The God of Jacob is for us
A refuge strong and sure.

Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ alone, is the "safe stronghold" or "mighty fortress" within which God's people are protected from lethal assault and in which they are secure in the company and arms of Him. 'Stronghold': the word occurs repeatedly in the Palms. "The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble" (Ps. 9:9) "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Ps. 18:2)

Old Testament

BibleQuizzes.org.uk

1: How many books are there in the Old Testament?

- 27
- 29
- 37
- 39

2: In what language was the Old Testament written?

- Arabic
- Hebrew
- Greek
- Latin

3: What relation was Jacob to Abraham?

- Son
- Brother
- Father
- Grandson

4: How many sons did Jacob (Israel) have?

- 12
- 7
- 9
- 3

5: From which country did Moses help the Israelites escape from their lives of slavery?

- Edom
- Midian
- Egypt
- Moab

6: Which tribe of Israel looked after the religious aspects of life?

- Levi
- Benjamin
- Dan
- Asher

7: On which day of the year could the High Priest enter the Holiest Place, the inner most part of the temple where the covenant box was kept?

- Day of Atonement
- Easter Sunday
- Passover
- Feast of Tabernacles

8: Which of the following was not a judge?

- Jephthah
- Samson
- Deborah
- Laban

9: Israel split into two kingdoms after the reign of King Solomon, with Israel in the north, but what was the name of the southern kingdom?

- Judah
- Edom
- Syria
- Philistia

10: Who was king of the southern kingdom when the northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria?

- Manasseh
- Jehoram
- Hezekiah
- Asa