

Names of God: El Chaiyai – God of My Life

Psalm 42.8

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • April 24, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Colossians 3.1–4

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on God and Christ

Persuasion:

I. Psalm 42.6–11 • Cry to God Because He is the God of Your Life

A. Remember God when cast down.

1. The psalmists did this over and over again.
2. They knew that he was the solution regardless of what the problem was.

**6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me;
Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan,
And from the heights of Hermon,
From the Hill Mizar.**

– Psalm 42.6

3. He cried to God about the condition of his soul,

a) knowing that God loved him and

b) that he can be touched

(1) by the infirmity of the soul.

(2) God knows the darkness we feel

(a) better than we do.

(b) Why then keep it from him?

i) He waits patiently for you

ii) to speak to him.

4. The psalmist remembered God.

a) He was listening to his own advice

b) to hope in God.

5. We remember God constantly

- a) when it comes to a cast-down body, but
 - b) why are we not as vigilant
 - (1) when it comes to a cast-down soul?
 - (2) God can help us when we have a cast down soul.
- B. The psalmist questioned whether God had forgotten him:
- 7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls;
All Your waves and billows have gone over me.**
- 8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,
And in the night His song shall be with me—
A prayer to the God of my life.**
- 9 I will say to God my Rock, “Why have You forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”**
- 10 As with a breaking of my bones,
My enemies reproach me,
While they say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”**
- Psalm 42.7–10**
- 1. He was drowning in the troubles of his soul.
 - a) I had a dream one night of one of my children drowning.
 - (1) What an awful experience.
 - (2) Perhaps you have had that experience but you were drowning.
 - b) The psalmist was drowning in
 - (1) false charges against God,
 - (2) his exile from home, and
 - (3) the depression of his soul.
 - 2. Deep was calling unto deep, that is suffering calls unto suffering, because
 - a) one experience of suffering
 - b) called out for another form of suffering
 - (1) to attack.

- (2) It is as though suffering knows that we are down.
 - (a) So it takes advantage of us,
 - (b) calling for another form of suffering to attack.
 - c) Do not problems seem to come all at once?
 3. Yet, the psalmist drew back to God.
 - a) He knew that experiencing God
 - (1) is a night and day phenomenon,
 - (2) leading him to be confident of God's help at all times.
 - b) His attitude was changing.
 - (1) In verse 3, he spoke of tears
 - (2) being his food during the night.
 - (a) Now in verse 8,
 - (b) God's song was with him.
 - (3) Therefore, he would make a prayer to *the God of his life*.
 4. Others questioned where the psalmist's God was,
 - a) then the psalmist asked the same question.
 - (1) He equated his mourning with
 - (2) believing that God had forsaken him.
 - (a) He affirmed that God was his rock.
 - (b) Therefore, he wanted to know why
 - i) the enemy was allowed to oppress him.
 - b) The reproach of the enemy was like the breaking of the bones.
 - (1) Sticks and stones may break our bones, and
 - (2) so can mocking words.
- C. Knowing that the Lord was the God of his life,
1. he asked himself a couple of questions, but then

2. knew the answer:

**11 Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God;
For I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.**

– Psalm 42.11

3. He knew where the victory was!

- a) He re-evaluated where his soul had been.
- b) How had he allowed himself to get to this point?

4. He declared with confidence that God was his mental therapy.

- a) He told himself:
 - (1) hope in God,
 - (2) look forward to praising God,
 - (a) reminding himself
 - (b) that God was the help of his countenance, and
 - i) truly that he is the God of our lives.

II. Psalm 73.25–26 • The God of My Life Is the Strength of My Heart

A. You need to read Psalm 73.

- 1. When you think that life has been unfair to you,
 - a) although you try to do what is right,
 - b) you to read Psalm 73.
- 2. When you do not understand why the wicked do evil, but
 - a) prosper for it,
 - b) while you do what is right and
 - (1) don't prosper for it,

(2) you need to read Psalm 73.

B. The psalmist knew

1. that God was good to Israel, but
2. the psalmist said that he was ready to fall away, because
 - a) he observed the prosperity of the wicked and
 - b) he observed the suffering of the righteous, and
 - (1) it made him question God.
 - (2) Yet, he could not bring himself to do that.

C. At verse 17, he finally discovered the truth of

1. what God does with the wicked and
2. what God does with the righteous.
 - a) At verse 21, he confessed
 - (1) that he had been vexed in his mind and
 - (2) that he had been foolish.
 - (a) Therefore, he decided to remain with the Lord,
 - (b) now knowing that the Lord was with him the whole time.

D. Then he said this:

**25 Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.**
**26 My flesh and my heart fail;
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

– Psalm 73.25–26

1. Look at man, especially the wicked, and
 - a) have a troubled heart, but
 - b) look to God and
 - (1) have a strong heart.

2. Later, Peter would sound like Asaph,
 - a) when many people turned away from Jesus and left him,
 - b) he asked the apostles whether they wanted to go also,

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

– John 6.68

- E. Asaph knew that when his outward and inward man failed,
 1. God did not fail,
 - a) making him the strength of Asaph’s heart, and
 - b) making God his portion.
 2. The wicked can have their things, but
 - a) Asaph had God!
 - b) The Lord was the God of his life.
 - (1) He is the God of our lives also.

III. Philippians 1.21 • Jesus Is the God of My Life

- A. Philippians 1 shows
 1. that while Paul was in prison,
 2. some members of the church,
 - a) who did not like him,
 - b) tried to stir up trouble for him
 - (1) while he was in prison:

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I

rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

– Philippians 1.15–18

- (2) The only thing that mattered to Paul
 - (a) was for Jesus to be preached, and
 - (b) these troublemakers were preaching Jesus.
 - i) For Paul, it was not about himself, but
 - ii) it was all about the Lord, because
 - (1) Jesus was the God of his life.
 - (2) This is what happens
 - (a) when Jesus is the God of your life.
 - (b) You cannot lose and you win no matter what.

B. Therefore, listen to what Paul continued to say:

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

– Philippians 1.19–21

- 1. You cannot defeat a person who thinks in this manner.
- 2. He knew that he would get out of prison, either
 - a) by their prayers and the supply of the Spirit the Romans would release him, or
 - b) he would die.
 - (1) He just wanted to magnified and
 - (a) if that happened by his life,
 - (b) he was happy, or

- i) if it happened by death,
 - ii) he was pleased.
- (2) If he kept living,
- (3) he was living for Christ.
- (a) If he died,
 - (b) he gained because he went to be with Christ.

IV. Colossians 3.1–4 • Jesus Is Our Life

A. This sounds similar to what we just saw, but

1. Paul adds some thoughts
2. that show what our lives are about, and
 - a) how Christ being our life
 - b) affects what we do:

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

– Colossians 3.1–4

B. Colossians 3.1–2 • Where Is Your Mind?

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

1. Paul said some wonderful things here,
 - a) all predicated upon the fact that Christians were raised with Christ.
 - b) How or when were we raised with Christ? (Romans 6.1–4)
2. Please observe that being raised with Christ

- a) does not culminate our Christianity and
 - b) thus you are free to do whatever you desire.
 - (1) No, if one thing is true,
 - (2) then Paul argued something else is true.
 - (a) If we have been raised with Christ,
 - (b) what then should we do?
3. Our minds should go heavenward.
- a) That is where Christ is.
 - b) He is sitting at the right hand of God.
 - (1) Should not our minds be where Christ is because
 - (a) we were raised with him and
 - (b) we shall later be with him.
4. What did Paul mean that we should not set our minds on the earth?
- a) Heaven's concerns should be our concerns.
 - b) Avoid the entanglements of this life (2 Timothy 2.4).

C. Colossians 3.3 • Hidden with Christ

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- 1. We died, yet, we are alive.
- 2. However, our lives are hidden with Christ in God.

D. Colossians 3.4 • Appearing with Christ

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- 1. If we have died, but are alive, then how do we explain that?
 - a) Christ is our life.
 - b) He is not just a way of life,

(1) he is life.

(2) Without him there is death.

2. What great upcoming event did Paul reference?

a) The appearing of Jesus Christ also known as the Second Coming of Christ.

b) What will happen when he appears?

(1) We will appear with him.

(2) In what state shall we appear?

(a) We shall be in glory just as he is in glory.

(b) Jesus is our life.

Exhortation:

I. From this day forward,

A. see the God of the Scriptures

B. as the God of your life.