

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR READ THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY FOR 03/06/13**

**1. THE GROUP OF PSALMS FOR YOUR READING, PSALM 96 TO 101, IS A WONDERFUL SET OF SONGS. ALL OF THEM CALL ON US TO PRAISE GOD. IDENTIFY SEVERAL PHRASES IN EACH PSALM THAT ARE CALLS TO PRAISE HIM. NOW SEARCH THESE PSALMS FOR REASONS TO PRAISE GOD. YOU'LL HAVE A SHORT, BUT POWERFUL LIST OF REASONS TO JOIN THE ANGELS (AND YOUR FELLOW CONGREGATION MEMBERS) IN PRAISE TO GOD.**

**2. PSALMS 90-106 FORM THE FOURTH BOOK IN THE PSALMS. FIFTEEN OF THE SIXTEEN PSALMS IN THIS BOOK ARE PSALMS OF PRAISE, BUT PSALM 102 IS THE PRAYER OF A LONELY, AFFLICTED PERSON. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONCERNS OF THIS PERSON? PERHAPS YOU ARE SIMILAR TO THIS PERSON, LIVING IN A TIME WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH FOR WHICH TO PRAISE GOD, YET YOU FEEL BURDENED. WHICH BURDENS OF THE PERSON WHO WROTE THIS PSALM ARE ESPECIALLY CLOSE ON YOUR HEART? WHAT BROUGHT HOPE TO THIS PERSON (SEE PSALMS 102:12-13, 16-17, 25-27)? ISAIAH HAD SIMILAR CONCERNS AND SIMILAR HOPE (ISAIAH 51:6,8). ULTIMATELY, CHRIST IS OUR SALVATION (JOHN 11:25). PRAISE HIM AS YOU PRAY PSALM 103-106.**

**3. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE FAR AWAY FROM THE TIME WHEN OUR COUNTRY CELEBRATES OUR NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY, IT'S STILL A TIME TO "TAKE NOTICE," AS THE PSALMIST SAYS (PSALM 107:43) OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE. IDENTIFY SOME THINGS THAT GOD HAS DONE BY LOOKING AT THESE SECTIONS OF THE PSALM, VERSE 49, VERSES 10-16; VERSES 17-22, VERSES 23-32, VERSES 33-41. FINALLY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE (PSALM 107:1-2, 42-43)?**

**4. HOLD ON A SECOND! DON'T PASS IT BY! TODAY'S READINGS INCLUDE THE SHORTEST PSALM- IN FACT, THE SHORTEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE- PSALM 117. IT MAY BE SHORT, BUT IT PROCLAIMS A VERY IMPORTANT TRUTH. YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE NOTES OF THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE (P. 961): "(PSALM 117) CELEBRATES GOD'S GRACE, WHICH BEGAN IN ISRAEL BUT IS EXTENDED TO ALL NATIONS THROUGH CHRIST." PAUL MAKES THIS POINT ALSO. READ ROMANS 15:8-9. WHEN DID CHRIST BECOME A SERVANT OF THE JEWS TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES MADE TO THE PATRIARCHS (MATTHEW 15:24; ROMANS 3:1-2, 21-26, GALATIANS 3:6-9)? WHAT BLESSINGS DO WE WHO ARE GENTILES HAVE AS A RESULT OF GOD KEEPING HIS PROMISES TO THE JEWISH PATRIARCHS? WHY, THEN, DOES THE PSALMIST CALL ON ALL NATIONS AND ALL PEOPLE TO PRAISE THE LORD? SING "NUNC DIMITTIS (LSB P. 165) AS YOUR OWN SONG OF PRAISE FOR YOUR SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS. (SEE COPY ATTACHED.)**

**5. AS YOU READ PSALM 119, ASK YOURSELF, WHAT SEEMS TO BE A GREAT CONCERN OF THE PERSON WHO WROTE THE PSALM? SEE PSALM 119: 5, 9, 33, 67, 86-88, 125, 133, 145. WHAT IS ANOTHER**

CONCERN THAT THE WRITER HAS? SEE PSALM 119: 6, 22, 25, 51, 61, 29, 85, 110, 121, 134, 150, 157. IN SPTE OF HIS DESIRE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S LAWS, WHAT IS THE PSALMIST'S CONCLUSION (PSALM 119:176)? HE REALIZES, BY GOD'S GRACE, THAT HIS SALVATION WILL BE A REALITY ONLY IF THE LORD WILL "SEEK YOUR SERVANT" (PSALM 119:176). THE PSALMIST, AND YOU, CAN TAKE GREAT COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT THE LORD HAS SOUGHT US OUT TO FORGIVE AND REDEEM US (PSALM 119: 41; LUKE 19:10).

6. MANY PEOPLE HAVE A LOT GOING ON THESE DAYS: LENTEN SERVICES, SCHOOL SPORTS, EASTER AND SPRING BREAK PREPARATIONS, TAX PREPARATIONS, AND MORE. THERE WILL BE A LOT OF COMING AND GOING. TODAY READ AND MEDITATE ESPECIALLY ON PSALM 121. RIND AND COMMENT ON THE PHRASES THAT ASSURE YOU THAT GOD WILL BE WITH YOU HELP YOU, EVEN WITH ALL THE COMING AND GOING. THEN PRAY OR SING THIS PRAYER:

JESUS, GUARD AND GUIDE THY MEMBERS,

FILL THEM WITH THY BOUNDLESS GRACE,

HEAR THEIR PRAYERS IN EV'RY PLACE.

FAN TO FALMAE FAITH'S GLOWING EMBERS;

GRANT ALL CHRISTIAN, FAR AND NEAR,

HOLY PEACE A GLAD NEW YEAR!

Lsb897:4 (PS. 120-125)