

Living Lent | March 3

Waiting for The Lord

*Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;
Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.
If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.*

Psalm 130 (NIV)

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

The Lenten season is a time for reflection. As we move toward the celebration of Easter, the most momentous event in all of human history, we take the time to ponder all that God has done. And as we reflect, we are reminded that God is with us at all times, even those we deem troublesome.

Psalm 130, one of our Scriptures for the day, helps us to see this. The psalmist is in the midst of difficult times. He declares, “Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord.”

When did you last find yourself in, “the depths?” It has been said that every person is in one of three places. You are in the midst of a crisis, coming out of a crisis, or about to be in a crisis. The truth is that crises are part and parcel of human existence.

We often find ourselves in, “the depths.” Interestingly enough, this might be our own fault. We go through some crises due to our own sinfulness. But that is not always the case. As happened to Job, we may go through times of hardship that are not of our own doing. This can lead to doubts and fears. It can even lead to despair.

But throughout Psalm 130 the poet speaks of faith in the midst of despair. “I wait for the Lord...in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord.” Very few things are more difficult than waiting on the Lord when life is going in the wrong direction. It takes faith to say that you will trust in the midst of trials.

And yet, there is this moment, as the poet Sidney Lanier wrote in, *The Marshes of Glynn*, “When faith overmasters doubt, and I know that I know.” It is in those moments that God clearly speaks and offers His assurance that He will never leave us, that we find the strength to carry on.

At the end of this text we hear the psalmist plea with others to trust the Lord, too. “O Israel, wait for the Lord...with him there is plenteous redemption...” The psalmist has been satisfied with God’s presence, and he wants the same for others. He calls them to faith.

There are many lessons for us here, but two stand out. We must trust the Lord, no matter the circumstances, for He is trustworthy. And we are to invite others to trust Him as well. I pray that during this Lenten season, as we wait for Easter, that we will trust our Lord, and will help others to trust Him, too.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

Shellman Bluff Baptist Church (sbbc.online) is located in Townsend, Georgia near Blackbeard Creek, and represents a thriving body of believers dedicated to sharing Christ and God’s love to their Community and the world. Dr. Bradley S. (Brad) Butler has served as the Pastor at SBBC since December of 2019 and prior to that time, served as Pastor of Churches in Louisiana, Indiana, Michigan, and Georgia. A graduate of Shorter College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he is married, has two grown sons and one precious granddaughter. Pastor Brad and his wife are enjoying their time on the Bluff.

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