



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 25.1-10

[Worship]

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 34 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.”
luke 21.33-35

[Words]

Consider:

A Righteous Hope —

By the time Luke 21 was written, the promise of the savior's return had shaped the expectations of God's people and they were peering intently into the signs of the times - just as we can see today, “signs” of a world “in exile,” yet yearning for resistance to evil.

Advent is such a significant season, that everything resounds with “signs.” It is a time that we remember Jesus' first coming, and do anticipate his second. Since we look to His coming, we prepare with HOPE and preoccupation towards righteousness here and now, instead of superstitiously concentrating on signs and wonders which are merely “signs,” not a connection to God.

We live today. We love Him today... We do look forward, struggling with time's constraints and possibilities. But what really matters is not knowing the future, or getting everything our selfishness demands, or living life free of trouble, or even for the way Advent and Christmas makes us feel - but the way we bear ourselves over the long haul of things—Thankful to God for giving us a living HOPE.

Are you content to be personally safe in Christ with God to the exclusion of finding Jesus' character, and walking like Him in His “Way?” Are there “Signs” of personal apocalypse around you—either your own, or other's around you? Can you honestly offer “Hope?” Are you able to honestly receive Hope? Imagine, what are roadblocks to Hope?

[Scripture]

1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.