



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 107.1-9, 43 [Worship]

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. 4 Some wandered in desert wastes,

finding no way to an inhabited town; 5 hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. 6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; 7 he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. 8 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. 9 For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

43 Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

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### Consider:

[Words]

These texts concern the foolish destructiveness of self-sufficiency. Luke's parable portrays a "fool" who is a great accumulator and who imagines that his vast possessiveness adds to his well-being. In the end a) he talks only to himself in his isolation, and b) his self-preoccupation is interrupted by death.

Colossians echoes the same conviction with the telling phrase, "greed which is idolatry" (3.5). Greed is a way of worshipping wrong gods. Colossians, however, goes further. It not only warns against such self-destructiveness, but commends a "new self"—the one baptized into Christ who centers life not on self, but on "compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness" (verses 12-13). There is a genuine alternative!

This teaching is urgent in our society. Not only because of the perennial seduction of greed, but because we live in a society of bad tax law, bad credit arrangements, and bad advertising, all of which seek to make greed into a civic virtue. We know better! We may choose against such foolishness for a life of neighborliness.

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[Scripture]

Luke 12.13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." 16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' 18 Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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