

LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE

Scripture: Psalms 143:1-12

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This is identified as a Psalm of David. David wrote many Psalms and most of them were inspired by some suffering to which he was subjected.
 - B. No one knows for sure what time of trouble prompted him to pen this Psalm. Many think it was when his son Absalom was trying to kill him.
 - C. As in all others, there are some great practical lessons for God's people in any age or generation.
 - D. I purpose to approach this Psalm in a little different way.
- I. LEARN THAT IT IS SOMETIMES GOOD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO READ THE LAST OF THE STORY FIRST. v.12
- A. v. 12 Here David calls upon the Lord to win the battle for him ... And, God did just that. But not before David suffered many setbacks and anxious hours.
 - B. Anyone wishing to read the account of the Pacific Campaign of W.W.II would do well to follow this advice.
 - C. Don't start with Pearl Harbor---nor with Wake Island---nor with Corregidor---nor with Bataan---Don't start with the Battle for Guadalcanal--nor with Tarawa---nor with Iwa Jima. To do so is quite depressing.
 - D. Start with a plane ride. Get on board the B-29 "Enola Gay" piloted by Col. Paul Tibbetts and fly with him over Hiroshima. After seeing this, you can rest easy because you now know the conclusion to the whole war.
 - E. The first 11 verses of this Psalm paint a very dark picture of David's life and his outlook on life. The last verse sees him turn the whole matter over to God who will give him the victory.
 - F. The whole of God's word to man ... the Bible ... is like that. At times things go from bad to worst and there are times when the devil seems to be getting the upper hand with man.
But, if you read the last few chapters of the last Book, you know how it all turns out.
- II. LEARN THAT MAN'S STAY ON THIS EARTH IS FOR BUT A FEW DAYS AND FULL OF TROUBLE. vs. 3,4
- A. Job voiced this many years before David's day Job:14:1 "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble."
 - B. vs. 3, 4 seem to echo this truth.
 - C. This is especially true of all who will live godly ... They SHALL suffer persecution.
- III. LEARN IT IS THE ENEMY'S PLAN TO KEEP MAN IN DARKNESS AND DESPAIR. vs. 3,4
- A. "he hath made me to dwell in darkness"
 - B. Catholic church (2 Peter 1:20)
- IV. LEARN SOME POSITIVES AND SOME NEGATIVES IN PROFITABLE PRAYER.
- A. v. 2 sets forth two things we should remember in prayer.
 1. Lord, do NOT enter into judgment of thy servant... for if you should, I would not be able to stand.
 2. Lord, I know that in Thy sight I can do nothing to justify me before You.
 3. Never, never come before God with the present world's philosophy-- "I deserve it."
"I 'm worth it."
 - B. v. 1 We can only plead God's righteousness and His faithfulness. As Moses pled... "God, you said."
 - C. v. 8 We can plead our trust in the Lord.
- V. LEARN THAT OUR GOD WANTS US TO LOOK TO HIM FOR BOTH DELIVERANCE AND DIRECTION.
vs. 8-11

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- A. For deliverance.
 - 1. v. 9 Deliver me.
 - 2. v. 11 quicken me
 - 3. v. 11 bring my soul out of trouble.
- B. For direction.
 - 1. v. 8 cause me to hear thy loving kindness cause me to know the way wherein I should walk
 - 2. v. 10 Teach me to do thy will
 - 3. v. 10 lead me into the land of uprightness
- C. We must depend on God to deliver us from sin and sorrow. It then makes sense that we should depend on Him to guide us through this life with all its pitfalls.