

The Watford Word

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What's on



January Theme - Psalm 91 and the Lord's Supper

Monday 27th January: First mentoring training session on Zoom

Sunday 02 Feb: 10:30 AM. Toby Agerbak is our speaker from the NW region of the London ICOC.

Wednesday 5th Feb: 8 PM. "From Seed to Harvest" - outreach equipping series second Zoom session - "Building Relationships" with guest speakers TJ & Sonia Masalanami.

Sunday 09 Feb: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 16 Feb: 10:30 AM. Stefan speaking

Sunday 23 Feb: 10:30 AM. Osagie speaking

Psalm 91 - Summary

Psalm 91 has been our Scripture thread throughout January. What impact has it had on you? Today, we will briefly examine the final four verses of the Psalm.

From victim to victor

"You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot." (13)

Lions and adders are dangerous animals who mount surprise attacks from hidden places. The Psalmist is probably using them as metaphors for

very real human enemies. Moses reminded Israel that it was God who gave them victory:

"...it is the LORD your God who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to give you victory." Deut 20:3b-4

Jesus gave a similar promise to his followers with a warning not to confuse confidence with pride:

"See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:19-20 NRSV)

Our worst enemies are lying in wait for us.

"Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8 NRSV)

How do we react to this threat?

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." (James 4:7-8 ESV)

We need have no fear of any human or spiritual enemy because Jesus has defeated them all.

"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor 15:54-58 NIV11)

We serve God wholeheartedly with perseverance and hope not because we are powerful in ourselves, but because we have the power of the resurrected life of Christ in us!

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you." (Romans 8:11 NRSV)

Superior Promises

The final few verses of the Psalm rest on the foundations of the promise of God's power in the lives of those who trust him.

"Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation." (Psalm 91:14-16 NRSV)

The promises to Israel were magnificent. But the promises to us are of an entirely different order.

"Whereas Israel was promised God's conditional protection, we are promised God's unconditional presence. Under the old covenant, the people had to dwell in God. Under the new covenant, God dwells in us. There is no comparison." POSB

Look at these promises: He will deliver, protect, answer, be with us in trouble, rescue, honour us, give us long life, grant satisfaction and salvation. All of these are available. What is our part? To love him and trust him.

In the end, what strikes me most from this wonderful Psalm is that it is not an argument for faith, but an inspiration to *exercise* faith. The question running through my mind is how much I truly trust God with my life, my hopes, my ambitions, my worries and my future?

God blesses, Malcolm

From Seed to Harvest

Here are the dates for the rest of the series:

Class 2 - 05 Feb. Building Relationships.

Class 3 - 19 Feb. Sharing Your Faith Story.

Class 4 - 05 Mar. Addressing Common Questions and Objections.

Class 5 - 19 Mar. Demonstrating the Gospel Through Service.

Class 6 - 02 Apr. Navigating Worldviews.

Class 7 - 16 Apr. Living a Missional Life.

Class 8 - 07 May. The Role of Pre-Evangelism.

Class 9 - 14 May. Using a Bible Study Series.

Afghanistan



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WATFORD CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
<https://www.hopeworldwide.org.uk/give>

- Select amount
- Tick "I am a UK taxpayer" if you are one (this gets an additional 25% from the government)
- Select "Afghanistan General" from designation dropdown
- Put "Watford Collection" in the comment box

The collection deadline for the work of HOPE worldwide in Afghanistan is the end of January.

Watford Contribution Details

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