

# MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 October 2020

## Combined Worship Service

*"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)*

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.30 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415);  
Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045); Elder Royce Yeo (HP : 9362 3067)

## THE WORD LIBERATES (Psalm 119:25-28)

Life is full of storms. We weather all kinds of storms. Some of us got lost in the storm. We are in a big ocean. We do not know where we are. We are driven aimlessly in the ocean. We are helpless. There is no sign of help. We are desperate. We cry out to God for help. I think this is what King David was in in one period of his life. I hope today's meditation may encourage you (if you are in the pit) and lift you up to sing praises to the Lord.

**My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word (25).**

**My soul cleaveth unto the dust (25a).**

The picture here depicts the heavy condition of the heart and spirit of King David. He may be in afflictions or his life may be in imminent danger. He is in a desperate condition. He has no more hope of life, no more relief and no more strength to sustain himself. Like a man dying of an incurable disease, he is just waiting to sink into the grave.

The question is: Why was he so cast down beyond all hope of relief? Why was his soul so cast down and disquieted in him? Why was he so conscience-stricken? Could it be sin? Sin presses us harder than anything else. Sin robs us of the joy of salvation (Psalm 51:12).

**... quicken thou me according to thy word (25b).**

When a person is in such desperate condition, what will he do? There is no doubt, he will cry for help. That is exactly what David did. He said, “Quicken thou me.” His cry was “Lord, I beg you, please revive my soul, enliven me, or make me alive again because of my drooping spirit.” He was dying to get out of that misery.

Thankfully, God heard his cry. How was he revived? The text tells us, “... according to thy word.” “Word” here may refer to “God’s promise.” One of God’s promises is found in Isaiah 40:31 – “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Surely David must have experienced this promise of God. In Psalm 40:1 and 2 he said, “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”

David waited patiently for the Lord. We are not told how long he waited for the Lord. Hudson Taylor said, “It is not lost time to wait on God.” But in his appointed time, God delivered him from all his troubles. God’s clocks keep perfect time.

Dearly beloved, is your spirit drooping? Are you at your lowest ebb? Like David, cry out to God, for he will revive you according to his Word.

**I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes (26).**

I have declared my ways (26a).

Declarations are made before God and men. In verse 13 David declared God’s judgments (i.e. God’s judicial ordinances) before men and here he did it before God – “I have declared my ways.” David was open to God. He knew that he is omniscient and that he could not hide anything from him. Therefore, he openly confessed and acknowledged his ways before God. Such a declaration proves that he knows his own condition and is no longer blinded by pride. Pride prevents a man from admitting his wrongdoing.

Open confession is good for the soul. Nothing brings more ease to a man than an open acknowledgement of his wrongdoing. David said, “There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me” (Psalm 38:3, 4). The more we keep quiet of our sins and refuse to confess and acknowledge them, the more miserable, heavy hearted we become (Psalm 32:3, 4). However, if we acknowledge and confess it before God (Psalm 32:5), blessed are we (Psalm 32:1, 2).

... and thou heardest me (26b).

God never rejects the prayer of the humble. David knew it too well. In Psalm 34:6 he said, “This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.” God always resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). He never turns away the prayer of the humble.

... teach me thy statutes (26c).

Here is a sign of a humble man. David, having confessed and acknowledged his wrongdoing, still asked God to teach him his statutes. Instead of getting angry with God, he wanted to know more of his will for his life. And so he asked God to teach him his Word so that he may know God and his will for his life. The will of the Lord is revealed in the Word of God. To know the Word is to know the will of God. Unfortunately, some people get upset with God when they cannot get what they prayed for. As a result, they refuse to read his Word and do his will. These things ought not so to be (James 3:10).

**Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works (27).**

Make me to understand the way of thy precepts (27a).

Having declared his ways of wrongdoing, David now pleaded with God to teach him to understand his way which is according to his Word. The same verb “make me to understand” also occurs in verses 34, 73, 125, 144 and 169.

Why do Christians slip away? Why do Christians backslide? Why do Christians go wayward? Why do Christians stumble? Christians go astray because they do not know or understand the way of God which is found in his Word. Someone may ask, “I have been faithfully reading the Word, but why do I still drift away from God?” The answer is simple. You may read the Bible through and through but still do not know the way of God. The reason is that you have never understood what you read, and therefore you do not know the way of God. The Word is clear. Those who read it with spiritual understanding will experience great peace in their heart and nothing causes them to stumble (Psalm 119:165).

Let us make every effort not only to read the Word but also to ask God to grant us spiritual understanding of it. Forsake your lunch or dinner, sell your shirt and use the money to buy a good Bible commentary to help you understand his precious Word.

...so shall I talk of thy wondrous works (27b).

How can I talk of God's wondrous work in my life if there is no God's working power in my life? Indeed, God had done a marvellous work in David's life. Elsewhere he said, "I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works" (Psalm 145:5).

Indeed, the Lord has done marvellous work in our lives. Do you have anything to testify about his marvellous doing in your lives?

**My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word (28).**

My soul melteth for heaviness (28a).

The general tone of this verse is the same as verse 25. This part of the verse depicts many of us even our Lord Jesus. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying, he said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death" (Matthew 26:38).

The question is when our soul weeps from sorrow, when our heart is heavy, "What do we do?" and "Where do we find refuge?"

... strengthen thou me according unto thy word (28b).

The answer is the Word of God. The word "strengthen" has a variety of meanings here. It may be translated "raise me up" or "make me to stand" or "establish me." When a person is down in spirit, he needs to be raised up again. And there is no other way to help a drooping soul to stand again than the Word of God.

Here is a very important principle of counselling. The Word is our counsellor (Psalm 119:24). Therefore, whenever you are called upon to counsel troubled souls, you must not forget to use the Word to counsel them because only the Word can make a downhearted soul stand on his feet again.

Dearly beloved, are you weathering a storm in your life now? May you be lifted up according to the Word of God. Amen.

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit,  
Out of the miry clay,  
And set my feet upon a rock,  
And established my steps.  
He has put a new song in my mouth

Praise to our God;  
Many will see it and fear,  
And will trust in the Lord.  
(Psalm 40:2, 3)

*Pastor Colin Wong*

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**Theme for the Quarter :**  
**FREE IN CHRIST (An Exposition on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians)**

**Combined Worship Service :**  
**Speaker : Rev Colin Wong**  
**What is Church Discipline? (Matthew 18:15-20)**  
**Interpreter : Brother Seow Zhi Fa**