

2020.10.25 Sunday Sermon <God Helps Us>

Psalm 48:1,14

*Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.
For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

Psalm 33:16-22

¹⁶ *No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.*

¹⁷ *A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.*

¹⁸ *But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
¹⁹ to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.*

²⁰ *We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.*

²¹ *In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.*

²² *May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.*

As we read through Psalm 33, we see the Lord helping the country in trouble. Especially reading the verse 20, we see why we wait for the Lord. Today, we want to receive grace by focusing onto Lord's **HELP**.

1. **Hope** (Image of Sunflower Field)

When I think of the word hope, the field of sunflowers come to mind. As we read through Psalm 33, we are reminded of how the Lord helps us by providing hope to all of us.

- **Psalm 33:20**

²⁰ *We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.*

- **Jacob** is one of my favorite biblical characters. He had many ups and downs in his life and each time he faced challenges (see Genesis), the Lord gave him hope to move forward. We see this in Psalm 146:5.

- **Psalm 146:5**

⁵ *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.*

- Abraham's son Isaac has twin boys - Jacob and Esau. Jacob steals Esau's birthright, is later deceived himself, and eventually is renamed "Israel" (one who wrestles with God). At the end of his life, Jacob blesses his sons and foresees a king from Judah's line who will ultimately fulfill God's promise to Abraham.

- **Genesis 28** - Jacob steal Esau's birthright and left Beersheba to his Uncle Laban
 - **Genesis 31** - Jacob flees from Laban
 - **Genesis 34** - Jacob's daughter Dinah was abused by Schemites
 - **Genesis 37** - Jacob's son Joseph is sold as slave

2. **Empower** (Image of Many Soldiers in Battle Ground)

Recently on the news, we saw North Korea's parade filled with their soldiers and new missile. Some may feel that such pride shows empowerment, but when we read through Psalm 33, the Lord is the one who provides us strength and power to overcome troubles.

- **Psalm 33:16-17**

¹⁶ *No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.*

¹⁷ *A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.*

- We see how the Lord provides strength to both David (Psalm) and Paul (Philippians) -

Psalm 18:1 *For the director of music of David the servant of the LORD. He sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: ¹ I love you, LORD, my strength.*

Philippians 4:13

¹³ *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

- In 2 Chronicles 16, we read about last years of Asa. In verse 9, we see how the Lord provides hope and strength to fight the Ethiopian's soldiers.

2 Chronicles 16:9

⁹ *For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."*

- **Story Behind Brooklyn Bridge**

The masterwork of John Augustus Roebling, the Brooklyn Bridge was built (1869–83) in the face of immense difficulties. Roebling, an engineer, had developed his own method for weaving wire cables, which became one of the leading constructional components of his bridge designs. He built a series of suspension bridges, including the Cincinnati–Covington Bridge, later renamed the John A. Roebling Bridge. He died at the beginning of the Brooklyn Bridge's construction as a result of an accident on site, and his son, Washington Roebling, suffered a crippling attack of decompression sickness (caisson disease) after taking over as chief engineer. Confined to his apartment in Columbia Heights (Brooklyn), Roebling continued to direct operations with the help of his wife, Emily Warren Roebling, observing with field glasses and sending messages to the site with her assistance. A compressed-air blast that wrecked a pneumatic caisson slowed the work, as did a severe fire that smoldered for weeks in another caisson, a cable that parted from its anchorage on the Manhattan side and crashed into the river, and the fraud perpetrated by a steel-wire contractor that necessitated the replacement of tons of cable. At least 20 workers were killed during construction, and many more suffered decompression sickness. At the end of the construction, Emily Warren Roebling mentioned that it was through Lord's help they were able to complete this bridge.

3. **L**iberation (Image of Woman Breaking the Shackle)

The Lord frees us from all the troubles we face day to day.

- **Psalms 33:18-19**

¹⁸ *But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,*
¹⁹ *to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.*

- In Book of Nahum, we see how God is slow to anger, but that God will by no means ignore the guilty. God will bring his vengeance and wrath to pass. God is presented as a God who will punish evil, but will protect and liberate those who trust and in Him.

Nahum 1:12-13

¹² *This is what the LORD says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more.*

¹³ *Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."*

- **Romans 8:1-2**

¹ *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,* ² *because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you^[a] free from the law of sin and death.*

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

- **Story of Pastor Joo Ki-Chul**

The fourth son of a farmer in Gyeong-nam Woong-cheon was a great student. He finished school in Pyongyang and was admitted to Yon-hee College. His father, also an elder, wanted his son to become a successful businessman. One day, the son became ill and lost his vision. The parents took him to many hospitals and doctors but nothing worked. The son became so depressed he started to rely onto alcohol and cigarettes. One night, the parents wanted the son to come to the revival at church. At first he was reluctant to go, but when he arrived, he heard the pastor's

sermon and the word's pierced into his heart. He started to weep for a long time and realized that his illness was due to his sins. He asked the Lord for forgiveness and started to cry out his repentance. The Lord heard his cries and liberated him from his sins and illness. He received Jesus into his heart and became a well-known pastor in Korea.

4. **Pray** (Image of Man Praying in Open Field)

Whenever we are in trouble, we tend to worry or regret about the past decisions. During these difficult moments, we must kneel and pray to the Lord.

- **Psalm 33:21-22**

²¹ *In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.*

²² *May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.*

- In Romans Chapter 8, the Lord tells us...when we are weak, pray to the Lord. When we pray to the Lord, don't request or give list of your wishes. Give a true prayer and ask that His WILL be done.

Romans 8:26-28

²⁶ *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

²⁷ *And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who ^[a] have been called according to his purpose.*

- **Story of Greek God and King**

One of the Greek gods told the king that he may ask any wish and it will be done. The King right away asked to have many gold as possible...he even asked that whatever he touched be turned to gold. Miracle did occur and anything the king touched turned to gold. His dog, queen, son, spoon, rice...at the end he died of hunger. As shown on this story, prayers are should not be filled with you own wishes. Ask the Lord that His will be done.

In Summary

It is Jesus Christ who provides us with hope, strength, and freedom. Let us all remember that Our Lord Father HELPs us every step of the way.

- **H**ope
- **E**mpower
- **L**iberation
- **P**ray

Prayer

Deliver me from the darkness and hide me so that the rough winds pass
As I am wandering in the darkness, please hear my cries
Lord, take care of me and hide me from the storm