

2021.01.03 Sunday Sermon <A Good Day Before God>

Psalm 146:1-2

¹ *Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul.*

² *I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

Genesis 1:31

³¹ *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Happy New Year! Our Father has shown his love and grace for us every day. What can we do to make sure we live a good day before the Lord?

- **Exodus 16:4**

⁴ *Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.*

- **Psalm 68:19**

¹⁹ *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.*

- **Lamentations 3:22-23**

²² *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.*

²³ *They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Through today's scripture, let us learn what we can do to make this year a good year in God's eyes. How can we make this year be filled with Holy Spirit and make every day a good day before the eyes of our Lord.

1. Daily Praise

- Lifting His name through daily praise is one way we can make a good day before the eyes of our Lord. David, who went through many difficult challenges in life always gave praise with thanks.

Psalm 145:2

² *Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever.*

Psalm 22:3

³ *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises*

- When Daniel was thrown into lion's den, he still prayed to the Lord and lifted his name by giving thanks.

Daniel 6:10 & 22

¹⁰ *Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*

²² *My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."*

- **Story of Sankey**

Sankey was the leader of the hymns under Pastor Moody. While he was on a trip, someone recognized him and ask him to sing "Our Lord, the Good Shepherd". After he finished singing, someone came over to him and asked, "Were you a in the army during the civil war?" Sankey responded, "Yes." The gentleman continued and said, "I was aiming at you and trying to pull the trigger...but you started to sing. It was the same hymn you just sang. It was the same hymn my mother use to sing. Once I knew you were a believer in Jesus, I couldn't shoot you."

- **Story of Pork Cutlets**

After daily routine training, soldiers in Korea were having lunch. The menu was pork cutlets. Typically, each soldier receive one cutlet with one cup of sauce, but this time they received two cutlets without the sauce. The soldiers started to complain. The senior vet heard this and told everyone...while transferring food for lunch, there was a mistake. Because we received extra boxes of pork, there is a group of soldiers eating lunch without the pork and only having extra sauces. Once hearing the explanation, the soldiers stop complaining. Just like the soldiers, we complain about little things. As we start of the new year, let us think more positively.

- In elementary school, students receive stickers from their teacher if they have done something well. I pray that at the end of each day, the Lord will be pleased with our day and give us the "very good" stickers to all of us.

2. Daily Commitment

- Similar to David, Paul was faced with many challenges in his life. Everyday his focus was on committing his life to the Lord. Everything he did was to lift the Lord's name.

2 Corinthians 11:28

²⁸ *Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.*

2 Timothy 4:17

¹⁷ *But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.*

As Paul looks back at his life, he knew that the Lord helped him in every step of his life. The Lord has given us these precious days. Let us not waste these days but use the given time to commit to the Lord where ever we are.

- As we look further into Acts, we see how Paul spent each day spreading the word of Our Lord. How shall we spend our day? Will the Lord say we have spent it well?

Acts 2:46

⁴⁶ *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,*

Acts 5:42

⁴² *Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*

Acts 17:11

¹¹ *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

- Jesus also showed importance in how we spend our days here on earth. The parable of bags of gold from Matthew chapter 25 shows how the master was happy with the servants who was able to increase the amount of gold.

Matthew 25:21

²¹ *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

- **Story of Charles Schwab**

Schwab began his career as an engineer in Andrew Carnegie's steelworks, starting as a stake-driver in the engineering corps of the Edgar Thomson Steel Works and Furnaces in Braddock, Pennsylvania. He was promoted often, including to the positions of general superintendent of the Homestead Works in 1887 and general superintendent of the Edgar Thomson Steel Works in 1890. One night, when Andrew Carnegie was late at work, he walked around the office and noticed Charles Schwab was still working. He asked why he didn't head home. Charles responded, "You were still in the office and didn't know when you will need my assistance." In 1897, at only 35 years of age, he became president of the Carnegie Steel Company.

3. Daily Repentance

- As we look back at different chapters of Psalm, we see how frequently David asked for repentance from the Lord.

Psalm 16:7

⁷ *I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.*

Psalm 6:6

⁶ *I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.*

Psalm 6:9

⁹ *The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.*

- Similarly, as we look through the New Testaments, Paul also frequently asked for repentance from the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:31

³¹ *I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 7:19

¹⁹ *For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.*

1 Timothy 1:15

¹⁵ *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.*

- **Story of a Pastor**

A pastor was known to clean and organize his desk every night. When asked why, he said the following, "You never know what will happen overnight." Just as David and Paul asked the Lord for daily repentance, we also need to repent and clean ourselves since we just don't know what our future holds.

- **Story of John Bunion**

John always asked himself each morning and night the same questions.

- In the morning, he started his day by saying, "Do you know when your last day will be? Pray constantly for your soul."
- In the night, he ended his day by asking, "What sins have I made? What did I do and say that require repentance from the Lord? Until you asked for repentance on all of your sins, do not go to bed."

The word *January* comes from the Greek word *Janus*. Janus, in ancient Roman religion and myth, is the god of beginnings, transitions, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. Hence, for the month of January, it is time for us to look at the past and to the future.

As the Lord looks down upon us, let us make sure each day we live is a good day before God. Let us make sure each day we praise, commit, and repent daily. Let us pray.

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us
Much we need Thy tender care
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us
For our use Thy folds prepare
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are
We are Thine, who Thou befriend us
Be the guardian of our way
Keep Thy flock from sin defend us
Seek us when we go astray
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Hear Thy children when we pray
Blessed Jesus, oh blessed Jesus
Hear Thy children when we pray*