Psalms - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Depression: 3

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PSA 9:9

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psa. 9:9

Felt depressed lately? I'm sure we all have had days when we're "down". But sometimes those days just won't seem to go away. Troubles hit us every day and we don't know what to do. There are deadlines at school, there are pressures at work, the money you thought was in the bank just wasn't there after all, your boyfriend stood you up . . . again, the boss was mad at you because you messed up (at least, he thought so), your parents griped at you because your room looked like a war zone . . . and on and on and on. What can you do? Turn to the Lord. He's there waiting to help and encourage you. When King David's men turned against him he found his comfort in the Lord. We can do the same. He really cares about how we feel.

CareLines: Volume 2, Praise: 3

PSA 9:1

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart.

Psalm 9:1

David praised a lot. He appreciated what the Lord had done for him. And yet King David really didn't understand about forgiveness of sins, a home in heaven, and all the things we know through the teachings of the New Testament. How much more, then, we should be able to praise the Lord for everything He has done for us. He died to save us. He shed His blood to wash away our sins. He's gone to prepare a home in heaven for us. He's coming again to take us there. Surely we can praise the Lord with our whole heart.

CareLines: Volume 7, Punishment

Thy wrath lieth hard upon Me, and Thou hast afflicted Me with all Thy waves.

Psalm 88:7

Here is another verse that describes for us what the Lord Jesus felt when He experienced the wrath of a holy God against sin. Jesus was forsaken by His God. God turned His back while His Son was punished for our sin. Awful sin - awful suffering - awesome Saviour.

CareLines: Volume 7, Suffering

Thou hast laid Me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.

Psalm 88:6

The Lord suffered untold agonies at the hand of God. On the cross of Calvary the suffering of the Lord from man was nothing compared to what He felt when God forsook Him. We will never know the extent of His suffering. We just get some heart-rending words in the Scripture that show how bad it was. Thank God that Jesus bore the punishment for our sins and we have the wonderful privilege of a full and free salvation through faith in Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Trouble

PSA 88:2-3

Let my prayer come before Thee: incline Thine ear unto my cry; for my soul is full of troubles.

Psa. 88:2, 3

Is there someone reading this that feels this way? My soul is full of troubles! Sometimes there is no place else to go for help and counsel but the Lord Jesus. Others may not understand what you are going through, but Jesus does. He heals the brokenhearted. Has something or someone really hurt you? Turn to Jesus. He will help to heal the wounds. He alone can restore peace to your troubled heart. Cry out to Him. He's listening - always!

CareLines: Volume 2, Longing

PSA 84:2

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord.

Psa. 84:2

Wow! That's some longing! David just couldn't wait to be with his Lord. We should be that way too. Heaven, and being with the Lord, is the greatest hope a Christian has. And it's a certain hope - it's guaranteed. It's the only place of perfect and complete happiness. Let's start fainting for heaven!

CareLines: Volume 3, Communion

SEPTEMBER 19

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary.

Psalm 77:13

To know God's way you have to get into His presence and have personal fellowship with Him. Satan would tempt us to go one way or another, but God's way is in the sanctuary - in His holy presence, listening to His voice. When was the last time you were there?

CareLines: Volume 2, Communion: PArt 1

PSA 77:13

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

Psa. 77:13

You'll never know how great and good God is unless you spend time in His presence. A quiet time with God, worshipping Him, thanking Him, and listening to Him is the way to appreciate His greatness. How much do you go into the sanctuary - that place of quietness, away from everything, where you can commune with the Lord?

There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the throne of God.

The Lord WANTS your fellowship; you need HIS. The Christian life is two-way communion.

CareLines: Volume 3, Held

MAY 5

Thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psalm 73:23

The right hand is the hand of strength. And mine, as a child of God, is held by the Lord. This is a real comfort in times of trouble. The One who holds me by my right hand is stronger than all. He who controls the universe by the word of His mouth - He holds my hand.

CareLines: Volume 7, Courage

PHI 4:13

I will go in the strength of the Lord God.

Psalm 71:16

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

Another verse says, “Through God we shall do valiantly.” When we have confidence in ourselves, we give no credit to God, and we will fall. The secret to personal courage and being able to stand in the face of danger is having our confidence in the Lord and His strength.

CareLines: Volume 7, Suffering

Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.

Psalm 69:1

A cry of desperation. David was feeling this pressure from God and so cried out for help. In type, he speaks and feels what our Lord Jesus experienced in connection with Calvary. The awfulness of God’s wrath against sin was so terrible that Jesus felt as if He were drowning in a turbulent ocean. We will never know the full extent of what Jesus suffered, but we can always thank Him for bearing it for us.

CareLines: Volume 7, Suffering

I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing.

Psalm 69:2

The suffering of the Lord was so intense that it felt as if He were sinking in thick mud. His suffering at the hand of a holy God will never be understood. We can never enter into the depth of the punishment that He endured. Praise God that we won’t have to. The Lord Jesus bore it all so that we could go free. He was willing to suffer for us that He might bring us to God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Trouble: PSA 69:17

PSA 69:17

Hide not Thy face from Thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

Psa. 69:17

This is an earnest request by David for help from God. He was in trouble, he knew it, and needed God’s help. The Lord is always by our side (even though we don’t see Him) and is ready to help if we ask for it. He helps us many times when we don’t ask for it because we don’t see the danger. But when we do call for help He’s there to provide it. When Peter walked on the water and started to sink he wasted no time in calling to the Lord for help. We shouldn’t either.

CareLines: Volume 7, Thankfulness

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits.

Psalm 68:19

Every breath we take is a daily benefit from God. Food, clothing and homes are all daily benefits. God is a God who loves to give and He does not give grudgingly or sparingly. He loads us with daily benefits. We should thank our heavenly Father for His daily provision for us. But most of all, we need to thank Him for giving His Son Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour on the cross of Calvary so long ago. Soon we will be with the Lord and will be able to praise and thank Him without interruption for all eternity.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: PSA 5:7

PSA 5:7

But as for me, I will come into Thy house in the multitude of Thy mercy: and in Thy fear will I worship.

Psa. 5:7

You can praise the Lord anywhere, anytime. But it is especially wonderful to Him when His people meet together collectively to worship, acknowledging His headship over His Church. Again, as in many verses, we have reverence connected with worship. You can’t worship the Lord acceptably if you are flippant, or thinking about other things, or talking to the person next to you. No, the Lord has to have first place. We must honor Him for who He is. Remember that as you meet with the Lord today.

We pray that “your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thess. 5:23.

CareLines: Volume 3, Fear

PSA 56:3

What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.

Psa. 56:3

Today you are beginning a new job and you're nervous about it. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." You are being sent to a new foster home. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." You've had to go to a new school where you don't know anyone. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." Some major exams are coming up and you're not sure that you're ready. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in THEE." No confidence in self - just in the Lord. Trust Him. He'll see you through.

CareLines: Volume 3, Cleansed

AUGUST 26

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:7

Recently a man called a medical office and asked to speak to the doctor. Once the doctor was on the line, the man explained that he had no money but was willing to work to pay the bill. On being assured that money wasn't needed, he then said, "One more thing. I just got out of prison. I 'done wrong' but the Lord has saved me and I'm not the man I was." The Lord has promised forgiveness and cleansing to ANY who simply confess that they have "done wrong" and ask to be saved. You too can be free.

CareLines: Volume 3, Praise

MAY 17

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.

Psalm 50:23

Praise is pleasing to God and brings glory to Him. Why? Because we are thanking the Lord for what He has done. And anything that exalts Jesus glorifies God. Perhaps we don't praise enough. We become so occupied with our own troubles that we stop thinking about the Lord. Today as we meet the Lord and remember Him in His death at Calvary, let's praise Him —genuinely. It really does give glory to God.

CareLines: Volume 3, Wealth/Riches

JULY 7

They that trust in their wealth . . . none of them can by any means redeem his brother.

Psalm 49:6,7

Riches can have their useful place in this life. But the richest person in the world cannot redeem even his closest relative. They can buy houses, land, cars, all the luxuries and excesses possible, but they can't buy salvation. Eternal life is only available by believing in Jesus. He alone has the power (and paid the price) to redeem man. Trust Him if you are still unsaved. Tomorrow may be too late.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: PSA 49:16

PSA 49:16

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands.

Isa. 49:16

The Lord said right before the words in our verse that He would never forget us. No. There is no way that he could forget with such a constant reminder of the cost of our redemption engraved in His hands. Each time He holds out His hands He is reminded of Calvary's cross and what He paid to save us. Does this speak to your heart? Can you respond by remembering the Lord in His death and worshipping Him today? He is so worthy of our worship. He gave Himself for us. Let's worship Him today once again as we eat of the loaf and drink of the cup and so show His death, until He comes.

CareLines: Volume 2, Trouble

PSA 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa. 46:1

Yes, God is there beside you when trouble comes. When Peter was walking on the lake and he started to sink, the Lord reached out after he called, and saved him. Jesus was right there. Even now, the Lord is right there beside you. It may not seem like He's there sometimes, but He is - and just waiting for your call.

CareLines: Volume 3, Worship

JULY 19

He is thy Lord; and worship thou Him.

Psalm 45:11

Worship is the automatic response of a heart that has been cleansed from sin. We really don't need to be told to worship the Lord. And yet sometimes in the ever increasing rush of life perhaps we need to be reminded that Jesus is still our Lord and we need to spend time in worship.

CareLines: Volume 3, Thirst

JULY 18

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.

Psalm 42:2

Have you ever been so thirsty that your tongue stuck to the roof of your mouth? Humans can go for about three days without water, yet often Christians go much longer without spiritual food or drink. Has your life seemed empty, dry, or even painful lately? God often allows hard, trying times in our lives, not to punish us, but to help us realize how "thirsty" we really are.

CareLines: Volume 3, Depression

MARCH 24

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? . . . hope thou in God.

Psalm 42:5,11

David was having real difficulties. He was getting to the point of depression. And he asks "Why?" The answer that came was, "Hope thou in God." Depression caused by a medical problem can be cured with medication. Spiritual depression can also be cured - with God. Hoping in Him is the answer to a spiritual down. Leave the problem with Him and let Him work it out.

CareLines: Volume 2, Kindness: 1

PSA 41:1

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

Psa. 41:1

There are many verses that show that the Lord has a special concern for the poor. As Christians we too should have a concern for them and try to help them whenever we can. We live in a day when we spend almost everything on our own hobbies or for our own pleasure. At the same time there are many who have nothing. In downtown Toronto a couple of years ago I watched a young down- and-outer eating a discarded hot dog out of the trash. Let's consider the poor. God does.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

SEPTEMBER 14

I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.

Psalm 40:8

Service, true service, for Christ comes from a believer who delights to do the will of the Lord. Intelligent service comes from a person whose heart retains the Word of the Lord. You can't know His will unless His Word abides in you. You can't truly serve Him unless it's genuine service from a heart of love for Christ.

CareLines: Volume 3, Praise

JUNE 14

He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.

Psalm 40:3

Our new song is not man-made, but one that Christ has put in our hearts. It's a happy song and one that we'll never get tired of singing. It's the song of the redeemed. There never has been a song in the history of man that has been able to give God the praise that He deserves. He gave up His own Son and punished Him for our sins so that we could go free. And after we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, He puts the new redemption song in our mouth that gives praise to Him. Redemption is God's work and the song is His. Let's praise Him with it today.

CareLines: Volume 2, Peace: 3

PSA 3:5

I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.

Psa. 3:5

It's a real blessing to be able to sleep —peacefully. David enjoyed that luxury - even though he was running away from his own son Absalom. David had his confidence in God and it brought peace. His circumstances were anything but nice, but his heart trusted in God, and he had peace. We can, too.

"The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever." Isa. 32:17.

CareLines: Volume 2, Tongue, The

PSA 39:1

I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle.

Psa. 39:1

We are trying to train a horse. He lets us lead him and we can ride him a little too. But the first time we tried to put in his bit he wasn't too excited about it. And when a horse doesn't want to - he won't! The bit holds the tongue down. That's what we need - to hold our tongue down and not say anything that will dishonor the Lord. Put on a bit and bridle before you go out today.

CareLines: Volume 3, Trust

DECEMBER 22

Trust in the Lord, and do good . . . -verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalm 37:3

The Christian lives by faith. Christians also have a responsibility to do good to others. If Jesus has first place in our life, and we happily serve the Lord in kindness to others, then the Lord will make sure that we are cared for.

CareLines: Volume 3, Strength

SEPTEMBER 5

But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: He is their strength in the time of trouble.

Psalm 37:39

If anyone knew what trouble was like, David did. King Saul had tried to kill him. Saul had hunted him down in the mountains. David spent years running and hiding. And yet he appreciated the strength that he received from the Lord during those difficult times. Not only did he receive physical strength, but he also got strength of mind to go on when everything seemed to be against him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Eternal Youth

SEPTEMBER 3

For with Thee is the fountain of life.

Psalm 36:9

Looking for the fountain of youth? Many spend lots of time and money in such a pursuit. But it can never be found unless you come to Jesus. He is the fountain of true life. Human life promises one end and one end only - death. But in Jesus we can have eternal life. After believing in Him and His work of salvation at Calvary's cross, we have His promise that we will live forever.

CareLines: Volume 3, Lord's Coming, The

DECEMBER 31

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

Psalm 34:19

Well, we've reached the end of another year. It's gone fast. And there have been many problems and trials. Some of us have been through great stress and heartache. Many tears have been shed. And yet we know that the Lord delivers us and will deliver us into the eternal wonder of His presence. How near His coming must be. Keep looking up, young Christian. Jesus is definitely coming again. And His coming is VERY close. Let's pray for one another that we will all be kept living faithfully for Him until He does come.

CareLines: Volume 3, Salvation

DECEMBER 9

The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be guilty.

Psalm 34:22 (margin)

Total and free salvation is ours through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We will not be held guilty of sin if we have trusted in Him as our Saviour because He has borne the punishment for our sins. God will not punish sin twice. It's not necessary. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe.

CareLines: Volume 3, Watched

NOVEMBER 26

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.

Psalm 34:15

You are being watched! Not in a critical way but in a loving way. Just as when a young man and woman fall in love and they watch each other with careful interest, so our Lord watches over us with loving care. He wants to make sure that no harm comes to us. And if we fall into danger and call to Him, "His ears are open unto their cry." You are never alone.

CareLines: Volume 3, Control

NOVEMBER 12

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Psalm 34:13

At school - especially early in high school - it's so easy to slip into the talk of your unsaved friends. Be very careful, young Christian friend, to guard your tongue: first, that you don't talk dirty and tell dirty jokes, etc., and second, that your speech is always truthful -without deceit.

CareLines: Volume 3, Deliverance

NOVEMBER 5

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

Psalm 34:7

“The king of Syria . . . came by night, and encompassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host encompassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not. . . . And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord . . . open his eyes. . . . And he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.” 2 Kings 6:11-17.

CareLines: Volume 3, Broken Heart

OCTOBER 23

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart.

Psalm 34:18

The term “broken heart” is referring to someone who is totally repentant because of some sin in their life, and they have come back, in humility, to the Lord. And the Lord received them. You see, God is a God who forgives and then doesn’t remind us of it again. He loves to heal. But He’ll only do it if we are truly repentant. Another verse in Psalm 51:17 says, “A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Never for one moment believe that you are too bad to come to God. He will receive you if you come to Him in humility, not trusting in yourself.

CareLines: Volume 3, Everything

OCTOBER 13

They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

Psalm 34:10

Jesus satisfies in a way that nothing else can or will. Man was made with a heart so big that only God can fill it. You see so many “stars” who have fame and fortune, and yet they are not happy. The reason? An empty heart. Let Christ fill you today, enjoy His love and see the fulfillment of this verse. You will not want any good thing.

CareLines: Volume 3, Trouble

OCTOBER 7

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 34:6

God loves humility. And a call for help from a humble heart will be heard and answered. The Lord wants us to call on Him! Don’t try and dig yourself out of your trouble - you’ll probably fall back in. Call on the Lord. He alone can bring you complete release from whatever is troubling you.

CareLines: Volume 3, Praise

SEPTEMBER 27

I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 34:1

David had a real heart for the Lord. He knew Him. He had experienced God’s love, care and forgiveness, and his heart was full of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. We will probably never go through some of the deep trials and failures that David went through, but it doesn’t take much thought to know how much God cares for us too. This prayer of David’s should be ours. “I will bless the Lord at ALL times.”

CareLines: Volume 3, Worship

SEPTEMBER 6

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 34:3

A time to worship the Lord is a very special and precious time. It's the time when we clear our hearts and minds of anything else but Jesus. It's a time when we can really tell Him our appreciation of what He has done for us at Calvary. It's a time to remember Him in His death. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

CareLines: Volume 3, Deliverance

SEPTEMBER 2

I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4

Overcoming fear is often quite hard to do. Job had a fear deep inside that no one ever knew. But when Satan attacked him, he said that the thing that he feared had come upon him. Full deliverance from fear is only possible with help from the Lord. Is there something in your life that you are afraid of? Tell it to Jesus. He's interested in every detail of your life and wants you to trust in Him. It is possible to be like David and find complete deliverance from all our fears.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: PSA 34:3

PSA 34:3

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Psa. 34:3

Often when we come together to worship the Lord our minds are distracted easily with other things. Several weeks ago a large group met together to remember the Lord in His death. Many felt the Spirit leading in that meeting as time and again we would rise to our feet in songs of praise and thanksgiving. Distractions didn't seem to be a problem. The Lord loves to encourage us and that day the encouragement was a closer glimpse of Himself. Ask the Lord to help you not to be distracted.

CareLines: Volume 2, Creation

PSA 33:6

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Psa. 33:6

This world was made by the word of the Lord. He spoke and trees grew. He spoke and mountains appeared. He spoke and animals, birds, and fish were seen. But when it came to man, the Lord formed him from dust. God formed man with His hands. Woman was formed from one of Adam's ribs. Yes, God has a special care for man. Most of all He wants them all to accept His Son, Jesus, as Savior. Have you?

CareLines: Volume 3, Worship

JULY 12

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

Worthy of homage and of praise;Worthy by all to be adored:Exhaustless theme of heavenly lays!Thou, thou art worthy, JESUS, LORD.

SERVANTS

CareLines: Volume 3, Forsaken

AUGUST 20

My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?

Psalm 22:1

This is the most heart-rending cry ever uttered by a man. Jesus, the only, eternal Son of God, was forsaken by God and left alone to die on the cross at Calvary under the burden of our sins. God turned His back on Jesus. For those of us who are saved this can NEVER happen to us. But for all who are unsaved, you will be forsaken by God and punished for all eternity -not something nice to look forward to.

CareLines: Volume 2, Trust: PSA 20:7

PSA 20:7

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Psa. 20:7

Some people have confidence in man's inventions. Some have their confidence in the things of nature. But the believer has his confidence in the Lord. He's the One who made the universe and the people in the world. He designed the human body and gave people the ability to create wonderful inventions. Why put your trust in something less than the best? Instead of trusting in creation, trust in the Creator. He's the One in whom we can have entire confidence. No reason to doubt His capabilities.

CareLines: Volume 2, Real Blessing

PSA 1:1-2

Blessed is the man . . . [whose] delight is in the law of the Lord.

Psa. 1:1,2

Here's where true blessing is found - a delight in God's Word. Those of us who are a little older than most of you reading this calendar have discovered that the only path of real joy and happiness and contentment is in turning away from the world and its influence and following the Lord with all our heart. We encourage each of you to continue in the faith. Jesus wants to bless you. He wants you to be happy and at peace. He alone is the source of true happiness. Trust Him. Give your life to Him. You'll never regret it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Politics

PSA 1:1

Blessed is the man that walketh not . . . nor standeth . . . nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa. 1:1

Abraham's nephew Lot, in the story of his life in Genesis, quit farming to live in the city of Sodom. He eventually became a judge. His counsel was respected - until he warned his sons-in-law of the coming judgment of God on the city. Then they laughed at him. As long as our counsel goes along with what people want to hear, they'll listen. But bring up the Bible and the Lord and they turn off. Lot's witness for God was spoiled because he joined politically with the world. Christianity and politics don't mix.

CareLines: Volume 2, Sinners

PSA 1:1

Blessed is the man that walketh not . . . nor standeth in the way of sinners.

Psa. 1:1

A downward path away from the Lord and back into the world always begins with walking with the world, and then standing (or having fellowship) with them. There is a happy path for the Christian and that path is to find your fellowship with other believers. Fellowship with Christians based on the Word of God will never lead us astray. Peter stood around a fire at the Lord's trial and had fellowship with unbelievers. He ended up denying the Lord. Let's be very careful who we're friends with.

CareLines: Volume 2, Counsel

PSA 1:1

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.

Psa. 1:1

Ungodly counsel can get us into trouble. Thousands of people write to certain newspaper columnists each day for counsel. For the most part their counsel is based strictly on what the world's standards are. Their counsel is not based on Scripture. If it were they would lose their followers because Scriptural standards are the complete opposite of the world's standards. It is good for us to follow the advice of our verse and get counsel from a Christian who is living for and with the Lord.

CareLines: Volume 3, Distress

PSA 18:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: He heard my voice.

Psa. 18:6

It is a real comfort to know that in times of extreme trouble we can call on the Lord for help. And not just that, but we know that He hears us. When Nebuchadnezzar issued the order that all the wise men of Babylon should be killed because none could tell him his dream, Daniel and his three friends immediately had a prayer meeting. God told them the dream and its interpretation. Take courage, young Christian. We do have troubles, but God hears us when we call.

CareLines: Volume 3, Eternity

JULY 9

I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness.

Psalm 17:15

David knew something of life after death. He knew that death was not the end of everything. More than that, he seemed to know that he would be just like his Lord. It is revealed to us in John's epistle that "we shall be like Him." This doesn't mean that we'll all have the same faces, but we will all have sinless, incorruptible bodies, with the deficiencies of this life replaced by perfection. What a relief! No wonder David was looking forward to it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Lord's Pleasure, The: 2

PSA 149:4

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people.

Psa. 149:4

We noticed yesterday that as each feature of creation was completed the Lord "saw that it was good." But after He had created man He "saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was VERY GOOD." Yes, man added an extra something to God's creation that to Him was very special. This should really want to make us live to please Him. Especially when we remember that in addition to making us, the Lord Jesus died to save us for heaven. What a tremendous God we have.

CareLines: Volume 3, Broken-Hearted

MAY 12

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3

Sorrow and tears go with this life. We sometimes call it "this valley of tears." I'm sure that there are many, if not all, reading this who have experienced a "broken heart". You've been hurt at school by a "friend"; your boyfriend (or girlfriend) dumped you for someone else; a close friend or relative died. The Lord understands and sympathizes with you. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Tell Him the hurt - He really cares.

CareLines: Volume 3, Lord's Pleasure, The

PSA 147:11

The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.

Psa. 147:11

We are a nation of hero worshippers - particularly in sports accomplishments. A “Hall of Fame” society. But do you know whose names hang in the Lord’s “Hall of Fame”? Not the winner of the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. Not the fastest runner in the 100 meter race. Not the winner of the Indianapolis 500. No, not this world’s heroes but those that fear Him, those who have trusted in Jesus as Saviour. We are the ones in whom the Lord finds His pleasure - even if we’re losers in the school sports. Jesus doesn’t care that you never made it onto the ball team. He takes His pleasure in you because you are a Christian.

CareLines: Volume 2, Sadness

PSA 147:3

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psa. 147:3

You mean there really is someone who cares when I’m down, lonely, or sad? Absolutely! Jesus knows what it’s like to be totally alone, forsaken by friends, and hated by everyone else. He cares very much for you in your trouble. Call to Him, He’s right there beside you and ready to heal and bind up your wounds. Even though no one else seems to care, Jesus does.

“Earthly friends may fail or leave us,One day soothe, the next day grieve us,But this Friend will ne’er deceive us - O how He loves!”

CareLines: Volume 2, Praise: 4

PSA 147: 1

It is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

Psa. 147:1

Songs of praise to God are pleasant. He enjoys hearing them - and it cheers us when we sing. The problem is, quite often, that we don’t do it enough. We are so busy with our own lives that we don’t spend time in praising the Savior. Let your heart sing to the Lord today. (Sing with your lips too, of course, but the content of your heart is what counts.) Praise the One who was willing to die for you. Let Him know that you appreciate Him and what He’s done, and is doing, for you.

CareLines: Volume 2, Praise: 6

PSA 146:2

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Psa. 146:2

This is quite a commitment, isn’t it? Nothing here about, “Well, if things go good this week I’ll sing, but if they keep going the way they are - forget it.” No, the Christian should be able to sing praise to the Lord Jesus any time, anywhere. We have SO MUCH to sing about! Let’s do it! He loves to hear our praise. The Lord has done so much for us. The least we can do is to praise and thank Him for it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Happiness: 4

PSA 144:15

Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

Psa. 144:15

Have you ever sat on a bench in a shopping mall and watched people walk by? You’ve probably noticed many faces that seem distant or unhappy. Does this description apply to you? If so, there is one, and only one, solution. Happiness comes, not in serving yourself, but in serving the Savior. But you can’t serve Him unless you know Him. Acts 16:31 says that if you believe in Jesus you will be saved. Then you will be part of that happy people “whose God is the Lord.”

CareLines: Volume 2, God’s Will: 1

PSA 143:10

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God.

Psalm 143:10

Here we have a submissive will to the Lord. Not like the person of yesterday's verse. What a joy it is to see young people really seeking to know and learn God's will in their life. The sooner you give in to Him, the happier you will be. Being of one mind with the Lord gives peace and joy like nothing else can. Say this verse as a prayer today. Say it every day. "Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God."

CareLines: Volume 3, Kindness

JULY 1

Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness.

Psalm 141:5

When we are rebuked by any who are walking a godly path, we should take it, not as being unkind, but as a kindness. They care for us so much that they don't want us to get into trouble. Often we take a rebuke the wrong way -and a rebuke does hurt, no matter which way it's meant. But we must consider the source and appreciate anything that is done to stop us in a downward course.

FAITHFULNESS

CareLines: Volume 2, God - Everywhere

139:9-10

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.

Psa. 139:9, 10

An old mariner's chart of the coast of North America and adjacent waters, made by an unknown cartographer in 1525, now in the British Museum, has some interesting but fearful directions on it. The mapmaker wrote across great expanses of unexplored land and sea the following inscriptions: "Here be giants!", "Here be fiery scorpions!", and "Here be dragons!" At some time in its career this chart fell into the hands of the scientist and explorer Sir John Franklin, a believer, who scratched out the fearful markings, and wrote in their place: "Here be God! GOD IS EVERYWHERE!"

CareLines: Volume 3, Mercy

JUNE 23

For His mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 136:1-26

Psalm 136 is most unusual. David makes 26 statements, and follows each one with "for His mercy endureth for ever." No matter whether it was just praise to the Lord, or a remembrance of His care during the wilderness journey, or the slaying of the enemy, everything revolved around one basic premise: His mercy endures forever. So too for us. It's nothing but God's great mercy that we're cared for all the way to heaven.

CareLines: Volume 3, Praise

JUNE 22

Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto His name; for it is pleasant.

Psalm 135:3

Recently we visited an old couple, the wife being quite ill with various maladies and cancer. She rarely gets out any more. As we left, the husband said, "Well, we've got such a lot to thank the Lord for. We've got no troubles!" Amazing faith! This surely gave joy to the heart of God as He heard this dear brother's words of praise.

CareLines: Volume 2, Depression: 1

PSA 130:1

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord.

Psa. 130:1

Have you ever been to this point - in the depths of despair; you don't know what to do, where to turn, where to go? Jesus is waiting to hear from you. Call out to Him! He cares so much about you in your trouble. He wants to relieve the heartache and give you peace. Turn to Him. He alone can help you.

CareLines: Volume 3, Blessing

JUNE 26

Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways.

Psalm 128:1

There is a path of blessing and happiness. There is a path that the Lord will bless. There is a path that will bring great reward. The path is the one that follows God. In order to find the path you must fear the Lord. What does that mean? You respect the Lord's wishes in how He wants you to live. Christians are expected to leave the pleasures and evil ways of the world and follow a rejected Christ - a life of simplicity, honesty and purity. That's Christ's way. Are you walking it?

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

JULY 6

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

Psalm 127:1

Unless our service for Christ is done with His leading and His support and His encouragement, we are wasting our time. Just remember, young believer, that service in the name of the Lord is done by millions; some are genuine in their service, some are not. Let each one reading this message today be very much before the Lord that his or her service - whatever it may be - be done in His fear, for His glory and according to the Scriptures.

CareLines: Volume 2, Laughter

PSA 126:2

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing.

Psa. 126:2

When was this? When the Jews were set free from captivity. When a person finds peace in believing in Jesus, it makes them happy and they want to sing. Laughter should be easy and real for a Christian. (How many times have you heard people laugh and said to yourself, "Wow, what a fake laugh"?) We have been set free. Heaven is our home. We have free fellowship with God Himself. Why be sad?

CareLines: Volume 3, Help

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

What better source for help than the name of the Lord. He who made heaven and earth, who is all-powerful, all-loving and all-caring, is the only One who can help us in our difficulties. How many times do we go to any other place instead of to the Lord in order to get help. Sure our friends and family can be a real help and comfort, but why not go to the most powerful?

CareLines: Volume 2, Help

{vi 16104-16107}PSA 124:1-4

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side . . . then the waters had overwhelmed us.

{vi 16104;16107}Psa. 124:1, 4

Yes, trouble can get too much for us. Thank God that He is on our side. The Apostle Paul wrote: If God be for us, who can be against us? The answer of course is - nothing. Nothing can overpower us with Christ on our side. Maybe you are going through deep waters right now. The Lord is there with you to help you through. Look up! He's always there.

CareLines: Volume 3, Worship

JULY 5

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1

The worship meeting should be a meeting that we really look forward to. We are going to meet with the Lord Jesus Christ, to remember Him in His death. For once this week our thoughts will be on Jesus, and not on ourselves. And when our thoughts are on Him, there will be gladness of heart and a willingness to get to meet Him.

CareLines: Volume 2, Depression: 2

PSA 120:1

In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me.

Psa. 120:1

Trouble at school? Are you taking a class that's too hard for you? Perhaps you can't find a good friend. The Lord really cares and wants to help you in your trouble. One of His own disciples betrayed Him for money to the religious leaders of the day. "He knows what sorest trials mean, for He has felt the same." The secret is knowing what to do. David had it figured out. He cried to the Lord and he knew that the Lord heard him. Do that. Then you'll have peace. The trouble may still be there, but the Lord is with you in it. Trust Him!

CareLines: Volume 3, God Is Good

APRIL 2

Thou art good, and doest good: teach me Thy statutes.

Psalm 119:68

David had learned how good God was. Later in his life king David showed some of God's goodness to the lame grandson of the late king Saul. David had obviously learned from the Lord's teaching. When we grasp the fact that all our eternal blessing has been planned for us by God BEFORE He made the world, then we realize just how good God is and that He does us good all the time.

CareLines: Volume 3, Companionship

MARCH 27

I am a companion of all them that fear Thee, and of them that keep Thy precepts.

Psalm 119:63

Who are your friends? David's friends were all those who feared God. Our friends should be Christians. Sometimes you may be in a situation where there are just no Christians to be with. BE CAREFUL. It is much easier for you to be enticed into the world without realizing it than for your unsaved "friend" to become a Christian. Why? Because becoming a Christian takes a real fight - enjoying the world is natural. Try to make friends with Christians. Leave the world alone.

CareLines: Volume 2, Peace: 1

PSA 119:165

Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend [stumble] them.

Psa. 119:165

Real peace is something that only a Christian can have. “Great peace” is promised to those who love the Word and those that do it. Following the Lord and reading His Word are not things that we can go about half-heartedly. Ask the Lord to help you and then decide (yes, it’s up to you) to give Him everything you’ve got!

CareLines: Volume 3, Love

DECEMBER 29

I love the Lord, because . . .

Psalm 116:1

We love Him, because . . .

1 John 4:19

Can you finish the two verses today? Look them up if you can’t remember and then think about both of them. Love is only possible on our part because of His part. Love is of God. That’s His nature - and we now have His nature in ourselves through faith in the Lord Jesus. Let it show.

CareLines: Volume 3, Deliverance

DECEMBER 23

Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul.

Psalm 116:4

We have so many examples in the Scriptures of those who called to the Lord for help in a time of trouble. Often we get in a habit of going for counsel to this one and that - and if they are the Lord’s and can give good advice, that’s fine. But don’t ever forget to call on the Lord. He is all-powerful and all-caring. And His office doesn’t close at 5 o’clock - ever!

CareLines: Volume 2, Witnessing: PSA 116:10

PSA 116:10

I believed, therefore have I spoken.

Psa. 116:10

Not only do we have in this verse the principle that those who believe ought not to keep silent about their faith but also a delightful bit of instruction about witnessing for the Lord: speak from your heart! Eloquence or scriptural knowledge may be helpful when speaking for the Lord but they are not essential. The most powerful testimony is that which comes from the heart.

CareLines: Volume 3, Home

JULY 30

He bringeth them unto their desired haven.

Psalm 107:30

The desired haven for every true child of God is heaven - the Father’s house. And the Lord Jesus will bring us there. Even though life has its ups and downs, the trials sometimes severe, yet the end of the path is heaven. Notice that our verse says, “He bringeth them.” Yes, Jesus Himself is going to come and call us to meet Him in the air and take us back to glory.

CareLines: Volume 3, Peace

JULY 29

He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

Psalm 107:29

Jesus did this more than once while He was on earth - a clear evidence that He was God, continuing what He did in Old Testament times. Not only in the physical realm but also in the spiritual realm He can calm the storm in our lives so that the waves are still. Let the Lord take control in the troubles in your life and you will feel a great peace.

CareLines: Volume 3, Deliverance

MAY 30

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses.

Psalm 107:28

A genuine cry to the Lord for help will be answered. How often, though, we only cry to the Lord after we've exhausted every other avenue. Perhaps this indicates how much we do or don't trust in Him. Peter didn't try to get back into the boat when he started sinking as he was walking on the water. No, he called to the Lord for help. And the Lord saved him. Let's all get into the habit of calling on the Lord FIRST.

CareLines: Volume 2, Provoked Spirit

PSA 106:32-33

They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes . . . they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

Psa. 106:32, 33

One writer has stated that a provoked spirit is a "wrong spirit about wrong things." Another person may wrong you or treat you horribly, but remember that the Lord holds you responsible for how you react. Moses was denied the thrill of entering into the promised land, even though his brethren seemed to be much more at fault. Avoid the temptation to "lash out" at others, or because of others, but instead, ask the Lord to help you receive wrongs patiently.

CareLines: Volume 7, Seasons

He appointed the moon for seasons.

Psalm 104:19

Today is an odd day of the year. We only get one of these every four years, to keep the calendar right. The Jewish calendar is run in a different way. When two reliable witnesses see the tiniest evidence of a new moon they inform the Rabbi who then proclaims the start of a new month. So the Jewish months go from new moon to new moon. God goes according to a calendar too. And His calendar is running out of time. One day soon the last day of this world's history will end and eternity will begin. We pray that each of you is ready for eternity.

CareLines: Volume 2, Sing

PSA 104:33

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Psa. 104:33

This is quite a commitment, isn't it? David knew enough about God to know that He was real, that He cared, that He protected and provided. And David rejoiced so much in the Lord that he made the decision to sing praise always to God. There is so much that we have to thank God for, many things that we often take for granted. But when you stop to think about it you know that the Lord in His love has provided those things for us. On top of that we know the Lord as our Savior and Friend. So we should be better able to make the commitment that David made -to sing praise to our God while we have our being.

CareLines: Volume 2, Humility: 2

PSA 103:14

For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.

Psa. 103:14

A friend of mine says he is going to write a book entitled, “Humility and How I Attained It.” If this friend is serious, then I’m afraid that he’s already lost it! Seeing ourselves the way that the Lord sees us would ensure our being humble. But that’s okay because what really matters is what we are in Christ Jesus. Our value comes from Him redeeming us and giving us His righteousness. Spending more time thinking about Jesus will help us spend less time thinking about ourselves.

CareLines: Volume 2, Trust: PSA 103:2

PSA 103:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

Psa. 103:2

Have you ever been upset by something you did in your past? Maybe you wince every time you remember some embarrassing mistake of only last week. A friend may tell you to “never look back.” There are times, however, when looking back can be beneficial. We can take courage when we look back and see how the Lord has blessed us, delivered us, encouraged us. This looking back can help us to appreciate Him more and TRUST Him for our future.

CareLines: Volume 2, Praise: 1

PSA 103:21

Bless ye the Lord . . . ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.

Psa. 103:21

Nothing pleases God more than to hear us praising His Son. He has made Jesus heir of all things. Every knee will bow to Him. What a privilege it is to be able to praise Him now from a thankful heart. What a Savior we have! Let’s thank Him today for saving us.

CareLines: Volume 3, Help

PSA 102:2

Hide not Thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline Thine ear unto me.

Psa. 102:2

This is a prayer that perhaps many of us pray at times. Things can get so tough that it seems as if even the Lord is not listening. Do you ever feel that way? O, but He is there. He is listening. He knows that you’re in trouble. He wants you to trust Him and call to Him. You’ll remember when Peter walked on the water to go to Jesus and he started sinking, that it wasn’t until Peter called for help that Jesus reached out and picked him up. He wants us to call. Don’t be afraid. Only believe.

CareLines: Volume 7, Faith Destroyers

I hate the work of them that turn aside.

Psalm 101:3

God has a special disregard for any who try to destroy the faith of another. In the gospels the Lord warned of the drastic consequences to those who offend (or make to sin) a child who trusts in Him. And here in the Old Testament we have a solemn warning to those who turn others aside. We need to build each other up -not tear one another down.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: PSA 100:2

PSA 100:2

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Psa. 100:2

So the Lord gave you a little job to do for Him, huh? Well, did you do it, or did you complain? No matter how small we may think a job is, let’s do it with joy. Joyful service shows a willing heart and one in communion with the Lord. The Lord NEVER complained about His work. We shouldn’t either. “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10). Be willing to start at the bottom of the ladder and the Lord will move you up as you progress.

PSA 100:4

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

Psalm 100:4

Praise and worship and thanksgiving all go together. We worship the Lord for who He is. We praise Him for what He has done. We thank Him for what He has given to us. So today as we meet with the Lord to remember Him in His death, let’s remember to praise Him. We can praise Him at any time, of course. But it is especially nice to praise Him collectively as we meet in His presence. Thanks, praise, worship.

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