

Tuesday, April 15

Psalm 119:41-48

Delight in God's commandments

Start with love, salvation, revelation, God's Word, truth, commandments, wisdom, counsel, revelation. Just in these eight verses there is a wealth of words pointing to God's mercy, God's grace. Like the flow of a mighty river, God's goodness toward us comes at us, comes to us, comes for us, comes with us – and we get to ride the current, float on the surface, be carried along by an abundance of goodness beyond all proportion to our imagination, need, or claims. What a gift!

*And I'll stride freely through wide open spaces*

*as I look for your truth and your wisdom;* Psalm 119:45 Peterson

Once we find this river of goodness lifting and carrying us, we find ourselves propelled into every situation, all places, each part of life with freedom. We can explore, investigate, follow every lead, dig into every question with confidence that, buoyed by God's goodness, we will not fail. We may fail to understand China, totally misinterpret Mao, perfectly confuse Communism and Confucianism and Christianity, read the signs all wrong about environmental devastation in East Asia – and still not fail to be carried along in God's love. The gift of God's love allows us, propels us, to go exploring for truth and understanding and wisdom anywhere in the world – and beyond.

*Then I'll tell the world what I find,*

*speak out boldly in public, unembarrassed.* Psalm 119:46 Peterson

Then we can speak, speak up, speak out, speak to, speak for, speak with, speak against – tell the truth of what we've discovered. We may not be able to explain the tensions between Tibet and Beijing. We may not have a solution for the relations between Taiwan and the mainland. We may have no idea how to connect the need for opening 1-2 new coal-fired electricity-generating plants every week compared with the Three Gorges dam for hydroelectricity versus starting nuclear facilities for electric power. The truth of which we speak is the unfathomable, unending, unsullied love of God – for us, for all, for all creation.

*I cherish your commandments—oh, how I love them!—*

*relishing every fragment of your counsel.* Psalm 119:47-48 Peterson

And then we tell God, "Thank you." We worship God. We praise God. We honor God, We laud and magnify God. We shout blessing and honor and glory and power to God. We lift our voices in hallelujah (literally, hallelu – praise; jah – God). We exclaim hosanna.

Sometimes we do it together on Sunday mornings. Sometimes we do it in the privacy of our homes by ourselves. Sometimes we do it mumbling to ourselves as we walk along. Sometimes we do it with a small group. Sometimes we do it as we watch the news. Sometimes we do it as we drive our cars. Sometimes we do it facing our computer screen. Sometimes we do it taking out the trash. Sometimes we do it lying down to sleep.

Sometimes we do it while we're making a presentation. Sometimes we do it as we struggle to 'hold it together' with an obnoxious person. Always we praise God.

A Way to Pray – praise

- Start a list, keep it going, don't stop – praise God
- Repeat, repeat, repeat