

DISCUSSION IDEAS

I CAN SLEEP

Psalm 3

May 7th, 2017

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Key Truth in this Psalm:

PRESCRIPTION FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP:

CONFESS SIN,

ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS,

TRUST GOD WITH YOUR BATTLES.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: CONSEQUENCES.**

For background on this Psalm, read 2 Samuel 12:8-14.

What were David's sins as listed here?

What was David's response to being confronted? (2 Samuel 12:13)

Psalm 51 records David's confession in detail.

What was God's answer to David's confession? (2 Samuel 12:13)

Note that "taken away" here is literally "removed".

Compare Proverbs 24:23b-24 and Prov. 17:15 with the idea of forgiveness.

How can God remove sin and still be righteous and just?

Can you quote verses to prove this?

When God forgave David, what did He also say about the consequences David would have to experience?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: CONFESSION.**

What does confession of sin really accomplish?

David was being told by others that there was no forgiveness possible for him, but what does Psalm 3:3-6 indicate?

How does this match God's response in 2 Samuel 12:13?

What was the effect of being forgiven, even though David knew that there would be terrible consequences?

Remember 1 John 1:9? What do you learn from 1 John 1:5-10?

What do 1 John 1:7 and 9 say about the effect of confession on our relationships both with each other and with God?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: TRUST.**

So, I have sinned, I have confessed both to God and to someone I have offended, now – how does the idea of trusting God apply?

Where does peace come from?

Hindu Nirvana tries to achieve peace by achieving nothingness.

How different is the peace of God? Compare John 14:27.

How am I do deal with someone who holds a grudge against me or even tries to harm me as a result of my sin?

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♦ **THOUGHTS:**

Read and think about Proverbs 28:13.

The prophet Micah had to deal with a very unrepentant Israel.

God had made specific promises (and curses) to Israel about the consequences of obeying or disobeying Him.

Read Micah's perspective on trusting God in Micah 7:7-10 and 18-19.

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Our Grace Church Elders: Pray for our elders as they continue to guide Grace Church, always seeking God's will.

Shelter Valley: Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry.

Pray for the developing local leaders and for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Home Groups: Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pray that each one of us would seek to learn how to use our individual spiritual gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ.

Gettises: Pray for the Gettis family in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Praise:

- It appears that a very reasonable vehicle will be available this week.

Please pray for:

- David's insights as he tackles the various immediate technology needs, including improving the seminary's frustrating Internet speed (shared by professors, staff, and students) and automating the student registration process, which will save the Academic Dean a lot of time and frustration and provide more accurate and up-to-date information.
- Continued improvement in David and Cindy's fluency in Spanish
- David's grasp of the complexities of Biblical Greek, especially as he is studying Greek in a Spanish-speaking class.

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- Good health for everyone.
- Finding a church home soon.
- Building solid relationships.
- Continued faith and patience during a time of learning and waiting on God in many areas – learning new language/culture/career, making friends, obtaining residency.

Pearsons: John and Bobbie's son, John Caleb, is on hospice care with advanced cancer. He is bedridden and on two meds for pain control.

John and Bobbie take a turn in the around the clock family schedule for sitting with him and have recently accompanied him to an oncology visit and to the hospital to receive blood.

Thanks for prayers during this stressful time.

Barangonan Island: Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Continue to pray for wisdom and encouragement for the Ingvoldstads and the Binders as they adjust to a changed way of life.

Uphold the island church leaders in prayer. Remember, God wants YOU to be a part of what He is doing.

Pray the Elders in Training: Eddie and Ted, the teacher geeks, Jeremy who has the gift of discernment to protect the flock, and Sid who leads in outreach to other islands. Pray that the evil one will not attack them.

Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

Persecuted Believers:

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

THIS WEEK:

1. **Sudan:** Three weeks after an elder was killed in an attack on church property in Sudan's historical city of Omdurman, a mob

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accompanied by police ransacked the living quarters of the compound guard and arrested his family.

On April 24th, the mob demolished part of the room where the family lived, after first destroying its padlock at the compound of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. The officers then took 27-year-old Mona Matta and her children, ages 2, 4 and 6, wife of guard Azhari Tambra (who was not home at the time of the attack), from their room at the church compound and detained them for 12 hours.

Mona and the three children, including one who is disabled, were accused of opposing authorities, lacking ownership papers and betraying their country. When they returned home after being released later that night, they found their home and belongings destroyed. Mona, Azhari and their children, members of a church in Omdurman, are still in need of permanent shelter.

Pray that they will find housing and that their faith will grow as a result of persecution.

2. "Middle East": Pray for Fadi, a Former Muslim Now Following Christ.

Pastor "Abraham" works in an area with a high concentration of Syrian refugees. He often struggled with fear when sharing the gospel with Muslims, but then he had an experience where the Lord told him not to fear.

Soon after that, "Fadi," a Syrian man who once associated with extremist Muslims, came to see him.

When he arrived at Abraham's home, Abraham boldly told Fadi that Islam was inspired by Satan. Abraham then walked closer to him and said, "God is here beside you now. He is putting his hand on your shoulder, asking you, 'What do you want?'"

"I want salvation," Fadi answered.

Abraham shared the gospel with Fadi and prayed with him.

He soon came to faith in Christ, and four months ago Abraham baptized Fadi. Fadi and his wife, also now a Christian, share God's love in their refugee camp.

Pray that Fadi's powerful testimony will draw many Muslims, including other extremists, into a relationship with Jesus. Pray that the hearts of Muslims will soften as Fadi, his wife and Abraham share the gospel.

3. Nigeria: Boko Haram terrorists ordered Habila and his family out of their home in northern Nigeria at gunpoint. Then they told Habila to

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recite the Islamic creed, leave Christianity behind and become a Muslim.

“I am a Christian — and will always remain a Christian — even to death,” Habila replied. The Boko Haram terrorists looked at his wife and asked why her husband was so stubborn. Then they shot Habila in the face and left him for dead, but miraculously he survived. When he shares his amazing testimony today, he also shares that he’s forgiven the men who shot him, leaving him permanently disfigured.

“We are all condemned criminals,” he says. “Jesus died for us. He loves us. That’s why we must show that love to the people who hate us.”