

Psalm 129 Devotions

☐ Monday - The Prevalence of Trials.

Psalm 129:1-2

The psalmist laments, “*Many times* they have persecuted me from my youth up” (Psa. 129:1-2). The apostle Paul declares, “Through *many* tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). And John Newton adds, “Through *many* trials, toils and snares, I have already come” (Hymn, *Amazing Grace*). The fact is that Christian living in a fallen world is difficult, and over the course of a lifetime, trials will most likely not be few but *many*. “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you” (1 Pet. 4:12), “knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world” (1 Pet. 5:9). Read John 15:20, 2 Timothy 3:12

☐ Tuesday - Persecuted, Not Abandoned.

Psalm 129:1-2

“Many times they have persecuted me from my youth up” (Psa. 129:1-2). “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Cor. 4:8-9). Read James 1:2-3

☐ Wednesday - My Enemies Shall Not Prevail.

Psalm 129:2

“Many times they have persecuted me from my youth up; yet *they have not prevailed* against me” (Psa. 129:1-2). Jesus said, “I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall *not prevail* against it” (Mt. 16:18). The enemies of God’s people cannot ultimately prevail against the church, because God Himself is their protector. ““No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord” (Isa. 54:17). “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Rom. 8:31). Read John 16:33

☐ Thursday - Trials Plow, God Sows, Christians Reap.

Psalm 129:3

In metaphorical language, the psalmist declares, “The *plowers plowed* upon my back” (Psa. 129:3). The “plowers” are difficult people or circumstances, even spiritual forces of darkness, or any kind of trial or tribulation. These “plowers” may be deliberate persecutors of the church, or even the thoughtless actions from God’s own people toward one another. Nevertheless, God is the Lord of the Harvest (Mt. 9:38), and He allows no plowing unless a harvest is in view. What the “plowers” mean for evil, God means for good (cf. Gen. 50:20), so that when our lives are plowed, it is only to make them good soil that will bear much fruit (Mt. 13:8). Read Rom. 8:28, Heb. 12:5-11

☐ Friday - Christ’s Enemies Put To Shame.

Psalm 129:5

The psalmist writes, “May all who hate Zion be put to *shame*” (Psa. 129:5), and earlier in our study of Psalms, we read, “Let those who are adversaries of my soul be *ashamed* and consumed; let them be covered with *reproach* and *dishonor*, who seek to injure me” (Psa. 71:13). Recall, these are called imprecatory psalms which invoke judgment, calamity, or curses upon the enemies of God. Yet such language is not limited to Psalms. For example, in Jeremiah we read, “But the Lord is with me like a Dread Champion; therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will be utterly *ashamed*, because they have failed, with an *everlasting disgrace* that will not be forgotten” (Jer. 20:11). Yet is it appropriate for Christian’s pray such prayers? Clearly it is, since these examples are contained in God’s inspired Word. But make sure, Christian, that your imprecatory prayers are borne out of a jealousy for God’s honor, and not because your own foolish pride has been hurt. Read Psalm 109