

Psalms 130:7, "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption."

My prayer this morning is for the hope of the children of God to be increased in the Lord. I realize with the events that have taken place in the last few weeks concerning the legalization of unbiblical marriage, that the disciples of the Lord have become discouraged, down hearted and distressed. But in times like this it's good to be reminded that, even when the world is falling apart, there is always hope in the Lord. In Psalms 130, David says there's always hope in the Lord:

(1) When we sin (130:4, "But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."). It's very common for children of God to feel condemned for their faults and failures, but thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that He is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9). Even when your heart condemns you (your conscious), it's good to know that "God is greater than our heart..." (1 Jn 3:20). Whether it be Abraham in Gen 13:2, David in Psalms 51:12, Jonah in Jon 3:1, or Peter in Jn 21:15-17, it is evident that the Lord gives His little children second chances, even when the world will not.

(2) When the world is against everything that's right (130:5, "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.") Sometimes, when things are falling apart, we get to the point of just saying 'there is no hope'. But no matter what the case, there's always hope in the Lord. David in Psalms 11:3 asks, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" David, in this question, is in distress because everything that's supposed to be done right, is being done wrong. The men that should be upholding God's law are trying to kill him, and the King (Saul), who should be one who upholds truth, has an evil spirit and is trying to murder David. David cries out in his distress, 'what can I do now?' The next verse tells of his hope, "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in the heaven:..." David says when it's all falling apart and it seems all hope is lost, we can still hope and trust in the God of Israel.

(3) When it looks as though it will never get better (Psalms 130:6, "My soul waiteth for the LORD more than they that watch for the morning:...") The world in which we live is getting worse and worse. The scriptures are very clear that, even though there may be times of local revival, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" (2 Tim 3:13). But the hope of the disciple of Jesus Christ is not in this world, but in the world to come. They watch for the morning "until the day dawn, and the day star arise" in their hearts (2 Pet 1:19). With our hope in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are able to face this challenging world with a smile, knowing it's all going to turn out ok. And you may ask, 'How can I do it brother?' The only way is hoping and trusting in what the Lord has said. Jesus told us in John 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." And let us never forget what David said in Psalms 30:5, "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Amen!

Elder Ronnie B. Loudermilk