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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

November 13, 2011

Psalm 90: (selected verses) (NIV)

A prayer of Moses

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

1 Thessalonians 5 (selected verses) (The Message)

Don't think, friends, that I need to deal with the question of when all this is going to happen. You know as well as I that the day of the Master's coming can't be posted on our calendars. He won't call ahead and make an appointment any more than a burglar would. But you're not in the dark, so how could you be taken off guard by any of this? We live under wide open skies and know where we stand. So let's not sleepwalk through life like others. Let's keep our eyes open and be smart. Since we're creatures of Day, let's act like it. Walk out into the daylight sober, dressed up in faith, love, and the hope of salvation. God didn't set us up for an angry rejection but for salvation by our Master, Jesus Christ. He died for us, a death that triggered life. Whether we're awake with the living or asleep with the dead, we're alive with him! So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are indeed a gifted and fortunate people. Even as Moses in his faithfulness was called a 'friend of God,' so you and I are 'friends of Jesus.' What a privilege this is! We may not know the day or hour of his coming again but we do know that 'Whether we're awake with the living or asleep with the dead, we're alive with him!' and we will be when he returns. During this past year we have several times heard in the news how some self-proclaimed prophet had declared that he knew when the world was going to end only to have the day come and go with no end in sight. The sad part of this is that these persons claimed to have either received this information as revelation or through Bible study. Thus the value of Bible study, and of faith, were undermined in the eyes of the unknowing public. Timing is in God's hands. But the good news is that so are we. Whenever the end of time comes we will be transported into the timeless presence of God. That will be an experience not to be missed! This truth is also revealed again and again in scripture and is the ultimate reason for the gift of hope and peace that we can share with the world. God's love is the guarantee that this will be. Never alone! Always in his presence! This is heaven indeed!

Father God, thank you for your reassurance that you will be with us always, to the end of time and beyond. Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin