

Timothy 3:15).

Psalms 101, 109; Acts 21:15-26; Luke 5:27-39

Birthdays:

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, September 29

Hosea 5:8—6:6 /HW XV DFNQRZOHGJH WKH /ORD
OHV XV SUHV RQ WR DFNQRZOHGJH KLP (v.3)

After plowing through the countless sinful acts that sprout from disobedience and a lack of true repentance, hope enters the scene. In Hosea 6, a message emerges that announces revival, healing, and the experience of God’s Presence: “As surely as the sun rises, (the Lord) will appear” (Hosea 6:3). Yes!

As wonderful as these verses are, it would be dangerous to read them in isolation. The author emphasizes that true repentance is needed to experience God’s presence “like the spring rains that water the earth” (Hosea 6:3). The message of hope is linked to an acknowledgement of the God who is holy and hates sin in all its forms.

In Luke 3:8, John the Baptist exhorts people to “produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” This good harvest sprouts from a transformed heart, as echoed in Hosea 6:6, “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Every time the fruit of the Spirit is displayed in our lives, we acknowledge, affirm, and reveal Christ to the world. And when we do, we join the refreshing rain of the Spirit that signals God’s presence and fills us with hope.

Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 21:27-36; Luke 6:1-11

Birthdays: Alexander Husbands and Christian Norton

Anniversaries: Evelyn Barlett

Friday, September 30

Psalm 107:32-43 /WKJYKRHYDQG LVFRQVEGHU I etWKHimjunev
ORYH RI WKH /ORD (v.43)

I’ve been blessed to write for *RRG 1HZV 'DLO| and 7KH -RXUQH| for fourteen years. This commitment has been a fountain of life, since I’ve studied God’s Word in greater depth to challenge and encourage believers. I’ve also been blessed to publish several books where I share my faith and some of what I’ve learned about prayer and God’s kingdom (my website is faithfulMD.wordpress.com). For me, writing for God is the fulfillment of Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

I lost my mother in my early twenties, so I’ve lived profoundly aware that our days are counted. In the exceedingly short lives we each have, what will we do? Joshua 24:15 summarizes my answer, “But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” When one day I am no longer here physically, my writings will remind my children and their children of my love of

Jesus and my desire to live for him. I pray that they will see Jesus reflected in my life, and that my witness will lead them to praise him.

May that be my legacy, to the honor and glory of Christ’s holy name!

Hosea 10:1-15; Acts 21:37—22:16; Luke 6:12-26

Birthdays: Hazel Chen, Norma Tate, Selvyn Thomas and Johane Vilsaint

Anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. David Williams II

Saturday, October 1

Psalm 107:32-43 /WKJYKRHYDQG LVFRQVEGHU I etWKHimjunev
ORYH RI WKH /ORD (v.43)

God’s unfailing love is the theme of Psalm 107. In fact, this is the message of the entire Bible. God loves us. When people hurt us, God loves us. When our dreams are shattered and our hope seems gone, God loves us. When we are misunderstood and feel stuck, God loves us.

We have no greater need than to know we are loved. When God’s love becomes a daily experience, we find rest, we find peace, and we experience a joy that surpasses circumstances.

I want God’s love to wake me up every morning and rock me to sleep at night. I want God’s love to ease all uncertainty and heal every wound. I want to know God intimately, and He has answered that prayer. Jesus became man and joined us here, where “flowing springs” sometimes turn “into thirsty ground” and a “fruitful land into a salt waste” (vv.33-4). Our world can be harsh, yet God loves us here. He loves us enough to save us.

God wants us to know Him in the midst of a fallen world. The New Testament story ends at God’s river of life. God invites us to come and “take the free gift of the water of life” (Revelation 22:17). May we come, drink, and live!

Hosea 11:1-9; Psalm 108; Acts 22:17-29; Luke 6:27-38

Birthdays: Glenroy Belnavis

Anniversaries: None

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