

Responsive Reading

Taken from Psalm 118

O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good.

Because His mercy endureth forever.

Let them now that fear the LORD say that His mercy endureth forever.

The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

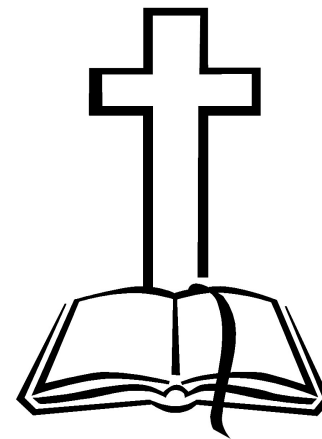
I will praise Thee: for Thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

Thou art my God, and I will praise Thee.

Thou art my God, I will exalt Thee.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

Worship Service



Simple Faith in Jesus

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Closing Prayer

All Repeat "The Lord's Prayer"

Asking Forgiveness

by Brenda Brannen

Lord, remember when I rebelled and didn't do
Your will,
And convinced myself it was no big deal?
Before, I wouldn't have been hard to convince.
I wasn't totally on Your side; I was straddling the
fence.

Now, I'm trying to recognize
What's good and perfect before Your eyes.
And sometimes that's a sacrifice,
But I know you paid a greater price.
Your Word says, "Commit to the Lord whatever
you do,
And your plans will succeed," and I know that's
true. (Proverbs 16:3)

So, Lord, I ask forgiveness for not following Your
directions.

Please forgive my disobedience and my willful
rejections.

Help me as I continue to search for You,
Knowing You are "near to all who call on You in
truth." (Psalm 145:18)

Thank You for forgiving my sin,
Restoring fellowship, and for peace within.
Please help me to see with enlightened eyes,
"To run the race," and win the prize.

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"Simple Faith in Jesus"

Opening Prayer:

Oh, Father God, we come before Your Throne this day with thankfulness in our heart. We are grateful for Your mercy and Your saving Grace. Receive our praise and our adoration as we worship You. We give You all the glory for our salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Devotion:

Text: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

Imagine with me that you are having a delicious July 4th cookout in your back yard. Roasted silver queen corn, a baked potato right out of the coals, and corn bread from your grandmother's special recipe baked in a dutch oven over the open fire . . . all of it floating in real country, hand-churned butter. And right in the middle of the huge platter on which this feast is served, is a **great big, thick, juicy T-Bone steak** hot off the grill!

And your next door neighbor's rambunctious little boy comes over and sprinkles rat poison over this scrumptious meal while you're up to get a refill of ice tea before you get started!

The foaming white ooze on your T-Bone immediately alerts you to the prank. And your neighbor's belly laugh over the fence tells you who's to blame. You stomp over to the edge of your yard and start to vent your anger when your neighbor defensively blurts out, "Hey, wait a minute, my little boy only put a sprinkle of the stuff on your plate. It won't hurt you!" Relieved, you calm down and settle back into your chaise lounge to enjoy your banquet.

WRONG!!!

You wouldn't touch the poisoned food on your plate would you? Why not? Because you do not want ANY amount of rat poison on your

"Simple Faith in Jesus" continued

T-Bone steak. None, nada, zero, zilch! Right?

Ezekiel 18:4 quotes God as saying, ***"The soul that sins shall surely die."*** God doesn't want any rat poison on His plate either!

And in Romans 3:23, Paul states that ***"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*** So we have a very big problem! We all live under a death sentence. But, unlike your neighbor, our Heavenly Father doesn't think it's funny. In fact, He is the only one who can justly do anything about it. He is the only one who can clean that lovely meal of its contamination. **And He does!** Praise God!

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1:9

God knows we cannot save ourselves. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice in our stead for our sins. The Father's invitation to everyone is that we admit our need and confess our sins to Him in faith, believing in Jesus as the Son of God and that what He did for us is enough in the Father's eyes. We cannot earn salvation - it is a free gift!

May each of us NEVER FORGET this simple message. A lot follows our faith in Jesus Christ because it releases to us an **eternity of wonderful, growing life**, but without that uncomplicated faith in Him we are DEAD!

Closing Prayer:

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.