



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

November 23rd, 2022

**“The Fifteenth Psalm of Ascent”
Psalm 134**

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 134

TITLE. —*A Song of Degrees.* We have now reached the last of the Gradual Psalms. The Pilgrims are going home, and are singing the last song in their psalter. They leave early in the morning, before the day has fully commenced, for the journey is long for many of them. While yet the night lingers they are on the move. As soon as they are outside the gates they see the guards upon the temple wall, and the lamps shining from the windows of the chambers which surround the sanctuary; therefore, moved by the sight, they chant a farewell to the perpetual attendants upon the holy shrine. Their parting exhortation arouses the priests to pronounce upon them a blessing out of the holy place: this benediction is contained in the third verse. The priests as good as say, "You have desired us to bless the Lord, and now we pray the Lord to bless you."

The psalm teaches us to pray for those who are continually ministering before the Lord, and it invites all ministers to pronounce benedictions upon their loving and prayerful people.

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)
VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION
(*emphasis in original*)

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 134

REFLECTION. The Lord Jesus is the holiest of YHVH God's servants who ever walked upon the earth (v1a; Isa 52:13); and by His heavenly ministry of mediation, Jesus intercedes for us night and day (v1b; Heb 7:25). The Lord Jesus lifts up the holiest of hands by His intercessions on our behalf, for through the cross, He has "*engraved you [and me] in the palms of His hands*" (v2; 1 Tim 2:8; Isa 49:16). The High Priestly blessings we receive from our

great Intercessor and Advocate are the holiest of blessings, blessings which fulfill Scripture, and blessings which have no lack because they come from Christ's heavenly position at the right hand of Majesty on high (v3; Num 6:23-27; Eph 1:3; Heb 1:3).

APPLICATION. YHVH God used the Levites to serve Him in the temple as a prophetic foreshadow of what Christ Jesus would do for us in His heavenly, priestly role as Mediator, Intercessor, and Advocate. Since the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus uses ministers— pastors, teachers, preachers, parents, siblings— to bless the heavenly Father on your behalf (v1). As a servant of Jesus yourself, do you bless the LORD by praying for those who pray for you, who minister to you, who love you and who attempt, by God's grace, to model Jesus before you with their lives? (v2). Do you recognize, and acknowledge with joy, that the Lord Jesus does indeed bless you from Zion (heaven), since He is the Creator of heaven and earth and the Re-creator of your saved soul? (v3).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 134

REFLECT upon the anointed mediating and interceding ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven. Consider the sinful thoughts you had just before coming to meeting tonight. How does that encourage you in the light of **1 JOHN 2:1-2**?

READ EPHESIANS 1:3. How does this verse apply to our text in blessing God in Christ as Christ blesses us? Write your thoughts on the back of this handout.

READ HEBREWS 4:15 also. How do you think this verse applies to our text whereas the third verse says that "*the Lord [blesses] your from Zion*" since you are a Christian believer? Write your thoughts on the back of this handout.

RESPOND to this challenge by meditating upon the three verses of Psalm 134 this week. Can you find at least three (3) blessings you may receive by praying for your church leadership from these three verses? Can you find more than three? Be prepared to answer next week.

Considering Psalm 134:

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