

February 18, 2021

Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 25:1-10

Daniel 9:1-14

1 John 1:3-10

Selected Verses:

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long. – Psalm 25: 4-5



Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.

– Daniel 9: 4-5

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. – 1 John 3: 5-7

Devotional:

The passage from Daniel is a prayer. Daniel is confessing the sins of Israel. The destruction that had come to Israel was a result of their corporate sin. God had promised to Moses that as long as the people followed the Law, God would protect them from their enemies. Now, Daniel is speaking for the people, confessing their sins, and seeking God's love.

Notice that Daniel begins his prayer, "Who keeps his covenant of love." Daniel is acknowledging that God is keeps His covenant. God has made a promise with His people. This promise was made in love, and God is continuing to love His people. At times, when we have sinned, and things go wrong as a result of that sin (broken relationships, lost job), we blame God. It is often out of love that God punishes us as individuals and as a nation. It is our sin that keeps the love of God from flowing to us.

Daniel, and the history of Israel in the Old Testament, remind us that the wages of sin is death. When we live in darkness, God has no part to do with us. God, in His unending love, wants to shine His light into our lives. Yet, if we allow sin and darkness to creep in, God is respectful enough to let us remain in darkness.

John calls us to bring our sin and darkness into the light. We must acknowledge that we have sinned. All have sinned, yet God in His great love, through the death of Jesus, has purified us from our sin and allowed us to return into relationship with Him.

Several years ago, I read an image using your life as your household. I am sorry that I do not remember who to give credit for this. Anyway, spend time in prayer imaging the activities you do in each room in your house. Think of what you have watched on the television, seen on the internet, heated conversations over the dinner table, skeletons in the closets. While in each room, in prayer, confess your sins. Allow God's light to shine in the dark corners of your life. Then, focus on the blessings that God has shown you in each of those rooms. Give thanks to God for His loving faithfulness. Allow the light of God to shine throughout your household, throughout your life.

It is then, that you ask God to teach you His ways and show you His paths. You are able to allow the truth of the gospel to enter into your life. It was while we were yet sinners, that God came into the world to give us life and life eternal. With that new life, we take steps, at first baby steps, then walk in the way of the Lord. As we enter a room in our lives, we realize God is present and live in the light of God's salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets. We have not listened to your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

Lord, enter the rooms of my life. Allow your light to shine in the darkness. Forgive my sin and allow me to walk in the light of your path, by the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide me this day, and teach me your ways to live and love as your beloved child. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.