

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 4 – Tuesday

Eph. 4:1-3 – Footnote 2¹

David's Experience in the Old Testament

Psalm 131 leads us to continue to press on to God, after we have passed through a deep experience of God in Psalm 130; this psalm conveys the feeling of humility. Humility is produced from the knowledge of the self. It is a manifestation of the breaking of the self. A man who has been broken in the presence of God knows that he is only a sinner. He will then live out humility. If there is humility in his living, we know that this person has been broken. When a person has gone through the depths in which all kinds of afflictions and situations came upon him, he will become someone like what is portrayed in Psalm 131. This psalm was written by David so we can see that he was such a person. He was a person filled with humility and this psalm is focussed on humility. His heart was calm and quiet. This is a very important revelation in the Bible including in the New Testament. It talks about the condition of the heart of a person who follows the Lord. The teachings of the apostles, especially of the apostle Paul, and the pattern of the Lord Jesus all stress this. They all teach this kind of word. Many portions in the Bible, especially in the New Testament reveal the reality of the content of this psalm.

Psalm 131 reads, “LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever.” When we read such verses we can see that they were written by a spiritual person. He was a person who dwells in the Lord's presence and lived out a certain virtue. When we talk about the church life, about the building of the church, this is a very important virtue. In Ephesians chapter 4, Paul talks about keeping the oneness of the Spirit. The first thing that he said is to be humble in all things, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (vv. 2-3). To keep the oneness of the Spirit, the most important virtue in the church life is humility. Whether you can receive grace or not depends on whether you are a humble person. There must be oneness for the church to be blessed. Oneness in humility is the secret for the church to gain the Lord's blessing, both for the saints personally and for the church as a corporate entity. If we are humble people, God's grace will definitely be with us. We are building up the church in the church life with all the other brothers and sisters. The most important thing for the whole church to be under God's grace is the oneness. This is a very important teaching in the Bible.