

PRAYER BULLETIN #200, 30MAR2022

THE REFRESHING LAW OF THE LORD

"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple."

Psalms 19:7

REFLECTION

Some Christians do not like laws. For them laws stifle. They are burdensome. They make life miserable. They kill free spirit.

No wonder an idea of "grace" has attracted the attention of certain preachers and Christians who flock to listen to those preachers. Simply put, this idea of grace says that God has attended to all the requirement of laws so that we can now live a life freed from what the laws demand. In Christian teachings, this is a swing to antinomian posture.

The mistake and therefore the negative attitudes some Christians have towards laws is that there are those who have taken a legalistic interpretation of laws. They became slaves to the laws of the Bible. This is legalism. And legalism is something Pharisees insist that Jews, for example, during the time of Jesus must follow.

What we must avoid is legalism (a slavish legalistic view of laws) and antinomianism (a dubious idea of grace that dismisses the need to obey laws).

The Psalmist tells us that God's law is perfect. It is refreshing. It is trustworthy. It makes us wise. A healthy view of laws will in fact free us from a life of irresponsibility and selfishness.

On the other hand, a holistic view of grace is not a license to do what we like. It should deliver us from the burden of carrying confessed and forgiven sins and past mistakes and enable us to live the abundant life which God has promised.

So, what is a balanced stance for us to adopt? Accept God's unmerited grace to free us from the anxiety and irrational fear. Obey God's refreshing law to help us be responsible and upright children of God.

PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father grant us the wisdom to accept, appreciate and apply the life-giving spirit of Your laws. We ask for an obedient heart to take instructions from Your teachings and to follow Your way as we seek to be responsible disciples of Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for the Bible and the teachings of the Church. Pray that Christians will be good students of God's Word, always finding time to read and contemplate on God's teachings for spiritual growth and holy living. Pray that Christians be discerning and understand how to abide in God's truth and at the same time be gracious in spirit.
- Pray for Christian organisations involved in publication and distribution of God's Word around the world. Ask God to bless the works of the Bible Societies, Scripture Unions and Christian printing press. Pray too for those who help in translating the Bible and preparing study guides so that the Word of God can reach more people.
- Ask God to raise up Christians who love Him and fear Him, to provide theological and practical leadership that will enable the Church to take on the challenges posed by a sometimes-anti-God and sometimes-anti-Christian world.
- Bring before God those who are sick – physical, mental and spiritual. Name them before God and entrust them to the Almighty for restoration of health. Pray for God's protection as Singapore relaxes the Covid restrictions. Pray for civic mindedness, graciousness and mutual kindness among the people as the nation opens up more in the coming days.

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path."*

Psalms 119:105

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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