

With You There is Forgiveness

Psalm 130:3-5

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

As sinful humans, we are score keepers. When games are played, scores are kept. This includes the most insignificant of contests. Keeping score at meal times also happens. We check to see that we get the same size piece of pie as other family members.

What if God kept score? Verse 3 of our text asks that question. That thought is down right horrifying. That verse also answers the question by implying that no one can stand. We would be utterly lost forever. To the psalmist's sin is a very serious a business. He realizes that, if all his sins were to be recorded against him, his case would be quite hopeless.

God has perfect knowledge of our sins, but he does not charge them against us, because Christ paid for them. Second Corinthians 5:19 tells us "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" Hebrews 8:12 goes even further when it says: "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

When the psalmist states that "with you there is forgiveness" (V.4), he is appealing to God to let him be the recipient of such forgiveness. The statement certainly suggests a measure of hope and faith on the speaker's part.

In verse 4 it says: "that you may be feared." The fear which flows from forgiveness is not dread and terror, but reverence, love and honor for the God who has forgiven us. Knowing God's forgiveness increases our sense of awe before Him.

The word "wait" in verse 5 is a hopeful expectation. It behooves us to make our plea and then to wait every day in deep humility until it pleases the Lord to act in our behalf. We can be empowered to wait because we have his Word with its covenant promises. Every covenant by God has been fulfilled. And the promise of Jesus is that he will be with us to the very of time. We can be depended upon.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the promise of forgiveness of all our sins. Help us to worship you with a grateful heart. Amen.