

Pastor's Ponderings

February 2008

"Sweeter than Honey"

by

Davey L. Lefler

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Psalm 46:1-2a; 119:103 (NIV)

Have you ever been in a terrible storm and had to literally run for shelter? Remember, as you ran, how you had to fight the wind, rain, and the other forces of nature just to get to the shelter? And remember how worn out you were when you finally got out of the storm? You thought you might not ever get to the shelter. Then, you may have even wondered if the shelter was strong enough to withstand the elements! Did you pick a safe shelter, or did you run to the wrong place?

That's what the Psalmist is talking about in the 46th Psalm. There is no better place for us to run, than to run straight into the arms of Jesus Christ; our Lord, our Savior, our God. We know we can run to Jesus Christ for shelter (refuge and strength) because He is the One who calms the storm (Matt 8:23-27).

Jesus still calms storms. In times of great loss and intense grief it is so comforting to know Jesus is our refuge and strength. It is to Him we can run and find help and rest and reassurance. He is the Living Word (John 1:14).

God's written Word is filled with promises and hope. Even if you haven't read much of the Bible, you know God's Word is filled with example after example of God delivering His people. That gives us great hope and faith that God will deliver us in our hour of need, also. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews says in chapter 4, verse 16: "*So let*

us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it" (NLT). God wants us to run to Him. He wants us to talk with Him. He wants us to rely on Him. And He wants us to receive from Him, grace and mercy. The thought itself is truly *sweeter than honey*.

Our dear friends, Casey and Rosemary Empson received the deliverance promised, when they went home to be with the Lord on January 21, 2008. The following is a poem Casey wrote:

God Has a Plan

by "Casey" Empson

*God has a plan
for you and for me.
It's why Jesus
was nailed to that tree.*

*He'll bring you the light
on the darkest of night.
Or lead you by day
past hell's tempting way.*

*So, keep up the faith,
'cause we're not lost in space.
And look to the Son,
the Savior, the One.*

*God has a plan,
it's easy to see.
A place just waiting
for you and for me.*

Casey allowed God's Word and promises to so fill his life they just came pouring back out of him. This poem has been *sweeter than honey* to my soul, during this time of grief and sadness.

When you are being tossed about by the storms of life, make sure you run toward the only shelter which truly protects. Run to God for His strength and refuge. Run to the throne and receive His mercy and grace. Run to

God's written Word, allow it to feed your soul, and you will find it *sweeter than honey*.