

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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GOD'S PEOPLE WILL BE VINDICATED

Larry R. Ping II

We turn our attention to the idea of vindication. We all want it, but do we all know how to achieve it, and through whom we receive it? In Psa. 26, David asked for it and offered the blueprint on receiving it. Here are a few verses from that Psalm.

"Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds" (Psalm 26:1-7, ESV).

It may be David wrote this Psalm as he was being

being pursued by King Saul, and no doubt had numerous false accusations levied against him. He was asking and praying for God's support and intervention.

But David realized there were certain parameters which needed to be met in order for God to consider carrying out such vindication.

Things like "be moral and ethical"(Psa. 11:7). "Be faithful" (Rev. 2:10). "Keep good and honest company" (I Cor. 15:33). "Do not assemble with hypocrites" (Prov. 13:20). "Hate evil" (Amos 5:15). "Don't practice wickedness" (Acts 8:22) and "always declare God's blessings and goodness" (Psa. 118:17).

These actions lay out the plan which will lead to God's vindication. Whether it is a lie someone has told about you or your family, or an untrue accusation someone has fabricated

about you, God wants to act on your behalf.

On this day, we must know God's vindication is available. When we act godly, righteously, honestly, and refuse to keep company with evil doers and hypocrites, God stands ready to be our staunchest defender. Who could not use that in a world full of sin and sorrow?

Later, the Psalmist would plead, "Judge (vindicate) me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy" (Psa. 43:1-2).

The Lord loves His people (Psa. 116:15) and will see to it, in the end, they are vindicated!

REMEMBERING OUR LORD'S SACRIFICE

Larry R. Ping II

Readers of the Bible should know some of the Psalms make reference to Jesus and His cruel death. Most everybody knows about Isa. 53, Isaiah's prophecy concerning the death of Jesus the Christ. But Psa. 22, a lesser-known prophecy, also foretells the heart-rending account of Jesus' crucifixion. Here is a portion of it.

"Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death" (Psa. 22:11-15).

We need to, on an

often basis, recollect and meditate upon what Jesus did for each and every single person who has ever lived or is living. These verses in Psa. 22 help center our focus.

Christ wanted and needed His Father near Him as He endured the pain and torture of the crucifixion. "Strong bulls of Bashan" have reference to the fierce and savage crowd which called for His death.

But may we never forget that amidst the physical pain of Christ, there was the mental anguish associated with the feeling of abandonment. His disciples betrayed Him (Matt. 26:47-56), forsook Him (Matt. 26:56) and denied Him (Matt. 26:69-75). He was, as we often sing, "alone in Pilate's hall."

On this day, may we know it is still entirely possible to betray Jesus, to forsake Him and to deny Him. Instead, may we daily

remember the torture and anguish the Son of God endured. Will you, today, recollect what Jesus did for you? Will you now comprehend the totality of his pain?

For these reasons, Jesus called upon His disciples to "Take, eat; this is my body" with reference to the unleavened bread and "Drink ye all of it" with reference to the fruit of the vine (Matt. 26:26-27). The early Christians did this on a weekly basis on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).

With regard to the Lord's supper, Paul reminded, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (I Cor. 11:26-27). May we always remember and appreciate the love of God and His Son for their indescribable gift!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm