Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #48

This is the Day the Lord Has Made

***Psalm 118:24 (NASB)* “***This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it*.”

This verse is one of the most recited and memorized verses in all the Bible. And it is wonderful. Not that the other verses of Scripture are not wonderful, but this verse stands out because of its meaning. The Psalms were written as a way to express the writer’s heart, whether for times of sadness and despair or joy and excitement. Here the Psalmist is recounting the great work of the Lord to offer His Son as the final sacrifice for our sins. And the Psalmist explodes in praise for God because of His kindness to us.

The definite article “the” speaks of a specific day - the day the Lord gave the ultimate sacrifice for all who will believe. It was the day that was set apart for all mankind to have the Redeemer, the Savior come to earth and ransom His life as the payment for our sins. Therefore, the Psalmist cannot contain himself because of what God has done.

 I remember well the day the Lord saved me. What I mean by that is I remember the day the Lord first opened my eyes to see Him for who He is. Life for me was not good at the time. I had made many poor decisions that led me down some very difficult and challenging paths. And the sad part is I had grown up learning the truth of God. I remember well the Sunday School lessons about God’s love for me and about how He sacrificed His life for me and all who open their hearts to Him. But, as the years progressed and I started living more and more according to the desires of my flesh or the desires of my own way of life, I eventually drifted away from the truths I had been taught. As a result my life became a mess to say it lightly. God was still in my mind at times, but for the most part I had shoved Him so far back that I couldn’t see Him at work anymore. That was my decision because I wanted to live the life I wanted to live. And I did. But it didn’t go well.

But thankfully God was not done with me. Like a faithful parent, He allowed me to make my own choices and do my own thing, but all the while He was there. And when I got to the place where I had made a mess of my life, He started revealing Himself more and more. He showed me that without Him I was hopelessly lost in my own doings. He showed me that if I would surrender to Him my life and live the way He wanted me to, He would change me and give me new meaning and purpose. He did all of this faithfully.

I also remember very well the day the Lord made Himself real to me. It was not a mystical experience in any way but a day when He proved to me that He loved me and had my best interests at heart. It was that day when I surrendered my life to Him, and everything changed. He gave me a new life, a new way of thinking and acting. The things of my old life were gone. I didn’t have the same desires to live like I had been living. I now wanted to follow Him and live my life for Him.

Like the Psalmist, I recognized that this was the day the Lord had made for me. As I explained the Palmist is referring to the day when Jesus came and gave His life to pay the debt owed to God for sin. But for each person who surrenders their heart to Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life, that day is the day the Lord has made as well.

If you have never embraced Jesus as Lord of your life, can I encourage you to not wait. The only regret I have from those dark years, as my mother called them, was that I didn’t embrace Jesus sooner. Because since then, my life has been day after day a life of joy, not problem free, but joy amid the problems. Life has had great meaning and purpose. Just like the day the Lord paid the debt of sin for all who believe, my day came. Would that day be today for you? Wouldn’t it be the best day ever if today was the day the Lord has made for you to fully trust Him as your God and begin to live your life for Him and what He wants? I assure you; your only regret will be that you didn’t embrace Him sooner.