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Pastor Matthias Krier
Sunday, March 20, 2022

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Scripture Lesson: I Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.*

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

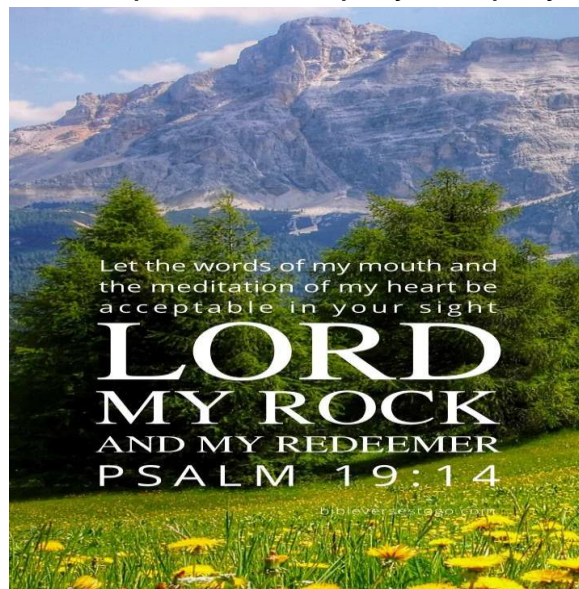
Message

Jesus is the Rock

Pastor Matthias Krier

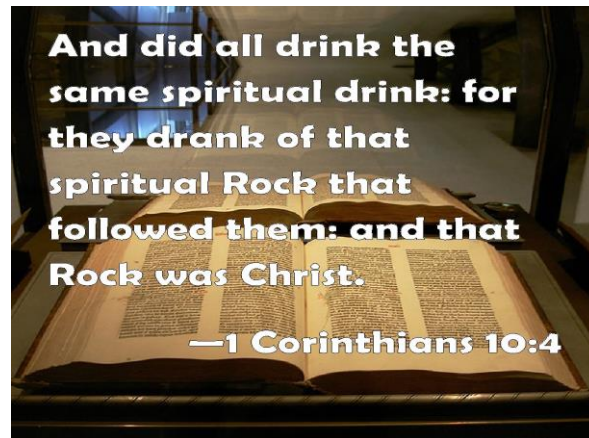


If we are a student of the Bible, we know there are numerous references that speak to God as our *Rock* from our Hebrew Bible, so as we prepare to hear just some of these scriptures, I will pray this prayer from Psalm 19:14:



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

As you all may already know, it is not about being a church near the Rock, we are called to be the church that drinks of the Spiritual Rock and that Rock is Christ. Let's hear the verse again from I Corinthians:



We are living in a time where churches all around the world are in decline with some exceptions. One has to wonder why? One would think that as we face some major issues around our country and around our world, one would think that the church would be a safe haven where one could draw comfort, strength, peace, hope, joy, and love. One would think that the church could be the place where despite our differences, we could learn to live in harmony with one another, respectfully. Unfortunately, while disrespect was there before COVID, it would seem that COVID has exacerbated the disrespect and folks are more impatient than ever.

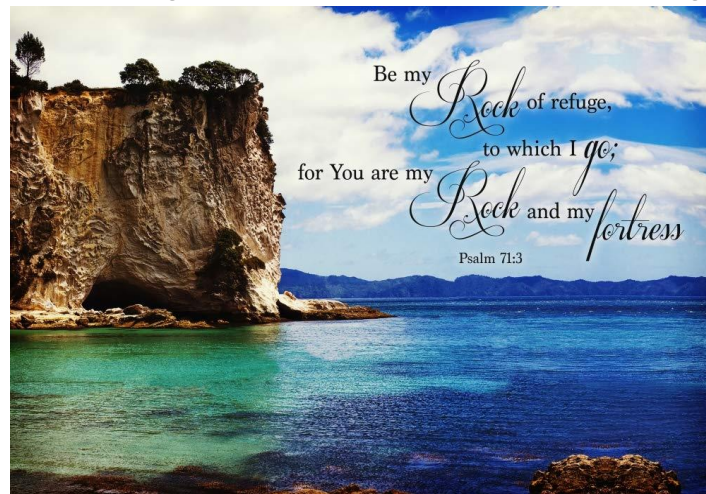
I believe this disrespect and impatience we may be experiencing is due to a lack of being centered, of being grounded in our relationship to God. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God was not of this world and for thousands of years as a part of our Judeo-Christian heritage we have been taught a different set of values. These are just a few of the verses from our Hebrew Bible teaching that God can indeed be our *Rock*.

Unfortunately, the children of God have had short term memory loss and have forgotten this.

Here is a reminder from the prophet Isaiah: *"Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the rock of your strength ..."* Isaiah 17:10

Not only did the prophets remind the people of Israel again and again that they could not only stand on holy ground but that the Eternal God was their

Rock through thick and thin. No matter the circumstances of life, God was there. Listen to yet another verse from the Psalms. This one is a bit different in that it is making a request first and then making a statement.



When we meditate on these verses, they can become sacred prayers, scripture prayers, if you will. Keep in mind that another word that has been used for salvation is *wholeness*. Yahweh only is my *Rock* and my wholeness. God, if we can get out of the way, can make us whole. God, if we stop putting up roadblocks can heal us. Also keep in mind that healing does not always come in the way that we might imagine. When my father was so ill at the age of 81 and treatments were not going to heal him, his healing came with his last breath.

Not only did the prophets remind us again and again of just how we can depend on that God is indeed our *Rock*, Jesus offered this wisdom:

24 'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!' Matthew 24-27.

We believe this to be common sense, right? Who in the world would build their house on sand? We know that if we build our house upon a solid foundation, it can withstand a great deal and the same is true for us. If we build our relationship on God, our *rock*, our refuge, our strength, we too can withstand a great deal.

However, there are times we have been tested with the circumstances of life that seem beyond our capabilities to endure. It is then we are reminded of this passage we heard earlier:

13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

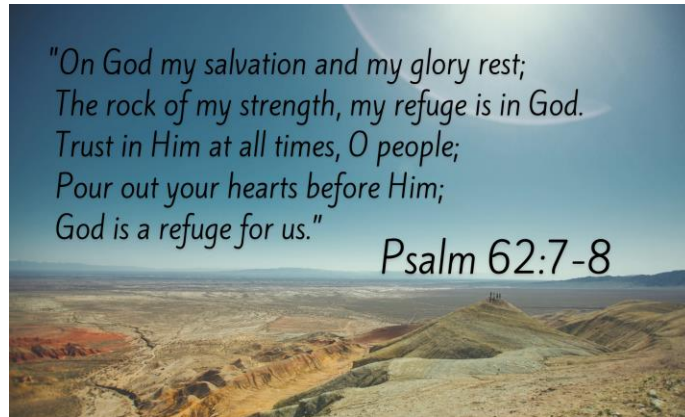
My relationship with God as a child was not built upon *Rock*, it was built on a religion which is sand. Instead, each of us can build a relationship, a deep relationship where we can feel and sense the *Rock* that has been promised to us for thousands of years.

Hear yet another verse from the our Hebrew Bible:

“Trust in the Lord forever for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.”
Isaiah 26:4

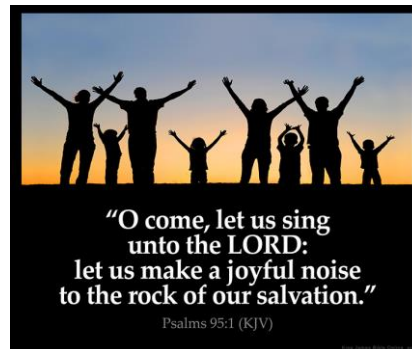
Scripture prayers can be transformative, but unless we pray them fervently, they cannot. Unless we practice them and pray them with mind, body and spirit, they are just words on a page.

This verse that is coming on screen will be on screen during communion for your meditation.



I invite you to find a word or phrase from this verse that speaks to you and can become a sacred scripture prayer for you, even if it is only a word or a phrase.

Here is one last admonition from scripture on singing and making a joyful noise as we prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion:



For some of us, we can no doubt make a joyful noise to the Lord. Amen? Amen! Let us join together in the hymn # 2002, "I Will Call Upon the Lord".

Hymn of Preparation # 2002

I Will Call Upon the Lord

[I Will Call Upon the Lord](#)