

# Notes for the Ekklēsia Meeting

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## Thoughts From The North Shore

by Dan Trygg

"Many are saying of my soul, 'There is no deliverance for him in God.' <sup>3</sup> But You, O Yahweh, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head. <sup>4</sup> I was crying to Yahweh with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. <sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept; I awoke, for Yahweh sustains me. <sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me round about. <sup>7</sup> Arise, O Yahweh; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked. <sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to Yahweh; Your blessing be upon Your people!" Psalm 3:2-8

"Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! <sup>2</sup> O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? <sup>3</sup> But know that Yahweh has set apart the godly for Himself; Yahweh hears when I call to Him. <sup>4</sup> Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in Yahweh. <sup>6</sup> There are many who say, 'Who will show us any good?' Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Yahweh! <sup>7</sup> You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. <sup>8</sup> In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Yahweh, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:1-8

I am writing these meditations from the Outpost Motel, just north of Grand Marais. We were able to get away for Labor Day weekend. It has been a great family time for us. I read these two Psalms in my quiet times the last two mornings. Psalm 3 is one of my favorite "faith building passages", especially for those of us who are trusting the Lord to provide, so that we can continue to do the ministry He has called us to. I know countless other men and women of faith have also been refreshed by the living water flowing from this bubbling spring. I remember reading from George Muller, Hudson Taylor and Amy Carmichael, as they cited this passage.

To have Psalm 4 immediately following is to reinforce the lesson, and focus further on the provision of God. David's opponents mocked his trust in God, as do many unbelievers today. They sneer and joke about God, disregarding the signs of His presence around them (Rom. 1:18-20), and dismissing the testimonies and experiences of those who claim to know Him. Like Israel of Jeremiah 2, they turn away from the Fountain of living water, in order to attempt to slake their thirst from mud puddles and cisterns. The water gives life, but they do not know the true Source of life, nor Life itself. They search for pleasure, and hope to find something "good", but their efforts only temporarily satisfy. They call out, "Who can show us any good?", but even though we may testify of our joy and the serenity of our hearts, they are uninterested. Being in pain within themselves, they try to block out the emptiness of their hearts and pursue pleasure with greediness, trying to "suck the life out of" things, experiences and even people (Eph. 4:19). They have ruled God out, and so they are left with their empty, vacuous souls and their ineffective strategies for finding meaning and fulfillment. They love vain words and seek after lies. They grope along like blind men, moaning for hope and help, but finding none (Isa. 59:2-15).

Be encouraged today. God is our Source. "It is He that has made us, and not we ourselves" (Psa. 100:3). He has appointed our days before anyone knew of our conception, and He is intimately acquainted with all our ways, our concerns, our struggles (Psa. 139). Furthermore, we did not choose Him, He chose us, and "put us in a place in order that we might go about and bear fruit, ...fruit that would remain" and "so that whatever we might ask the Father in Jesus' name, He might give it to us" (Jn. 15:16). He sets apart the godly person for Himself. He hears us when we call to Him. The "light of His countenance", ...His ready acceptance of us and favor toward us..., gives us abundant joy and unsurpassing peace. To know Him is "joy inexpressible and full of glory", and lifts us up above even the most difficult circumstances (I Pet. 1:3-9).

Know that God is *for* you today (Psa. 56:9; cf. Rom. 8:31). He IS with you to deliver you today, ...to make a way for you today, ...to lead you in His way today, ...to make you fruitful and give you success today.