

PREPARE
Him
ROOM

p s a l m s o f a s c e n t

Great Expectations

PSALM 130

I. God _____ our greatest expectations and sees our deepest needs.

vv 1-2 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

EXPRESSIONS OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS

{	Humble - "out of the depths"	Reverent - "O Lord"	}
	Urgent - "I cry to you"	Personal - "my voice"	
	Direct - "to you, O Lord!"	Desperate - "plea for mercy"	

II. God _____ to our deepest needs by sending His Son Jesus to exceed our expectations.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

With Jesus there is _____ of sin.

vv. 3-4 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

_____ **YOUR SINS, BECAUSE HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE.** (1 Jn 1:9)

With Jesus there is _____ for the future.

vv 5-6 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

_____ **IN GOD'S WORD AS YOU WAIT TO FIND HIM FAITHFUL.** (Ps 84:11)

With Jesus there is _____ of redemption.

vv 7-8 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

_____ **HIS UNFAILING LOVE FOR YOU EACH AND EVERY DAY.** (Lam 3:22-23)

PREPARE *Him* ROOM
PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL

The city of Jerusalem is situated on a high hill. The Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) were sung by Jews traveling from their homes to Jerusalem on the "ascent," or the uphill road to the city, for one of the three main annual Jewish festivals.

Read Psalm 130.

1. What would you say you tend to hope for at this time of year?

2. In the fullness of time God sent Jesus to meet our greatest need (Gal 4:4-5). How does God's time seem to you as you wait on Him? How do these Scriptures encourage you?

Romans 5:6

2 Corinthians 6:2

Galatians 6:9

1 Timothy 2:6, 6:15

1 Peter 5:6

Titus 1:3

3. What gifts from Jesus is the Christian able to unwrap? List as many as you can. How can you 'unwrap' these daily to remind yourself of His forgiveness, love and provision? (See also 1 John 1:9, Psalm 84:11 and Lamentations 3:22-23.)

4. Martin Luther called this psalm one of the *Pauline psalms* because it reflects the New Testament teaching of the apostle Paul—that we receive God's grace not by works but through faith alone. What insights into this psalm does his comment give you?

5. How has this sermon reminded you that God hears your prayers of dependence on Him, and will answer them in His time? Do you anticipate that He will reveal Himself to you?

6. Read the quote below.

"At a time of deep failure in my life, well-meaning Christian friends challenged me to claim God's promise of forgiveness (1 Jn 1:9) and move on. I was not so quick to jump from forgiveness to restoration. Instead, I waited. I certainly knew God's promises and I had humbly and fully confessed my sin to God and to those injured by it, but I still waited for several weeks. I waited to hear from God. The believing poet who wrote Psalm 130 knew what that was like. He was confident of God's grace and forgiveness—"with you there is forgiveness" (v. 4)—but, while he knows that great truth, he also waits to hear from God. He waits for God to speak words of grace into his heart and mind. He waits for God to act in his life to bring some level of assurance and encouragement and healing. It's one thing to know God's promises in our minds; it's something else to experience the guilt being lifted from our hearts. The confidence we have is that God will always come through. It is God's nature to be compassionate and merciful. It's the way God is. After we are honest and repentant in confessing sin, we will also sense God's forgiveness as the heavy weight of wrong is lifted. We will sense God's arms of love embracing us like the welcoming father (Is 49:15; 66:13) embraced the son who returned from his rebellion and waywardness. There's no doubt or fear that God won't accept us. But sometimes the working out of God's promises into the reality of our experience comes only after we wait for a while in His presence. 'I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope' (v. 5)."
—Warren Wiersbe

Have you waited quietly in God's presence lately? Listened carefully for His voice in your heart and the affirmation of His love in your spirit? It doesn't require a mountain retreat or a monastery's isolation. The quiet corner of a bedroom will work just fine—or a park bench or even a car parked in a busy city lot. God is there. Forgiveness and hope are in His hand. He may just be waiting for a quiet moment in which to speak.

Take some time to meditate on Psalm 130 throughout the coming week, reflecting on God's forgiveness for you, the hope you have for the future, and how these can influence the way you relate to others this season.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of The Source at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.cbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

WHO ARE YOU BRINGING TO CHRISTMAS EVE? We've planned a very merry celebration for this Tuesday, Dec. 24. Bring your family, invite friends and don't forget to tell your neighbors and coworkers—everyone is invited to celebrate at Christ Chapel! You can help us today by getting Reservation Reminders and RSVP-ing for Kids Care at www.cbcfamily.org/events.

THIS YEAR'S END-OF-YEAR GIVING OPPORTUNITY IS VISION 2020. If you're thinking about making an end-of-year gift, please consider Vision 2020, our plan to make Christ clear to friends and neighbors here at home and around the world through special projects like combatting human trafficking across Texas and building a church in the Middle East to reach refugees. Visit www.cbcfamily.org/give2019 to read about Vision 2020's six initiatives and give.

WORSHIP 1, SERVE 1 ON CHRISTMAS EVE! We're looking for Christ Chapelites to help welcome people to our Christmas Eve worship services. If you're available to serve before the 6 or 9:30 p.m. service, contact Hannah at HannahS@christchapelbc.org or 817-945-2321 to sign up.

ARTISTS, WE WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT FOR ART REACH 2020! Art Reach is a weekend at Christ Chapel all about celebrating the arts and the creativity God gives each of us. If you are an artist (of any age!), start thinking of what you could submit. The theme is "Reaching In, Reaching Up: Seeking God Through Art" and submissions will open on Friday, Jan. 3. Learn more at www.cbcfamily.org/events.

GUYS, MAKE BAND OF BROTHERS PART OF YOUR 2020. Men's Ministry's newest study, "When Judges Ruled and Sin Reigned: Life Lessons from the Book of Judges" is full of wild, but true stories of what happens when we take God for granted and stop letting Him rule. Band of Brothers is an awesome way to build community while learning more about God. Sign up for the study, which starts Thursday, Jan. 9, at www.cbcfamily.org/men.

LADIES, BE A PART OF WOMEN IN THE WORD THIS WINTER. If you're looking for a place to grow and be a part of a Bible study community, Women in the Word is the place to go! Their new study "The Big Reveal: A Study of Revelation" is all about Jesus, His victorious return and the hope and joy it can bring to our lives here and now. Learn more and sign up for study, which begins Thursday, Jan. 9, at www.cbcfamily.org/women.

MAKE PLANS FOR WINTER MORNING OF PRAYER. Ladies, there's no better way to start the year (and decade) than a morning of prayer. Join us at the Fort Worth or West Campus on Saturday, Jan. 11. We'll start with worship and a testimony on prayer. Afterward you'll have time to pray on your own. For more info, visit www.cbcfamily.org/events.