

HOW OFTEN IS GOD WITH YOU? 9/1/99

During my study this past week, I came upon a passage in the Psalms that caught my attention. I'm not sure exactly why it drew me in. It may have been the yellow highlighting that I had marked it with sometime in the past, but I don't think so. It could have been the fact that I had just finished my lesson and was considering which of the half dozen projects on my table were to be handled next, but once more, I don't think so. I think that what caught my attention at this moment with this passage was the realization of my own need for God.

Psalms 68:19-20 reads, "*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. God is to us a God of deliverance...*"

"*Blessed be the Lord*" is certainly not an unusual biblical passage. The Lord is, to those who seek Him, a great blessing. He is well worthy of thanks and honor and praise. But notice David's next phrase. *Wow*.

The Lord "*daily bears our burden.*" One reason that the Lord is blessed for us is that He is there for us "*daily.*" He is not just paying attention on Sundays when we are gathered together. He's there on your drive to work also and during school. He does not just hear our songs of praise when the whole body comes together. He hears sweet spiritual songs that fall from the lips of mothers and grandmothers daily spending their lives with their children. He does not just hear the intercessions of mercy that are offered on behalf of sick and shut-in brethren. He also hears those who cry out to Him because they are tired, or being pressured by worldly associates. He hears the self-doubt of the stumbling saint and desire of the young father to lead his family aright. He hears the questions of young men and women trying to become adults and the longing of adults who sometimes act like children.

He daily bears our burden and He is to us a God of deliverance. The responsibilities that, at times, weigh us down. Raising a family, caring for an aged loved one, helping a spouse to grow, meeting financial obligations, dealing with sickness or tragedy, and then fulfilling our service with the church – our God can bring you through all these, and more. And He doesn't just work on Sundays. He daily bears our burden.

Let's "daily" give thanks to our Creator. And let's use the help that He offers us – to share our load with Him, calling on Him for deliverance and strength. Don't leave God at the church building as you go about the rest of your life. He wants a daily portion of your life and He offers day by day blessings in return.

Carl McMurray