Clips from Psalms

Psalms 114:1-4

God's Deliverance of Israel from Egypt

“When Israel went forth out of Egypt the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion. The sea saw it and fled; the Jordan was driven back. The mountains skipped like rams the little hills like lambs.”

Thoughts on John

Chapter 8

Jesus teaches men and women of every generation that if truth does not have an honest place in your mind you will never see him in heaven. Jesus speaks very harsh words to the scribes, Pharisees and Jews so that they may open their eyes to real truth. Religiously minded people often share the same problem. Those that have made up their minds regarding who Jesus is and what he preaches as truth before they actually hear and learn are doomed to eternal failure (see John 7:33-34). When one makes up their mind about a matter before the facts are heard they act and speak foolishly because they do not have knowledge. Jesus exposes the scribes, Pharisees and Jews lack of true knowledge on several occasions in this chapter (see John 8:14, 19, 37, 43, and 55). The Jews manifest their confusion and lack of knowledge by their repeated questions that have already been answered by Jesus (see John 8:19, 25, 33, 53, and 57).

Jesus exposes the people's problem as that of having the mind of Satan. Satan has no connections to truth because he permits his own will to govern his actions (John 8:44). Jesus had previously said, “18 He that speaks from himself seeks his own glory: but he that seeks the glory of him that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him” (John 7:18).
Speaking from one's own mind or will is to "judge after the flesh" (John 8:15). Those that judge after the flesh are of this world rather than being spiritually minded (John 8:23) (# Authority). The unbelieving Jews would continue to ask Jesus their questions until they received the answers that are in line with their personal religious views, opinions, convictions and conscience. The problem in our religious world today is no different than the problems of the unbelievers in Jesus' day. Though men profess faith in Jesus they prove to be unbelievers of their father the devil in that they do what they want to in religion rather than what God commands (John 8:44). The reason this happens is because the truths of Jesus are offensive. 

When truth offends them they stop their ears from hearing. When they stop their ears from listening they do not learn or know truth. Those that do not listen and learn will never know truth and consequentially they cannot attain righteousness (see John 6:44-45). Neither Jesus nor heaven will ever belong to such people because they will die in their sins (John 8:21-24). The solution to all men's spiritual troubles is to cast away spiritual self sufficiency and listen, learn, and obey truth! We must all be willing to say, as did Jesus, "not my will but your (God's) will be done" (Luke 22:42). Those that see the high value of their eternal souls will come to this meek and lowly disposition toward the Lord and his truths.

John Robertson

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalms 133:1

Psalms 109

1 Be not silent, O God of my praise! 2 For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues. 3 They encircle me with words of hate, and attack me without cause. 4 In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer. 5 So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love. 6 Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser stand at his right hand. 7 When he is tried, let him come forth guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin! 8 May his days be few; may another take his office! 9 May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow! 10 May his children wander about and beg, seeking food far from the ruins they inhabit! 11 May the creditor seize all that he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil! 12 Let there be none to extend kindness to him, nor any to pity his fatherless children! 13 May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation! 14 May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out! 15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth! 16 For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted, to put them to death. 17 He loved to curse; let curses come upon him! He did not delight in blessing; may it be far from him! 18 He clothed himself with cursing as his coat; may it soak into his body like water, like oil into his bones! 19 May it be like a garment that he wraps around him, like a belt that he puts on every day! 20 May this be the reward of my accusers from the LORD, of those who speak evil against my life! 21 But you, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name's sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me! 22 For I am poor and needy, and my heart is stricken within me. 23 I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust. 24 My knees are weak through fasting; my body has become gaunt, with no fat. 25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they wag their heads. 26 Help me, O LORD my God! Save me according to your steadfast love! 27 Let them know that this is your hand; you, O LORD, have done it! 28 Let them curse, but you will bless! They arise and are put to shame, but your servant will be glad! 29 May my accusers be clothed with dishonor, may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak! 30 With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD; I will praise him in the midst of the throng. 31 For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.