



CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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TEXT: PSALM 102:18-28. NRSV

TITLE: "LIVING SECURELY AND ESTABLISHED"

KEY VERSE: PSALM 102:27-28 NRSV

INTRODUCTION

- A. The challenges of every kind have been a matter of human experience since the beginning of time.
1. Adam and Eve's residence changed from the Garden of Eden to another location.
 2. Moses's occupation changed from shepherding to liberator leading the people out of Egypt.
 3. Abraham was told to move to a land that "God would show him."
 4. Isaiah, an ordinary man from ordinary people, was called to be one of God's great prophets.
 5. Mary, a 19-year-old unmarried young woman was made pregnant by God to be mother of Jesus.
 6. Jesus, a carpenter's son in life, is God's son in purpose, the healer, deliverer, Savior.

WHAT ABOUT OUR TIMES?

- A. Our history has also spoken to this human experience of challenges that comes with living as God calls us.
1. Harriet Tubman
 2. Sojourner Truth
 3. Marcus Garvey
 4. Martin Luther King, Jr and Ralph Abernathy
 5. Vel Phillips
 6. Clinton & Bernice Rose
 7. Orville Pitts
 8. Annette Polly Williams
 9. Roy B. Nabors
- B. These heroes and heroines met the challenge and calls of their time even though it changed their personal lives, greatly.
- C. Our music tells the story of the intent and the will of our people to do what God asked of them.
1. **Church songs:**
 - a. "In times like these, you need a Savior."
 - b. "Time is Filled with Swift Transition." "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"
 - c. We're Marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion. We're marching upward to Zion that beautiful city of God."
 2. **Blues and R&B songs:** "Everything Must Change"
 3. **Historic Civil Rights Songs:**
 - a. 1844 – "Oh, Freedom."
 - b. 1860 – "No More Auction Block for Me"
 - c. Pre-1862 "Steal Away"
 - d. 1863 – "Get on Board Little Children"
 - e. 1917 – "I Don't Feel No Ways Tired"
 - f. 1931 – "I'll Fly Away"

OUR TEXT: PSALM 102 IS THE PRAYER OF A PERSON WHO IS GOING THROUGH, WHO POURS OUT TO THE LORD ABOUT HIS PERSONAL SUFFERINGS.

A. Psalm 102:1 / Psalm 102:12-13 / Psalm 102:14 / Psalm 102:16 / Psalm 102:18-22 / Psalm 102:24

B. What about you and me today? Four things to point out about living from Psalm 102

1. Challenging times are certain.
2. Challenging times can be swift.
3. But, during times of challenge you *can* be secure.
4. And the fourth is this: Making it through is promised to us.

C. So, then, how do we Live? Hold to our professions and declarations about God and about us.

1. ..."but you (God) are the same" Our profession verse 27
2. ..."Your years have no end..." Our profession verse 28
3. ..."The children of your servants shall live secure" Our declaration verse 28
4. ..."Their offspring shall be established in your presence." Our declaration verse 28

D. But to be "secure" and "established "

1. In Psalm 102:28, the phrase "**established**" means to be *securely rooted in God's love and purpose. The verse expresses a hope that God's promises will extend, also, to future generations, ot just the present one.*
2. **The Message Bible:** Verse 28: Your servants' children will have a good place to live, and their children will be at home with you."

E. What is ours to do, then?

1. Our Need – A *good* place to live. – Promised but we must do our part!
2. Our Hope — God's promise for our children. – We must teach them.
3. Our Joy — And to be together "at home with you." — Security is in our unity.
4. Our Future — Keep going

Rest if you must, but don't quit!

Keep going on, with God's help. Just don't quit