

**October 30, 2008**

**Psalm 129 (NASB)**

**“Many times they have persecuted me from my youth up.”**

**Let Israel now say,**

**“Many times they have persecuted me from my youth up;**

**Yet they have not prevailed against me.**

**The plowers plowed upon my back;**

**They lengthened their furrows.”**

**The Lord is righteous;**

**He has cut in two the cords of the wicked.**

**May all who hate Zion**

**Be put to shame and turned backward;**

**Let them be like grass upon the housetops,**

**Which withers before it grows up;**

**With which the reaper does not fill his hand,**

**Or the binder of sheaves his bosom;**

**Nor do those who pass by say,**

**“The blessing of the Lord be upon you;**

**We bless you in the name of the Lord.”**

We have taken innumerable blows. We have been bruised and battered by life's crested waves, but we are not broken. Our vessel may be cracked, but it is not destroyed. Our hopes and all that we believed in may have once been snatched away, but God is eternal. His love and power is everlasting. He has not forgotten us, and He will never allow the wicked to achieve real victory. Just when it seemed like all was lost, the Lord released us from our bondage and healed our wounds. He found us when we lost sight of the way, and He brought us back home.

May God put an end to those who take away our joy. May the Lord turn the threats and weapons of the unrighteous back upon themselves. May their days be few, and may the Lord prevent the spread of their evil. Let no one bless their unrighteous work, and may their wickedness reap an empty harvest.

Sometimes these psalms resonate longer with me if I rewrite them in my own words, which is what I tried to do above. My words are not inspired, but they are personal and they help me reflect on the things happening around us. There are real challenges, real pains, even real terrors that plague some in our family today. And I mean our whole family—the church of which we are a part. We are told to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, but there are some moments when we aren't yet sure what to do. In such moments, this psalm gives us hope that our uncertainties and our pain are known by God. Since our God is full of mercy and compassion, we also know that He will dress our wounds and put an end to the hostility and persecution we sometimes experience. In the meantime, it is okay for us to hate evil. It is okay to hate the pain that seems unfair and so unbalanced in the lives of the innocent.

May the days of evil soon find their end. May the Lord soon cut the cords of the wicked forever.

In Him,  
Patrick Barber