**Daily Prayer and Encouragement – Tuesday 8th December**

1 Timothy 6: 15-16 NIV

"God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen."

Hebrews 10:22 NIV

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

There are many things in life that appear to be contradictory and cannot be reconciled. Why do some good and kind people suffer, whilst others do not? There are portions of scripture that fall into the same category. In our first reading we are told that God 'lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see'. So, how can we, as invited in the second reading, 'Draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings'?

The answer lies in the latter part of our second reading and as expressed in the old hymn:- "There is power, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb".

What amazing grace!

There is another hymn, that was my father's favourite, that expresses more eloquently than my words, how we can "draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings'.

1. Eternal Light! Eternal Light! How pure the soul must be,

When, placed within Thy searching sight,

it shrinks not, but with calm delight Can live, and look on Thee.

2. The spirits that surround Thy throne May bear the burning bliss,

But that is surely theirs alone,

Since they have never, never known A fallen world like this.

3. O how shall I, whose native sphere Is dark, whose mind is dim,

Before the Ineffable appear,

And on my naked spirit bear The uncreated beam?

4. There is a way for man to rise To that sublime abode;-

An offering and a sacrifice,

A Holy Spirit's energies, An advocate with God.

5. These, these prepare us for the sight

Of Holiness above;

The sons of ignorance and night Can dwell in the eternal light,

Through the eternal Love.

(by H L. Morley)

Amazing grace!

Ken Orman