A Steady Climb Towards Assurance

Psalm 130
March 1, 2026

- **THE BIG IDEA:** We all stand guilty before a Holy and Just God. We can either keep that sense of guilt to ourselves or we can take it to the only one that can free us from the weight of guilt and consequences of our actions. God is a God of redemption and the only source of rescue.

Psalm 130 (NASB95)

130 **1 Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord. 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. 3 If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. 6 My soul *waits* for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; *Indeed, more than* the watchmen for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

The Way In

+ The psalmist is in a position of extreme distress.
+ The Lord has given the author of the psalm an awareness of his sin.
+ One of the clearest pieces of evidence for the existence of God is that man naturally has a guilt factor.
+ In order for us to feel what the psalmist is describing in Psalm 130, we need a proper understanding of God and self.
    - When man truly recognizes who God is, he realizes just how guilty he is before God.

The Way Out

- It is possible to be so overwhelmed with guilt that you are discouraged from thinking that forgiveness is even possible.
- God desires to forgive more than we desire to be forgiven.
- The greatest problem in our lives is that our sin has separated us from God. The greatest news is that God, in Christ, reconciles us to Himself.
- In order to bring us from the depths, Christ must go into the depths.
- A steady climb towards assurance only happens when we stop trying to climb out on our own.

The Way Up

- The gospel absolutely changes your entire perspective on life and guilt.
- How many problems in the Christian life could be solved if we fully realized what it means to have the Word of the promise in our possession?
- The forgiveness and love that the psalmist discovers in Psalm 130 is not a one and done salvation.
    - God is not stingy with redemption; He gives it abundantly!
- The Christian soul that begins in the depths does not stay there. Instead, it goes out and it tells others that it is time to get out.
- "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."- Galatians 3:28-29

"Redemption from all iniquity! It baffles the most descriptive language, and distances the highest measurement. The most vivid imagination faints in conceiving it, the most glowing image fails in portraying it, and faith droops her wing in the bold attempt to scale its summit. 'He shall redeem Israel from all iniquities.' The verse is a word-painting of man restored, and of paradise regained."

Octavius Winslow