

Monday, December 11

Scripture Reading: Psalms 33

Text for Today: Psalms 33:18-22 *Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy: To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.*

Shortly after celebrating her 95th birthday on June 14th of this year, my Mother began a steady decline in health, resulting in her death on August 25th. She died peacefully, with my sister and me at her side, on our Father's and her Great-Granddaughter's birthday. As a hopeful Christian, I believe it was the perfect day for her to join our Dad in heaven. Psalms 33 is praising God for his goodness and mercy. The entire passage gives us confidence in God, our heavenly Father. Our Mother didn't quote chapter and verse in the Bible – she simply lived it! She trusted in God's mercy upon her soul. She waited for her Lord often saying, "I don't know why I've lived this long." I believed she lived a long life to provide a shining Christian example to me and to our family. She was our shield from and through the wickedness of the world, teaching us in her daily actions, to trust in God's merciful love. She loved Central Christian Church and the people she met there. She passed that feeling on to her children and her grandchildren. She loved Christmas and taught us to appreciate and celebrate the birth of Jesus. From this babe came the true hope for all people in our world. Mother allowed us to feel God's unconditional love, mercy, and kindness through her example in our daily lives – not just at Christmas.

When our Dad came to greet Mother and take her to heaven, August 25th was the perfect day. She knew we would continue to celebrate the date through her Great-Granddaughter's birthday. As we celebrate the anniversary of Delaney's and our Dad's first day on earth, we'll now also be mindful of Mother's first entrance into God's kingdom. December 25th will forever remind me of August 25th, the day of Mother's hope in God was realized in heaven.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your mercy and the hope we confidently have in your kingdom. Help us to feel hope as strongly on the 25th of every month as we do on December 25th. We can never pay you back the gift of hope you gave us that first Christmas morning. Help us to “pay it forward” to future generations, and “pay it sideways” to each other in Christian love and compassion throughout the ages. In His name we pray, Amen.

LeEtta Bass

*Focus on Christ
this Season*

