



## DEVOTIONAL TIME

08-10-2015 @ 0900

**“Plan With God, Who Always Succeeds!”**

Isaiah 28:23-29

### **I Will Bless Thee, O Lord!**

I will bless Thee, O Lord! I will bless Thee, O Lord!  
With a heart of thanksgiving, I will bless Thee, O Lord!  
With my hands lifted up – And my mouth filled with praise –  
With a heart of thanksgiving, I will bless Thee, O Lord!

### **Isaiah 28:23-29**

“Listen to what I am saying; pay attention to what I am telling you! Farmers don’t constantly plow their fields and keep getting them ready for planting. Once they have prepared the soil, they plant the seeds of herbs such as dill and cumin. They plant rows of wheat and barley, and at the edges of their fields they plant other grain. They know how to do their work, because God has taught them. They never use a heavy club to beat out dill seeds or cumin seeds; instead they use light sticks of the proper size. They do not ruin the wheat by threshing it endlessly, and they know how to thresh it by driving a cart over it without bruising the grains. All this wisdom comes from the Lord Almighty. The plans God makes are wise, and they always succeed!”

### **QUESTIONS FOR TODAY**

- Have you ever studied a situation thoroughly and worked diligently on a plan to make the most of it, considering every angle and detail you could think of, only to have it all fall apart anyway?
- Do you ever wish you could design a fool-proof “success plan” for your life that was “sure to work”, and know your future “health, wealth, and legacy” was “good to go”?
- How does God figure in to your “life plan”? What share of your “space” and “time” does the Lord currently receive? Do you have any plans to change that? When? How?

God’s Wisdom *works*...every time! Even when it looks like “weakness” and “foolishness” in the eyes of the “worldly” and “secular”, God’s “Divine Design” prevails. Modes of human wisdom come and go; forms of human strength rise and fall. There are numerous books on “how to plan” for life and “ways to build” for success, and mentors, coaches, counselors, and gurus pump out more every year. Yet the gap grows wider between the “truly successful” and those “just getting by”. With each passing year, more and more people and companies “fold” completely” or file for bankruptcy. Divorce has become so rampant that more and more people simply opt not to marry. In such a culture, it may seem that failure and frustration will derail any plans we’d make, so why even try? It will probably fail anyway. (How many times have you thought about learning a new skill or getting to know someone special, but never quite “got around to it”? Oh, you drew up some plans and made initial preparations but then “went back to the drawing board” without any actual “follow through”.) Isaiah offers us a very different approach to life: “Farmers don’t constantly plow their fields and keep getting them ready for planting...They know how to do their work, because God has taught them.” Farmers have “learned from God” how to take care of their crops. Take a page from their “work book”: God’s Wisdom is the wisdom that *works*...every time...guaranteed. God, grant us the Grace of “Proper Prior Planning”! Align our mind with the “Divine Design”, so we always “succeed” on Your terms. This world can be a frightening place in which to try to “spread our wings”, especially if we have already tried and failed more than once. But the plans You make are wise, and they “always succeed.” Focus us on the “always succeed”. As we remember this, make us willing to go “all-in” for the “Perfect Plan” You have arranged for us. It asks for all we’ve got, but what an “out-of-this-world” guarantee!