

I Will Not Die But Live!**1. And Give Thanks to the Lord 2. And Trust in God 3. And Not Fear Death 4. And Rejoice**

- All/All; let this ch be filld w/joyful Alls, for: Xp risen; ind; all! We share tog respvly the joyful Easter Ps, the Ps of Xp's victry over dth, **Ps 118**.
- In yr mind, I'd like you go back just for mmnt to MT, to upper rm. J & discs share Pssvr/Com; and as all fthfl Jewsh ppl'd do at Pssvr, they sing! Tog they sing ancnt hymn calld Hallel (just Pss 113-118). Sing it ev yr at Pssvr – some stnzs befr/aftr meal. But Ps 118: alwys last stnz. So very likly these wrds: last wrds J sings before dies. He climbs Mt. Olvs, prays Gthsmn. And these wrds are resontng/mnd; profnd signfnc these wrds: weighng/mnd. Ps 118: **“When hrd pressd, I cried to Lord”** – “Fr, take cup fr me.” **“What can mere mortls do me?”** – “Crcfy/crcfy him!” **“All the ntns surrddd me; they surrddd me on ev side; they swrmd arnd me like bees”** – “Save self! Come dwn fr cross if Son/God.” **“Lord has chstnd me sevrly”** – “My God, why frskn?” J knws wrds/song; re him; & knws exctly what about face.
- But there's more to the song – a refrain that J repeats in mind over/over again: IWNDBL. And w/every pnch/slap/whip/hammr-blow/agonizing mmnt, J repeats refrain: IWNDBL. “Today, pards” – IWNDBL. “Finshd” – IWNDBL. “Fr, hands commit spirit” – IWNDBL. And then dies, bec wages/sin is dth. And if you have wages of sin/wrld on your acnt, then you've gotta die. And if you're sinful prsn like I am, then gotta die. But the wrds/hymn – they resonate – that refrain: IWNDBL. And I think in drkns/tmb on that ES morn, before sun'd risen but aftr Son'd risen – I think that J, vindictd/resurretd – I think he smiled, w/meldy in mind & lyric on lips: IWNDBL. And this is same J who: **“Bec I live, you also live.”** And so these wrds: also our wrds. Say w/me: IWNDBL. I'll live: as Xian; justfd bfr Lord; forgvn; freed fr guilt; at peace w/God; by faith; w/o fear. And: w/sure/certain hope of res to etrn life; w/raised & glrfd bdy; w/my Sav frvr in hvn. For rest my life, I will live w/Easter joy and w/the Easter confdnc that IWNDBL.

1. And Give Thanks to the Lord

- And as long/live, I: give thnks Lord. Look what booknds Ps, **first/last vs**. It's so much more than a meal prayer. Res/J fr dead: our reason for giving thnks to Lord in evthng, ev day! “LJ, thank you for: loving me; coming into my sin-filld wrld; fghtng & defeatng tmptn ev day/life; yr Pssn & terrbl dth/cross; yr res, vctry/dth; my slvtn; prom etrn life/hvn; forgvng all my sins; alwys being w/me; hearing my prys; baptzng into yr fam; feedng w/holy Sup; my faith/ch/Wrd; my fam/home; and yes, food; evthng!” All these blssngs: gracs gifts fr our risen Sav. **Vs. 1**. IWNDBL. And as long/live, I: give thanks to Lord.

2. And Trust in God

- IWNDBL. And as long/live, I: trust in God. **Vs. 5**. On cross, J: hard pressd by wght our sins. But now, risen fr dead & lives/reigns frvr in hvn, where so **“spacious,”** there's room for all Xians there. J once: **“Trst in God; trst also in me. In my Fr's house: many rms.”** And right now in hvn, J: preprng rm for each us there. He says, “Trust in me.”
- Jesus certly trusted Fr. On cross, J was tmptd doubt God's love. But here says **vs. 6**. What can they do?! Crucfxn: one wrst frms/dth imagbnl! Yet w/confdnt trst/Fr & prfnd love/us, J: **vs. 8, 7**. Whn J rose dead, triumphd over enms! **Vs. 10**. Stn can accuse you sin no more; J cut him dwn. Your sin defines/ctrls you no more; J cut it down. Dth can capture/contain you in its cold clutches no more; J cut it dwn.
- **Vs. 14**. Res/J fr dead is our salv. W/o res/J, we have no hope. But by rising fr dead, J **vs. 14b**. So trust in J! If anything in life rght now causing dbt God's love, then run back to tomb & look inside; that baby's empty! Jesus rose for you! **Vs. 14**. So IWNDBL. And as long/live, I: trust in God.

3. And Not Fear Death

- IWNDBL. And as long/live, I: not fear dth. **Vs. 15b-16**. What mgthy thngs? Well, think like this: when J died, like sank dwn into deep/dark/ugly pit. That pit is dth; & J sank bottom. But on ES, God Fr's mgthy rght hnd rchd dwn fr hvn into that terrbl pit/dth, grabbd hold J, pulld him out, & liftd him on high for all to see! **Vs. 15b**. He raisd J fr dead!

- And smday, going do same for you! That pit/dth still claims prey. We still: have funerls/miscrrgs; lose lovd ones; bury fam membs; face dth. Fact is: smday we all are going die. But when God raisd J, made prom to raise us, as well. And smday he'll rch dwn his mghty rght hnd fr hvn, grab hold us, and pull us out dark pit/dth – and we'll live again, just as surely as J lives again.
- So, dear Xian, do not be afraid/dth. J: **“Bec I live, you also live.”** I've condctd lot funerls as Pr, & lot comtl services at cemtry. During comtl service, before we lower casket into grnd, I alwys read these wrds fr Ps 118: **vs. 19-20**. And I point casket when say these wrds, bec res/J makes dth a gate. Dth, for Xian: gateway thru which righteous enter etrnal life. If you rght now: mourning dth/lovd one; or if facing yr own dth (really, we all), remem glorious truth/Easter: IWNDBL! I will not stay in grave; I will come back to life, bec my Sav will bring me back to life! And I will live w/him forvr! So dear Xian, don't be afraid/dth! Face dth w/same confdnc J did: IWNDBL. And as long/live, I will not fear dth.

4. And Rejoice

- Finly, bec IWNDBL, for as long/live, I: rejoice. **Vs. 15a**. Easter: day to rejoice; and Easter makes ev day a day to rejoice – bec **vs. 22**. Like foolsh bldrs, Jewish ldrs threw quarry's best stone onto junk rock pile. But God pulled J out that rock pile, said “This: best stone in yard!” Now J is the resurrctd cornrstn of God's Ch; and we, like living stones, are built upon him. That is our reason to rejoice!
- **Vs. 23-24a** (raised J on Easter Day); **vs. 24b** – or, as tradtnl transl: **“This: day Lord has made; let us rejoice & be glad in it!”** (NIV84). Easter is day to rejoice & be glad – but not just today; not just in this festvl service; but every day. Xian life: life/rejoicing, bec our Sav is not dead; he's alive. And so for rest of our lives we rejoice. **Vs. 26a; 27a; 28**. **“This: day Lord has made; let us rejoice & be glad in it!”**

Conclusion

- It must've been trrbl for J that MT night, knowing: in 24 hrs he'd be dead, and in next 24 hrs he'd go thru hell. But this: song he sang; refrain he repeatd; chorus carried him thru: IWNDBL. Nailed to cross, J: IWNDBL. Standing outside tomb in victry, J: IWNDBL. Dear Xian, live yr life (ev day/life) w/the joy of Easter in your hrt & w/Easter confdnc in yr soul, bec you will not stay dead; you'll live again, w/your Sav forvr in hvn. This is the song we sing (say it w/me): IWNDBL, bec Xp risen; ind; all! In name...

Psalm 118

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ² Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.” ³ Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.” ⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say: “His love endures forever.”

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place. ⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? ⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. ⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans. ⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down. ¹¹ They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down. ¹² They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me. ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! ¹⁶ The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!” ¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done. ¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. ²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. ²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.