

Day 24 – Mar. 2

“Here I raise my Ebenezer, here by Thy great help I’ve come, and I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.” This stanza from the famous hymn, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” has been one of those lines we sing without knowing what it means. There are many in our hymnody, but this one tops most lists. What does it mean, and what are we singing?

A modern rendering of this line has us singing, “Here I raise to Thee an altar...” to which I say, “almost.” This line comes to us from today’s reading and there we learn what the biblical Ebenezer is. It was a stone, set up as a reminder of God’s great victory for His people. It literally means, “the stone of help”, though it was not the stone that helped but God. Then again, this might be a perfect word for it.

You see, stones like this one become for us reminders of God’s provision. And what other help do we need when we are doubting, troubled, or afraid? These stones remind us, when we feel like God is far away or even doubt His existence, of the times in the past when God has come through, shown Himself, or saved us. They are our Ebenezers, stones that help us remember and believe.

What is your Ebenezer? What do you use to remind yourself that God is, that God is good, and that God is faithful to rescue you? For some it is jewelry. For some it’s a trinket you carry with you. I’ve heard about notes and letters, bookmarks, and even boulders. What is your Ebenezer? If it takes you more than 15 seconds to think of it, then it’s not doing its job! So I suggest you find one, something that reminds you of a time when God saved you, rescued you, helped you. And then turn to it when you are doubting God or His goodness.