FIRST AID - POISON

PRAISE INSTEAD OF POISON

In the hand of the LORD is a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices; he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs. As for me, I will declare this forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob. (Psalm 75:8,9)

You've seen it happen countless times in a movie. The wicked witch takes a pinch of this and a drop of that and adds it to a cup of wine or other beverage and POOF! a cloud of smoke rises up and the liquid begins to bubble with poison. The witch then hands the cup to her unsuspecting victim who drinks the potion and falls into a deep sleep or changes into a llama or dies.

That kind of thing usually just happens in the movies. But the Lord warns us in today's psalm that the same thing happens in a spiritual sense in our world. The psalmist is reminding us that someday everyone is going to be judged by the Lord. Unfortunately there are many who have rejected the saving message about Jesus. They have drunk the poisonous potion of Satan. They may look healthy on the outside, but inwardly their soul is dead.

By God's grace, however, those of us who have been brought to faith in Jesus, no longer have to fear Judgment Day. We believe that Jesus has died to bring our spiritually dead souls back to life. We believe that Jesus came back to life from the grave in order to assure us that someday we will live forever with him in heaven. So instead of drinking the poisonous potions of Satan, we are to **be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:18-20).**

THE PRAYER:

Our Lord God, we thank you that you have healed us from our sins. You sent your Son Jesus to live and to die for us. You sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts to create faith in us and make us your children. Keep our souls healthy and strong so that we don't have to fear the poisonous threats of the Devil. Continue to strengthen us so that we can rejoice in your love all the days of our lives and look forward to the day when you will take us to heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.