

# FLEURIEU EDGE

## Sweet And Bitter

Some people like bitter chocolate and some prefer sweet. Ancient Mayans in Central America enjoyed chocolate as a beverage and seasoned it with chilli peppers. They liked this "bitter water," as they called it. Many years later it was introduced to Spain, but the Spaniards preferred chocolate sweet, so they added sugar and honey to counteract its natural bitterness.

Like chocolate, days can be bitter or sweet as well. A seventeenth-century French monk named Brother Lawrence wrote, "If we knew how much God loves us, we would always be ready to receive equally...from His hand the sweet and the bitter." Accept the sweet and bitter equally? This is difficult! What is Brother Lawrence talking about? The key lies in God's character. The psalmist said of God, "You are good, and what you do is good" (Psalm 119:68).

Mayans also valued bitter chocolate for its healing and medicinal properties. Bitter days have value too. They make us aware of our weaknesses and they help us depend more on God. The psalmist wrote, "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (Psalm 119:71). Let us embrace life today, with its different flavors-reassured of God's goodness.

*Keila Ochda*

**Lord, help me see your goodness even  
in times of trouble.**

**Psalm 119:65-72** <sup>65</sup>*Do good to your servant according to your word, Lord.* <sup>66</sup>*Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.* <sup>67</sup>*Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.*

<sup>68</sup>*You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.* <sup>69</sup>*Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.* <sup>70</sup>*Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.*

<sup>71</sup>*It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.* <sup>72</sup>*The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. (NIV)*



## Fleurieu Family Church

Service Time: 10am 54 Hill St, Pt Elliot 8554 3700

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