

PSALM 34 – The Happiness of Those Who Trust in God!

3/7/20 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

Grace Greater Than Our Sin – Julia Johnson – sung Bob Kauflin

1. *Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

Refrain: *Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within; grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

2. *Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, brighter than snow you may be today. (Refrain)*

3. *Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe! All who are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive? (Refrain)*

PSALM 34 – Taste and See That the LORD is Good

In 1 Samuel 21:10-15 we see a summary of David, trying to get away from the pursuit from Saul, flees to Gath. After making a huge mistake in fleeing to Gath, Goliath's hometown, for refuge, David writes this Psalm for our benefit in learning from his mistake.

PSALM 34 - A Psalm of David When He Pretended Madness Before Abimelech, Who Drove Him Away, and He Departed. - Taste and See That the Lord Is Good

Psa 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psa 34:2 My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

34:3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.

- Here David is worshipping the LORD. These three verses, which come out of this Gath experience, are some of the purest praise in the entire Bible! God, You are too much! I just praise You.
- David is so filled with thanksgiving and worship, for the LORD, because of God's grace in his life, he's not just content to just worship the LORD himself, but he begins trying to drum up others to worship the LORD with him. He's trying to put a whole choir together! The reason is that God was faithful, even when David had made a terrible, terrible decision in his life

Reasons for his praise:

Psa 34:4 I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.

- His fear was that I'm going to die, LORD, unless You do something here.

Psa 34:5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.

Psa 34:6 This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

- David is speaking of himself.

Psa 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

- Here is David. At this point in time he's not yet the great king of Israel, so he writes this Psalm. It isn't that God only saves the powerful, the well-known, the wealthy and the movers and the shakers of life. David is a nobody. He's a nothing in the eyes of everyone but God at this point in his life.
- Basically, he is saying and declaring for us who are not in this other "nobody" category. Here we see that even the lowest person is not without a friend in a difficult situation in life. God is not a respecter of persons. He will help everyone that cries out to Him, to be safe among His children.

David begins to celebrate God's deliverance of him from the midst of the Philistines.

Psa 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

- The whole idea is to put God to the test! The goodness of God can be discovered by every single person for themselves.
- David says, don't take my word for it! You get your own relationship with God and see if you don't discover for yourself what I have discovered Him to be. You taste and see that the LORD is good!
- God will never leave us with a bad taste in our mouth!

Psa 34:9 Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

Psa 34:10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

- We don't lack anything by living a godly life!

Psa 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

- David is giving instruction for the man who wants to live and desires to live a blessed life.

Psa 34:12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good?

- All of life testifies to the veracity of the truthfulness of the Word of God, whether it is to obey the Word of God

and then discover the blessings that come with that or to disobey God's Word and see the curse that is on that kind of wicked life! All of life is teaching. David in his growing up had known only virtue and godly living, now because of these circumstances, he introduces himself into the world for a short period.

- The lesson that he takes when he walks away from it is that he doesn't cry out to God, saying, wow, I was raised in this Christian home and went to Gath, and see what I've been missing my whole life. They've got it all going on there! That's not what he says! He get his exposure to the world and it produces a praise within his heart, saying, God, I thank You that You've given me this glimpse of the fact that I haven't missed anything by being raised in a godly home! I've not missed anything by not living close to the wicked!
- What it did was to produce in him this experience and appreciation for holiness and godliness, that he didn't possess before! For David it was a successful failure. Stepping back, he says I need to find out what I did wrong here. Secondly, I need to find out what to do next time in this kind of situation. Thirdly, I need to make a commitment that the next time I find myself in this place, that I not run to Gath, but to stay faithful to You and Your promises in watching what You do. God is teaching, always through everything in life.

Psa 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

- David is appalled by what he saw in Gath. He sees how he had been spared in the being raised from childhood. It had no attraction to him at all!
- He saw how the tongue was being used to do all kinds of evil. He said to *keep your lips from speaking deceit* and the lying that was going on in Gath! He is glad he doesn't live in a land where lying is commonplace.

Conclusion – To live a righteous life, which is vastly superior!

Psa 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Psa 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

- The LORD watches over us! He hears our prayers!

Psa 34:16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psa 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.

- The wicked have no such comfort as it relates to God.

Psa 34:18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psa 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

- That's the way it is in this fallen world, BUT God is greater. He delivers out of all of it! David was thankful for how God had delivered him.

Psa 34:20 He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

Psa 34:21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

- David, in Gath looked at all the wickedness, saying God won't even need to judge it. These evil people will destroy themselves. Evil sows its seed for its own destruction! There is no future evil, destroying everyone who practices it!

Psa 34:22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

- We will never be disappointed for trusting in Him. We are not missing out on anything by walking with Him!

SUMMARY:

- This is a great Psalm for us whenever we have done something really dumb. We don't want to extend our folly by singing an exploit of our mistake, but to reflect and commemorate what we learned, to commit not to repeat such action in such a time, but to trust and rely on the One who will *deliver us out of them all*.

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE – Billy Graham Choir (2:42)

Refrain: Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, if You please,

Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long

As I walk, let me walk close to Thee. (Refrain) Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China (1,385 million; 7.5% Christian); Narendra Modi- India (1,297; 2.2%) Donald Trump – USA (329; 26.4%); Joko Widodo – Indonesia (263; 3.1%); Jair Bolsonaro – Brazil (209; 24.5%) Arif Alvi – Pakistan (208; 0.6%) Muhammadu Buhari – Nigeria (203; 26.2%) Hasina Wazed – Bangladesh (159; 0.4%) Vladimir Putin- Russia (142; 1.4%); Lopez Obrador – Mexico (126; 10.3%) Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel (8.4; 0.4%) Angela Merkel – Germany (80; 2.1%) Boris Johnson – U.K. (65; 7.8%) Kim Jong-un – North Korea (25; 1.5%) Moon Jae-in – South Korea (51; 16.3%)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL: