

PSALM 17

Matthew Henry in this chapter points out that in this some see David as a type of Christ who was perfectly innocent and yet was hated and persecuted, but like David committed himself and his cause to him who judges righteously

1 Hear A just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! 2 From your presence let my vindication come! Let your eyes behold the right! 3 You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.

David reminds God that his cause is just, and heart is for Him. Because of this David is confident God will hear him.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God

To be vindicated means to have been judged and found innocent. David has the confidence to ask God to judge him knowing God will find him just seeing only that that is righteous. We know David was a flawed man, however, we also know he had absolute trust in God and that is why he could ask God to judge him and know that his iniquity would not be counted against him. You and I both can have this confidence as well if we too call upon our Lord in the name of Jesus. God will not see our iniquity only the shed blood of His Son which washed away our iniquity and vindicate us declaring us righteous as He did David.

Romans 3:23-26 For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ and his shed blood you too can have the confidence to ask God to judge you and vindicate you.

4 With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. 5 My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

David appeals to God concerning his integrity, he reminds God he has not lived his life in the ways of the world. Now understand here this does not mean you will live a perfect life here on earth, we are talking about where your heart is, do you strive to live according to God's will or do you live according to the world.

1 Peter 4:2-4 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they will malign you

Have you ever been ridiculed for not participating in what you know is wrong? If you are striving to live for God, you have been and will be. The world does not understand why we would choose not to participate, and they will mock us doing their best to get us to cave and join in. But hold fast to God and his word, do not fall for the ways of the world around us. Look to God and ask him for strength to endure and to not allow you to be moved.

In the King James version instead of saying, “the ways of the violent” it says, “the paths of the destroyer”. I like this better because the ways of the violent leads to destruction.

Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

Abaddon = destruction, Apollyon = destroyer

There is debate on whether the referenced here is Satan himself or one of his demons, I however do not think it matters who it is. The point is where this path of the destroyer or ways of the violent lead, they lead to death and destruction, both spiritually and physically. Therefore, as followers of Christ we are to guard ourselves against these ways, in fact scripture says to flee from them. The picture is to run away fast and far.

1 Timothy 6:11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness

If scripture says to flee, and it does in several places, then it is serious and you need to listen!

6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. 7 Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

David knows that God has heard him in the past and delivered him from the troubles he was in so again David knows God will hear and help him again. Do you have that confidence? Do you spend time with God and build that relationship so that in your times of trouble you will remember how he delivered you in the past and have confidence that he will see you through again.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him

Philippians 1-6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Are you His? If you are you have His promise to see you through your times of need, however, it may not be in the ways you think it should be. Look around you in your time of need and despair, ask God to allow you to see his hand at work and to show you his presence. What God has in store for you and me both in this world and in the next is beyond what we can hope for. Place your trust in him and allow him to guide

you, hang on to his word and his promises to hear and deliver you. Remember the times in the past he has delivered you and then have faith he will continue to deliver you.

8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, 9 from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me.

DEUTERONOMY 26:18 And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments.

The King James version uses the word Peculiar in place of treasured when you look that word up Unique comes up as one of the synonyms. Think about that when in this verse David says, “keep me as the apple of your eye.” David understood that God valued him and gave him worth, and because of this he knew God would protect him. David knew he was God’s unique, peculiar, and treasured possession and God himself would protect him from the evil around him.

Now today you believer must understand this is how God sees you his child, you too are his unique, peculiar, and treasured possession. One that he will protect, you were wonderfully and fearfully made in his own image.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Psalms 139:13-14 For you formed my inward parts you knitted me together in my mother’s womb 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (KJV)

Now follow this thought all the way through, you Christian, have been wonderfully and fearfully made in God’s own image to be his unique, peculiar, and treasured possession that pleases him. If you can just believe this truth then ask yourself, “if I mean that much to Him would he ever just let me go and allow the evil around me to take me?” You have his promise to never leave nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5) Believe in him, trust him, and place your hope in him, and as David did place yourself in his hand.

10 They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly. 11 They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes to cast us to the ground. 12 He is like a lion eager to tear, as a young lion lurking in ambush

David uses the character of his enemies in his plea to God to preserve him.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

You may feel like people or the world are out to get you and make you feel as though everyone is putting you down. Understand the truth here, it is not people, it is Satan, the devil, it is he that is out to get you. He will stop at nothing to tear you down and make you an inefficient Christian by keeping you overwhelmed. But friends, God! Place your trust in God and he will fight for you, it will be God that wins over evil not you or me. Remember Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you might be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

That my friends is the fight, its not against those in this world that seem to be the problem, its Satan himself and only through God can we overcome.

13 Arise, O Lord! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, 14 from men by your hand, O Lord, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You will fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants.

Those who are evil will only know the fleeting good they can find here in this life. Just as we are created by God so are they, however, their choosing to side with evil will only last for a season and their reward is just what they find in this life. Remember the conversation between Abraham and the rich man.

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness

Here David comforts himself in his hope of his future happiness in God

David knew that in the hands of God is where he needed to be, placing all trust in Him. If we too are living a life according to His will and have placed our faith in Jesus Christ we do not need to fear being placed in God's hand as in the warning found in Hebrews 10:31 for that warning is for those in willful sin. We however can have the faith and confidence of David had found in 2 Samuel 24:14.

Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man.

Understand that when David said this, he said it knowing he was going to have to face the consequences of his sin, yet his faith allowed him to trust God and not to fear His judgement. That my friends is a freeing faith, one that should give us hope and joy no matter the trials we face.

Again, Christian where is your hope and in whom do you place your trust? My prayer for you and all of us is that we, like David will place ourselves in God's hands in good times and in the bad, even when the bad is because of our disobedience.