

Psalms 10-15 – Thursday, June 28th, 2018

Psalm 10 -- 1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble? 2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. 3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. 4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts. 5 His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them. 6 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity." 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity. 8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. 9 He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net. 10 So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength. 11 He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see." 12 Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. 13 Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account." 14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless. 15 Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none. 16 The LORD is King forever and ever; The nations have perished out of His land. 17 LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, 18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

- Psalm 10 presents one of the most difficult problems for a child of God and it's that of why God seems to let evil go unchecked.
- So much so, not only do they continue in their unspeakable evil they also seemingly prosper in their greed renouncing the Lord.
- What's interesting is why they renounce the Lord, which is in verse thirteen, where they don't think God will require an account.

- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the main reasons that people continue practicing evil, this would have to be it.
- Namely, that of thinking that God's silence in not judging evil swiftly means that He somehow doesn't care or even approves it.
- This is the lie of the enemy and it's met with a stunning success even in the life of a believer who forgets they'll give an account.

G. Campbell Morgan - "Under the rule of God, the day must come when, 'That man who is of the earth may be terrible no more.' These were the concluding words of the song, and they constitute a fitting answer to its opening inquiry."

Psalm 11 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? 2 For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? 4 The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5 The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

- Psalm 11 is one of the best Psalms for anyone who finds themselves crippled by fear in a very perilous and dangerous situation
- Such was the case with David, who it's believed wrote this Psalm at the time that king Saul was attempting to have him killed.
- It's important to understand that while David has fear, his fear doesn't have him, this because he's putting his trust in the Lord.

- Notice in verse 1 where David rejects the advice of his well-intentioned friends who tell him to "Flee as a bird to his mountain."
- To me, this speaks to very important principle, which is that of never making a decision when you're under the influence of fear.
- Instead, our decisions when we're faced with a fearful situation need to be made by faith putting our complete trust in the Lord.

Psalm 12 -- To the Chief Musician. On An Eight-Stringed Harp. A Psalm of David. 1 Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. 2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak. 3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things, 4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is lord over us?" 5 "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, Now I will arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in the safety for which he yearns." 6 The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. 7 You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever. 8 The wicked prowl on every side, When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

- Here in Psalm 12 we're provided with a much-needed reminder of the power of prayer regardless of the length of the prayer.
- It's been said that it's not the length of the prayer as much as it is the strength of the prayer, and this Psalm is evidence of that.
- Specifically with the first two words of the Psalm where David simply, humbly and desperately cries out and prays, "Help Lord!"

- While we're not told exactly what was troubling David when he wrote this Psalm, we can surmise that he was being slandered.
- It seems from what he prayed in the Psalm he was on the receiving end of gossip from those speaking idly with their neighbor.
- Thankfully, David has the confidence and trust in the Lord concerning His having the final word with all of their wicked words.

G. Campbell Morgan - "The psalmist breaks out into praise of the purity of His words, and declares that Jehovah will 'keep them,' and 'preserve them.' The 'them' refers to the words. There is no promise made of widespread revival or renewal. It is the salvation of a remnant and the preservation of His own words which Jehovah promises."

Psalm 13 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death; 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. 5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 6 I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

- Psalm 13 is one of those Psalms that starts with David in total despair, but in six short verses he's rejoicing and praising God.
- The reason for this is that David simply prayed, and in so doing, his prayer changed everything though his situation did not.
- I think we do err greatly when we dismiss the simplicity of prayer and make it unnecessarily complicated, when in fact it's not.

Psalm 14 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD? 5 There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous. 6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the LORD is his refuge. 7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

- Psalm 14 is interesting for a number of reasons one of which is because David refers to the fool who says, "There is no God."
- Actually, some commentators suggest that verse one has the idea of the fool saying both, "there's no God" and "no to God."
- In other words, the atheist in their folly deliberately rebels against God by saying "no" to God, and in turn, "No God for me."

One commentator explained it best this way, "From the italics in the New King James Version we can see that what the fool actually says is, "No God." "That is, 'No God for me.' So his is a practical as well as theoretical atheism. Not only does he not believe in God, he also acts on his conviction."

- Another reason this Psalm is interesting has to do with David's concluding they are corrupt and have done abominable works.
- He then goes on to say, "There is none who does good," which the Apostle Paul actually quotes in his epistle to the Romans.

Romans 3:12 - They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Charles Spurgeon - "What a picture of our race is this! Save only where grace reigns, there is none that doeth good; humanity, fallen and debased, is a desert without an oasis, a night without a star, a dunghill without a jewel, a hell without a bottom."

- Perhaps it goes without saying but by the end of the Psalm in verse seven, we have a reference to Jesus as the Savior of man.
- It's for this reason that we often quote from Romans and this Psalm in sharing the gospel of salvation in the person of Christ.
- There has to first be this realization that no one is ever good enough to get to heaven apart from Jesus Christ who was perfect.

Psalm 15 -- A Psalm of David. 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

- It's believed that this short Psalm was written about the time David brought the Ark of the Covenant back from Kirjath-jearim.
- This after it had been captured by the Philistines and placed in their temple next to their false god that was known as Dagon.
- I have to confess that the account of what happened when he did this is one of the most humorous in all the pages of scripture.

1 Samuel 5:1-5 - 1 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. 3 And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again. 4 And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it. 5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

- I find it interesting that David in this Psalm sort of sums up who can abide in God's tabernacle and also dwell in His holy hill.
- Notice it's those who walk uprightly, work righteousness, speak truth don't backbite or do evil or bring reproach against a friend.
- He actually lists eleven characteristics all of which speak to Jesus summing up the law with the greatest commandment of all.

Matthew 22:34-40 - 34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."