

Revived from the Dust

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Well, if you will go ahead and turn with me, church family, to Psalm 119. Psalm 119. We're going to look at a passage very timely with the events that have been going on in our church. And I'd like to share from the portion of scripture from Psalm 119 and we're going to be in verses 25 to verse 32 this evening.

As a way of preparing for this message, I want us just to recap the section that I preached from last Sunday. What a magnificent psalm it was to end in verse 24 with the beautiful testimony that the psalmist is filled with joy with. We saw that in verse 24 he says your testimonies are my delight. They are my counselors. Yet yet as we step into verse 25, suddenly within just one verse, the mood shifts instantly into a heavy prayer of lamentation.

He says, "My soul clings to the dust. Give me life according to your word." This sudden and extreme change of mood serves as a stark reminder. What is that reminder? That when you live faithfully according to God's word, you are not immune to the realities of pain, the realities of sorrow, and the realities of grief. In fact, seasons of deep pain and sorrow and grief frequently follow seasons of great spiritual delight. And let me just caveat that. It can happen afterward, too. We're going to see that later on in this sermon. You see, times of weakness often trail right behind our moments of greatest victory.

This evening, we are looking at the Daleth stanza of Psalm 119 in Hebrew. What this means, it carries two profound meanings. First, I want you to visualize a door. A door. And what is across from that door? Someone who is humble. Just imagine a person who is humble, who has been oppressed. Humbled by oppression. Humbled by oppression. These two thoughts come together beautifully to show us that the door to the way of life can only be walked by those who are humble and poor in spirit.

Let us walk then in our text and look how the Lord takes a leader believer from literally biting dust on the ground to getting up and running a race. So would you out of respect of God's word please stand follow along with me silently as I read from these portions of scripture verses 25 to verse 32.

My soul cleaveth unto the dust. Quicken thou me according to thy word. I have declared my ways and thou heardest me. Teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts. So shall I talk of thy wondrous works. My soul melteth for heaviness.

Strengthen thou me according unto thy word. Remove far from me the way of lying and grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth. Thy judgments have I laid before me. I have stuck unto thy testimonies. Oh Lord, put me not to shame. I will run the way of thy commandments. When thou shalt enlarge my heart. May God bless the reading of his word. You may be seated.

We're going to look at the prayer of a man where his soul has been so grieved that as it were he was pleading to be invigorated with power that he has no such within him. And his soul crying out in the midst of cleaving to the dust. He feels terrible as though he couldn't feel any worse and speaks as one standing at the very point of death. It is not his physical body he's talking about here, but his soul that is stuck to the dirt in a deep and heavy season of despair.

Yet in this lowly state, he recognizes the most important thing that only God's word has the power to revive him and give him life. This is what a believer's only desire when all things have just brought him low.

I want to illustrate this with the exact pattern in the life of the prophet Elijah. Okay, we see Elijah in first kings chapter 18 and 19 where he is on Mount Carmel. Visualize this. Elijah just had won an incredible victory against 450 prophets of Baal, calling down literally fire from heaven. Literally like destroyed their offering and themselves. But by the very next chapter, he was running in terror from Jezebel, sinking deep despair into the wilderness and begging God, literally begging God to take his life right there and then, just within the next day.

As one commentary, Andrew Bonar said wisely, we must be as watchful after the victory as before the battle. It takes very little time to go from the blessings of victory to the agony of defeat. And what do you do when your soul is in the dust? When you're like Elijah, when you're like the psalmist here who didn't turn to worldly distractions when the enemy attacked. He didn't take that route. He could have, but he couldn't because of God and his word. He didn't look for worldly therapies. Soothe my mind. They had many of those kinds of people. Take away some of this pain, this physical pain. No, it was pain at the soul level. He recognized that. All believers recognize due to sin it goes deeper than what therapy can solve. It goes to the soul level.

So he prayed for spiritual as it were resuscitation. He was spiritually as it were dead on the dust. And he says do this according to thy word. Breathe life to me, Lord, with your word. It is the only way that I'm going to get out of from this ground. You can never sink so low that God cannot hear your cry. The intensity of your suffering is never as important as its location. What do I mean by that? Does whatever your situation that you're dealing with stand between you and God? What is that that stands between you

and God? Because the word is flesh. Jesus, he is the one that must be always at all times be the one between you and God. Or does the enemy come in and say, "Put this distraction, put that distraction so that he can divide your time with the Lord." You see what the psalmist is trying to get right at the very onset of this is that when you are suffering, when there is intense pain and sorrow and grief, it ought to press you closer to him, not further away. That's what the word of God does. It attracts us to him literally and spiritually.

And so verse 26, if you got that, if you understood that as the main thrust of what we're going to go into in seeing the psalmist from in the dust to running is verse 26 continues, I have told of my ways and you have answered me. Amen. You have answered me. Teach me your statutes. That's the answer. Teach me your statutes. This shows a humble heart that refuses to hide its faults, its struggles, your past failures. It's all open before the allseeing God. In Hebrew to confess means to literally list out one by one before God in this way basically to say the same thing. So God word says this I am in agreement. God says this I am in agreement. God says this I am in agreement. Just going line by line and line by line. Never rushing. This is a spiritual work.

So you must wait upon God and his timing and he must answer by giving you a teachable heart. That's what we need, brothers and sisters in Christ. We need a teachable heart. That's the only way that we're going to be able to come to the place where we agree with his word. That's what a teachable heart looks like. That's what a humble heart looks like. The one that is taught of God. So you say the same thing that God is saying in his word about your situation. You're in this dust and only God can help you according to his word. You see, the psalmist acknowledges and begs that he will be taught God's ways so he will not fall into error again. Somehow something has caused him to veer off the path. And he says the first thing to get back in the path is God's word and then proceed and then proceed. Somehow he neglected his scripture reading. Somehow he didn't agree. He forgot of his words. He says, "Bring that back to me, Lord. Bring back those thoughts. Bring back your way."

Hebrews 4:16 invites us to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace. Meaning a place of unlimited favor. Unlimited favor to what? Receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. The psalmist experienced this answering power in the past, but he knew he could not live today on yesterday's grace. So we must come to the throne of grace and receive new refreshment of grace, new refreshments of obtaining mercy in a time of need.

If your soul is dragging in the dirt, stop spending all your time talking to other people. Yes, it's important to talk and share with your brothers and sisters in Christ, but don't go to them first. The psalmist reminds us is we must go to him in his word first. See, that's

what the problem with the Israelites were, right? They kept complaining to each other and they didn't even commune with God. They had easily forgotten that God was the one that brought them out of the Red Sea. That God was the one that destroyed the enemies. That God brought them out of slavery by a ruthless slave master. Oh, they forgot about all that. And so, we must go to God first, not to each other. Because an enemy can use that, can he? Because they don't ultimately have the power to fix your situation. Right? If you're going to come to me, I'm going to pray for you to God the Father that God the Father helps you and the brother and sister in Christ do that if that situation comes. It may go, did you go to God the Father first? Did you go to his word? What did he say in his word? You don't know. Okay, let's take a pause here. Go go go go go back to the word and then let's talk about it. That will help so much of the conflict that the enemy puts causing division, right? Because God did not design relationships with each other to be prioritized by us first, but to God first. Seek ye first who? God.

Declare your ways honestly to God. You need fresh grace just like they needed fresh manna every day, new mercies every day. You cannot face tomorrow relying solely on even accumulated knowledge of the past. You see how easily the psalmist forgot his ways by what? Forgetting God's word. Sometimes we just need a fresh understanding of God's word. You ever get to a place where it's your devotional time and I will be the one to raise my hand in this where it just feels like it's nothing is hitting my heart. It seems like I've read this before. How come I can't understand it? And I think back, why in the first place am I reading God's word? Is it something to just gain knowledge of or is it to be in his presence? What's more important? Puffing myself up and boasting of how much I've known of God's words or actually in his presence and him being magnified in my life. That's a humbling thing if you have experienced that. I have.

The writer asked, "Make me understand the way of your precepts, not my precepts, your precepts, so I will, look at what it says, meditate on your wonders." I love that. Here's what it means. He acknowledges that the simple education is not enough. Knowledge building is not enough. He needs spiritual insight to apply God's teachings to his daily life and then to be able to pass them on to others. How many times have you read the word of God and just okay, I'm satisfied and you never go and share with somebody else what God has just done in your life. Praise God. We have a church that does testimony, but let it not just be a Sunday evening thing. It will be wonderful in this room this week. We will just be like, I read this passage and I just want to share what God opened my eyes to. What did God show you? And then we just do that throughout our church and the word of God just saturated in his body and his wonders are displayed and Christ is glorified. What a wonderful thing that would be. Amen. It can happen with God's help.

Walking in fellowship along the path of God's precepts reveals a life filled with not only small but great wonders. Wonders is his power, his majesty, his salvation work in our

lives. What we have been saved from. The Israelites forgot what they were saved from. And we can often neglect what we were saved from. Amen. Sometimes a lot of our bitterness can just go away when we remember what he saved us from. Amen. There's a beautiful truth embedded in this verse. Many opportunities of God showing his wonder can be wasted with the want of intent eyes. God's wondrous works of guidance and preservation are constantly around us. It's all around us. You can close your eyes to it, but it's around us. I love that he uses the expression of to make me understand the way. It's as if open my eyes to see what's around. God's wondrous works of guidance and preservation constantly around us. But we must have intent eyes to see them. We got to ask constantly, make me understand. Make me understand. Make me understand your ways so that I can meditate on your wonders. So when I see it, I can go, "Wow, you're amazing, God. You're so good to me, God. You're so gracious to me, God. You're so merciful for me to God. I want others to experience this relationship."

You see, that happens organically. It doesn't come from a formal meaning. It comes from your desire to want him to make you understand in any moment in any time. He can do that every week. You have that opportunity. What are you missing each week that God wants to help you understand more of his wonders? Because in moments of spiritual tryingness, remember that you need insight, not just information. Information can help your problem, your pain, your grief, your sorrow. No, you need insight. You need God to show you, "Oh, that's why I'm in pain. Oh, that's why I am in sorrow. Oh, that's why I am grieving. Thank you, Lord. Thank you for showing me that insight. Thank you. Thank you for being personal. Thank you for being personal." Take time to intentionally meditate on who God is and what he is capable of doing in your life and in the life of those you love. Deep understanding and deliberate meditation are vital for finding true comfort when your soul is low. He wants you to be comforted but not comforted by the world but by God himself. Amen.

Now if you look at verse 28, the psalmist relapses into sorrow again. Huh? Isn't this the human condition? He cries out, "My soul weeps because of grief. Strengthen me according to your word." He again acknowledges, "Lord, I need to come back to your word. I'm grieving because somehow I have turned again from your word." So he weeps at this point. He goes, "I I've done this once. Now I'm doing it again. Oh God, Father, please help me not to go my ways." You see the weeping here, the phrase melts away for sorrow. That's what a weeping means. It means to melt away the sorrow. Melt away the sorrow because it's just being built up. Built up. Built up. Lord, you must as what is Isaiah said that you would bring down the mountains. Bring down the mountains. Oh, rend the heavens that you may melt the mountains of sorrow. It's intense. This is not a light word here. This is an intense prayer. Overwhelming weeping here. The weight of his grief is so heavy that he feels as though his very soul is turning to liquid tears. This often happens when a believer looks inward at himself too much. It's called navel gazing. Just

keep looking at yourself causing deep spiritual depression. You know what your problem is? You look too much into yourself instead of looking at the word of God. So just remind yourself, okay, if you're going to look at yourself, do this. Do something to stop looking inwardly. That's our problem with selfishness. Oh, woe is me. Oh, this person did that. Oh, that person did that. Okay, ask God to help you with it. I'm being a little bit silly here, but you get the point. We're wrestling with ourselves. The preacher Charles Spurgeon once answered critics who accused him of being too old-fashioned in quoting the Bible instead of talking about science. He brought up a poor widow in the church who had lost her only son and wanted to know if she would ever see him again. Spurgeon paused and said, "Let's turn to science for the answer." Pause. Quiet in the room. Nothing to say. Okay, then we'll turn to the book. I love that answer. Amen. Amen. Let's turn to the book.

According to thy word, has it been settled? Scriptures like Deuteronomy 32:25, Isaiah 40:31, and 2 Corinthians 12:9 all remind us of this truth that when we wait on the Lord, his grace is entirely sufficient. Entirely sufficient not 99.9 entirely. And his power is perfected in our weakness. That means to made complete. Only he can complete by his grace. Amen. Godly people are not exempt from lingering sorrows as we see here with the fluctuations of grief and sorrow whether brought on by personal illnesses or disappointments or injustice or even your own personal sin. When sorrow refuses to leave, do exactly what the psalmist did. Pray. Pray. By looking up, you look away from yourself. God is fully able to raise up a despondent brother and sister in Christ with a single word of comfort. A single word, you know, God just You ever have those times he doesn't have to he doesn't say much. He might just put one thought and that's enough to answer it. Amen. God does not need to explain. He does. He's all wise. He's all powerful. He's all knowing. He'll know exactly what to say to you. We will never be able to do that as humans. We will always fumble our way to our answers. God never does. He wants us to be pointed back to him.

So, let's look at now verses 29 to 32. We're going to see a transition here in the psalmist. Now, he is determined at this stage. He's repeating himself. I know it's because I'm not falling according to your word. He understands this. Now, at this point, he's like, as it were, he's hit the rock bottom. You ever hit those points? You're like, "Okay, yeah, I'm enough of this. I'm I'm ready to now completely go this direction." So, this is what happens in verse 29. The tone shifts from a person that is sorrowful and determined. Now he says, "Remove." Here it is. This is the answer. Remove the false way from me and graciously grant me your law. Ask and you shall receive. Amen. You need things to be removed. You need things to be removed in your life. And what is it that you need to remove? False ways from who? Me. Point it to you. You're the problem. He finally got what he needed. Oh, I'm the problem. Not that person. Not this situation. Not what the world is going through. Oh, it's right here. I keep looking to myself. Remove the false way from me and then graciously grant me your law. Notice he doesn't say he demands it.

No, he says even this Lord is dependent on you. I ask to be gracious unto me as you're a God that is gracious. He is a throne. It is a throne of grace, right? Not a throne of judgment.

So the false way is the ways of lies, unfaithfulness to God's covenant, the path of sinners. He's not merely asking here at this point for help to stop telling lies. No, he is praying against an entirely different direction of life. Entirely different direction that does not align with God's wisdom. Proverbs 14:12 warns us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but what? Its end is the way to death." Do you take that verse seriously? Furthermore, Galatians 5:16 tells us to walk by the spirit so that we do not gratify the desires of our flesh, which naturally gravitate toward what? False dead ends. Like Proverbs 14:12 says, the flesh will always lead to a dead end. It is remarkable for us, right? It's so easy for us as believers to put on an outward appearance of being spiritually minded while harboring moral compromise, dishonesty, or corruption within your own heart and allowing it to happen. You have no one else to blame but yourself. The only one that's going to remove that is God by his grace. You must guard against yourself about your true spiritual condition. How much time are you spending on yourself in your prayer life and looking for answers just for yourself asking people for so you can puff up yourself and build yourself up? How much of that are you doing? Or is it more of Lord I just want to read the whole counsel of your word. Lord, I just want to be in your presence in prayer time. We can leave the request here because you already know my request and help me to love one another as you have loved me. Wow. What kind of a life would that be? That's a revived soul. That's a revived soul. This is one who is spiritually minded.

Holy desires and good intentions alone cannot keep us on the right track. Let me say that again. Holy desires, just a desire and good intentions alone cannot keep us on the right track. We desperately need the Holy Spirit to help us resist temptation and endure the hardship. Meaning the Holy Spirit will point us out from ourselves to Christ. That's what the Holy Spirit does. He doesn't even want himself to be boasted. He puts everything on Christ. So when you notice, wow, I I I just I I want to be in his presence, that's the Holy Spirit working in you. When you're reading his word, when you're in prayer, when you're loving one another, that's the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the spirit, the attitude towards God, the attitude towards others, and the attitudes toward yourself.

Let's look at verse 30. The psalmist declares here, I have chosen the faithful way. Notice faithful way because everything else is unfaithful. And I have placed your ordinances before me. Here we see there are two fundamental paths and there's only two. The first one is the false way and then the second is the faithful way. The false way and the faithful way. The psalmist makes a settled upright choice to be faithful to stick to this path. He intentionally places God's word directly in front of him as a continuous guide. He understands, oh, I can't just set this aside. It must be constantly meditated on. He knew

this in his mind, but he didn't apply it here. He understands, oh, I need to be meditating on his word. That's how it's going to how I'm going to stand the right path. He is a light unto my feet and a lamp unto my path. And so here he says, I'm settled sticking to the path. So he intentionally places God's word directly in front of him. We see this choice in Luke 10 when the Lord Jesus visited Mary and Martha. While Martha was anxious, overwhelmed by all the task in front of her, Mary right away sat at the feet of the Lord Jesus to hear him teach. He was teaching Mary. And the Lord Jesus declared that Mary had chosen. He uses that word had chosen like we see here, I have chosen the good portion which would not be taken away. We also see it also in Daniel chapter 1 where young Daniel resolved in his heart the words resolve is also chosen not to be defiled by the king's food and wine choosing instead to honor God's restrictions. After 30 days, Daniel and his friends proved to be healthier and stronger than all who ate from the king's table. And I can say that he was not just only physically healthier and stronger, but spiritually healthy and stronger. As Charles Spurgeon noted, God's commands must be the mark we aim at. His commands, his voice, we must hear him clearly. And then the model we work by is we walk by the commands. It's not good enough just to hear the commands. Are you going to obey the commands? That's another way of what Charles Spurgeon is saying. Trust and obey. There is no other way. Trust and obey. God treats us as responsible people and places a choice directly before us just as he did to Joshua in Joshua 24:15. He challenged us to choose this day whom you will serve. Wow. That's pretty explicit, isn't it?

When we fail to keep God's ordinances before our eyes as Eve did in the garden and Adam or as David when he tried to live as if nothing happened after his sin, right? Somebody had to call it out to him. We wander down the false way. Choose the way of faithfulness. Amen.

Verse 31. Psalmist pledges here, I cling to your testimonies, oh Lord, do not put me to shame. Notice the progression here with in verse 25. His soul was cleaving to the dust. Here what we see is the exact same root verb. He is clinging cleaving clinging to what now? To the testimonies of the Lord. That's a beautiful transition. Through these spiritual means. He has moved from being stuck to the dirt to being firmly joined to the Lord himself. That's what testimonies mean. The word translated clinging or joining. Same root word that we see in Genesis 2:24 to describe the bond between Adam and Eve, right? Flesh become one. That's the meaning behind here. It's a continuous connection. A continuous connection. That's what a healthy relationship is, right? A continuous connection. There is a timeless truth in the saying, a Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who is not. Let me repeat that. A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who is not. You're not going to be falling apart if you're close to the word of God tonight. Your Bible will look falling apart, but you won't. Amen. If your soul is currently clinging to the dust of this world, change here. It is the object of your grip.

There are two similar verbs here, but the object makes all the difference, doesn't it? The object makes all the difference. You can either cling to this earth. I'm not going to leave you, young rich ruler. No, I'm going to keep my possessions. Or you drop everything and you go, "Lord, you are the one that has the words of eternal life. Whom should we follow?" As one disciple said, "Do not just be stuck with the word. Be stuck in it. Be in it. Don't just say it's just a companion." No, it must be in me. It must be shared out from me. While rebelling against God's word inevitably results in shame, that's why he uses this word. Complete devotion to his truth prevents shame. Ultimately, God won't make you ashamed. He won't be ashamed of you. If you honor God and hold up his word, he promises he will not let you down. Another way of saying it, that's what being put to shame is. He'll never let you down. He will never leave you nor forsake you. I just love those such a short phrase. All I need to hear that Lord that you'll never leave me nor forsake me. And that's what he says here essentially.

Now let's finish off with verse 32. The stanza concludes with a brilliant renewed vigor. I shall run the way of your commandments for you will enlarge my heart. I love this part of the text because it's such a such a big change here. If you haven't seen the big change, this is where it was leading up to that he would run. No longer just making it through, making it through. No, it's like I am all in, right? That's what running is. You're you're all in. When you're running, you can't be distracted. You got to be all in. And then he says by doing this with his commands that your heart will be enlarged. I want to I want to share what that means here. Let me just go and say what the word run is to hasten. That's where it comes from. It means to be zealous. Meaning this person, this this psalmist is now is is is full of zeal, full of renewed strength and is now unhindered devoted to God. His heart has been so enlarged because he knows that this is a promise. If you are in his word and you're running and and you're all in, he's going to enlarge your heart. And this is what it is. Meaning all inner hindrances and false ways have been cleared out by God. Oh, that's such a wonderful feeling, right? When you don't see, you're not stumbling anymore. You're not going this way, you're not going that way, or you know, you're not believing this lie or that lie because you're so in the truth. You're so in the truth, and you're so in his way that it's just really difficult now because your heart's been enlarged to God's word and your relationship with the Lord. Unhindered devotion. You see, leaving him leaving him with a relieved heart, renewed confidence. That's why he can run now. He has this new sense of confidence, confidence in the Lord. And so, he's able to go even more into his ways with fuller confidence and what just a thorough appreciation for God's word. He is now at this point and these are just my words. I think he's going, "Yes, I agree. I agree. I agree. I agree. I agree. Yes, I'm aligned to this. This this this this." He's enlarged. That's what it means. More agreement. More alignment. More capability for God.

Think of Oh, I I saw this video. Have you ever seen the 1992 Summer Olympics? It was in Spain. Derek Redmond was favored to win the gold medal in the 400 meter race. But

halfway down the track, his hamstring ruptured. You can see him. He's running and then he just goes like this and he just slowly creeps up and then comes to a stop, dropping to the ground in absolute agony and tears. He doesn't pay attention to the pain. He keeps stumbling along. So he gets back up, begins hobbling towards the finish line. Suddenly a man breaks through the security onto the track to this man. He puts his man Derek around him and it was his father, Jim Redmond, supporting his son's entire weight. The father carried him down the lane so they could cross the finish line together. This is perfectly what our father does. This is what Christ does. Carries our burdens. This perfectly mirrors the call in Hebrews 12:1 and 2. With all the weight all gone, you can run with endurance the race that's set before us. And who are you looking to? Jesus Christ. See, this is a picture. This is the picture of one that is a believer that knows what a weight of sin looks like and is disgusted by it. This is one of a believer that knows that if he stumbles along that he has someone that's going to come to help. This is the one a believer that knows he'll make it to the finish line because he has Christ. It's beautiful. It's This is a picture of the Christian life, walking in truth and running after God.

I ask you tonight, have you slowed down from a run to a walk to a standstill, sitting actually in the promises instead of standing on the promises? You know that song, standing on the promises of God. Notice that the psalmist didn't pray to have he could have more things enlarge my life with more things. No, he said this is a spiritual work. You must enlarge my understanding of you and my communion with you and my standing before you that you are all I need and I want more of you. I want more of you. I want to find more of you in the word. I want to be more refreshed and given new power by that Holy Spirit. And I want to continue to look to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. He is to be our object in order for us to not slow down, to remain in the race, to run with the end in mind. He was concerned with God enlarging his heart. You do not need God to enlarge your head with empty pride. You need him to enlarge your heart so you can run through his supernatural way to live is for Christ and to die is gain.

Tonight's I end it's it was meant to be kind of an end where I thought in my mind originally it's going to be this let's go and do it. But I I sense tonight that there might be someone that's bothered here tonight. That this has actually been not something that's encouraging, but rather it might keep you where you are. I'm speaking to those individuals in this room. You saw the powerful shift in the psalmist. You saw what happens when God intervenes in a believer's life. You see someone who is at the brink of death spiritually is brought to life where now it's a complete 180 to a run. What is that? It is a life transformed by Christ. If you have not heard me enough in this sermon, it's only because of Christ. It is only because of Christ that he's given me the beginning of the strength to be renewed to finish and complete the race that was set before me and for my brothers and sisters in Christ. You're not sufficient to complete this life and certainly the life to come without Christ. We saw God's word completely is sufficient to revive us in

our deepest spirit to enlighten us with fresh insight daily and to strengthen when our souls melt away. We learned that when we reject the false ways of this world and actively choose the path of faithfulness, our relationship with God shifts from being stuck in the dirt to running the race with joy. It is a joyful thing to be in the Lord, isn't it? There's so much things to reflect on. All that weight, all the weight of sin just been carried, carried, carried, continues to be carried. Imagine all those burdens and being placed with them again. That will crush your spirit. Christ doesn't do that and he will never do that once you're saved from sin once for all. The payment is clear. That burden will never be on you again. That's why the psalmist has hope in the end. You see, he had the hope. He just needed to go through it. And you know what? This is what a believer goes through. A real believer goes through this. But the end is full of joy. There is full of hope because of Christ.

So I want you who are here that still have carrying on to your weight cling as it were to the dirt. What do you need to do? Like the testimony of the Olympic man, throw your arms upon the one that can carry your sins. And that is only the Lord Jesus Christ. He carried your sin to the cross and he paid for it all. He took the wrath of God that you deserved. He paid it all on the cross. And he did this by setting his joy ahead of him because he was thinking of you in mind. Oh, if you would just believe of why I'm doing this painful that brings sorrow. A man of sorrows who that was acquainted with grief. You might have those the pain and the sorrow and grief but he ultimately carried all your pain, all your sorrow, all your grief on the cross. Trust him as he's the only one that can heal your soul. And he can do that tonight if you will trust and believe that he can save and wash you clean by his precious blood. Amen. Let's pray.

Father, I am just absolutely amazed by the psalmist being so honest with his relationship with you. I thank you, Father, that it doesn't end in a disappointment, but that it ends well because it is you that sustained him from beginning to end. Thank you, Father, for this wonderful testimony. And I pray that it would be a testimony in each one of our lives that what Christ has begun in us will complete it in the day of the Lord. Thank you, Father, that you carry ultimately the heavy burdens of our sins, the pain, the grief, and the sorrow. We thank you, Father, for giving us your son in this remarkable way, Lord, that none of us can ever truly repay. But Lord, with the very words that what we can in your strength, we give you all the praise. We give you all the glory. We give you all the thanks in Jesus name I pray. Amen.