

The Active Presence of the Lord

Psalm 124:1-8

Introduction:

“I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross . . . in the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?”

- John Stott

I. The eternal difference that Christ makes with His presence. (V.1-2)

- A. Christ presence and the double declaration that is announced.

Psalms 124:1 *If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say;*

1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

How has He been on our side?

- ◆ He has spoken for us, from a place of authority, and through a position of influence.
- ◆ He has provided an alternative to sin in our lives. Every time we chose Christ, and each time that pushes us away from sin, we stand in a place of Grace.
- ◆ He has brought us to God and given us a place of hope.

- B. Christ presence and the deadly danger that awaits.

Psalms 124:2 *If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:*

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

“A faith walk is living every moment in absolute dependence on the living, indwelling Christ, knowing that the more you die to your flesh, the more of Him you will experience.

God wants to reveal to you His deepest thoughts, tell you His best secrets. He wants to instruct you in His will, fill you with the knowledge of His will.

God’s Word—His eternal, powerful, living word—is His tool for revealing His heart and desires to you. When you read the written Word, the living Word speaks to you. He speaks to you in present and specific ways, heart to heart. He presents His thoughts to your mind in a fashion that is tailored to your personality and experiences.”

- Jennifer Kennedy Dean

II. The eternal difference that Christ makes with His protection. (V.3-5)

- A. Christ protection that keeps us from being devoured.

Psalms 124:3 *Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:*

Exodus 14:25 *And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.*

Joshua 24:12 *And I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you,*

- B. Christ protection that keeps us from being drowned.

Psalms 124:4 *Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: (V.5) Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.*

1 Timothy 6:9 *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

Job 27:20 *Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night..*

III. The eternal difference that Christ made with His provision. (V.6-8)

The Promise:

Isaiah 25:8 *He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.*

The Victory:

1 Corinthians 15:55 *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (V.56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (V.57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- A. The testimony that we give because of His faithfulness.

Psalms 124:6 *Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.*

- B. The trust that we give because of His faithfulness.

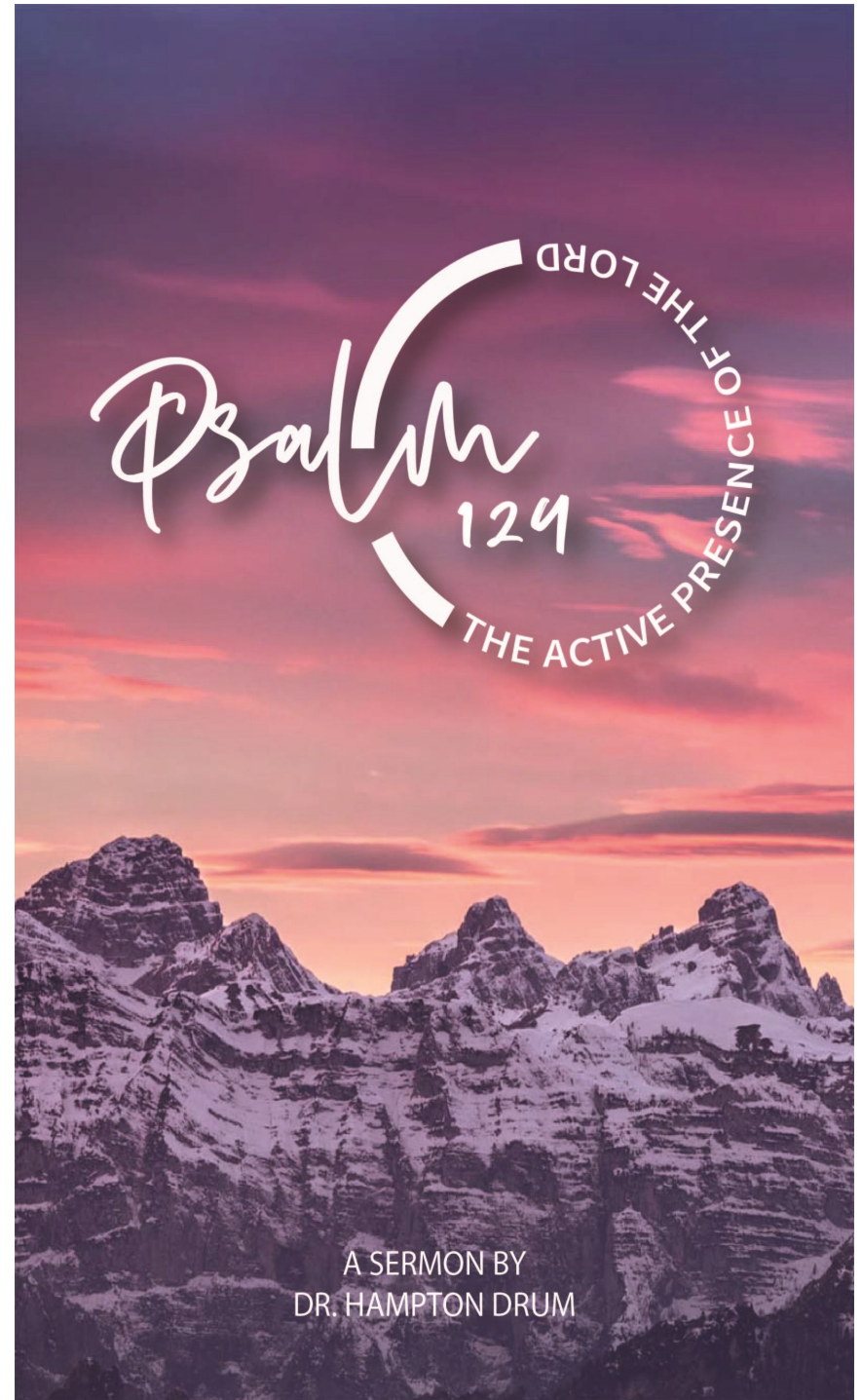
Psalms 124:7 *Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. (V.8) Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

“The Lord not only opened the trap, but broke it so it cannot be used again.”

- Warren Wiersbe



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