

## 8. Psalm 25-27

July 8, 2010

A friend of mine, pastor Pat Lazovich of Calvary Chapel Sierra Vista once told me that he regretted teaching the Book of Psalms from chapter 1 to chapter 150. According to him, it was agonizing, because it was a long study.

So far, we've finished 23 chapters of this Book in 2007. Now we are picking it back up for one session study – covering 25-27. Whenever we finish a Book of the Bible, before we go into next Book, we will study a small portion of Psalms. It probably will take next twenty years to finish it as this speed.

### Psalm 25

This psalm was written by king David and is a Hebrew acrostic poem which means each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

#### A. THE OUTLINE

It begins and ends with an affirmation of trust in the Lord v1-3 and v15-22. David prays for guidance in v4-7 and encourages the godly to practice a lifestyle of wisdom in v12-14. In addition to the enemies who trouble him, the psalmist confesses his sins in v7, 11 and 18 as part of his anguish. Trust develops with understanding God's character: He is compassionate, faithful and good in v8-10.

#### B. ASKING FOR HIS FORGIVENESS

*Psalm 25:6-7 Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord.*

If you are like me, you've cried out to the Lord for forgiveness from Him for your sins before. You knew that there was not a thing you could do to make it happen. The only thing you and I could do was completely lay ourselves down in front of His mercy and love that He might forgive us. King David was asking the Lord not to remember his sins from youth, nor his transgressions. It is a good thing that the Lord is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

Our hope is in the Lord. Godly hope does not mean wishing for an event to turn out favorably. Hope trusts the Lord's will and gives the courage to face disappointments.

*Psalm 33:22 Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.  
Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope.*

#### C. WHY?

*Psalm 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.*

People would ask, "If God is good, then why did that tragedy happen to those good people?" or "When it rains, it pours. One disaster after another, while nothing bad happens to those criminals. Why does a good God allow this?"

Hard questions to answer. But you must notice the implication of these questions: Either God is all-powerful, but not all-good, and therefore doesn't stop evil, or that He is all-good, but not all-powerful, and therefore can't stop evil. The problem with the question of "If God is good, then why..." is the one who is asking it determines what is good and what isn't. And the very nature of the question suggests that God is not good.

What is our standard of good? My idea of good might be different than your idea of good. Who are we to say what is good and what isn't? The very nature of the question suggests that God is not good. The people on earth are not the moral centers of the universe.

Even if the entire human race voted that God is not good, God is good, because He said He is good. There is no higher authority than God Himself. He is the Final Authority

*Luke 18:19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*

*Romans 3:4a Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar*

## **D. THE SECRET OF THE LORD**

*Psalm 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.*

When you have a fussing young child and not paying attention to you, one of the tricks you can pull off is saying, "Do you want to hear my secret?" Guess what, you have the child's attention for now. It would be really good if you can just remember what your secret is supposed to be.

God has a secret that He wants to declare to the believers of Him. In many ways, this isn't really a secret, because it is plainly declared in Scripture. Unfortunately, because so few people have opened up the Bible to see what it says, they have missed out.

God's secret for our lives would make our lives more meaningful. It is a secret that can help us avoid untold misery and heartache. Here is His secret for us.

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.*

## **Psalm 26**

According to dictionary.com, the definition of 'integrity' is "an unimpaired condition." It means to be sound. The Hebrew word for integrity, "tom", also means to be complete or solid. It is not a common attribute whether it is in the secular world or the Christian realm nowadays.

It is really hard to hold peace when your integrity is challenged and falsely accused of something you have not done. It is no wonder why king David started this chapter with a prayer to the Lord about his integrity.

### **A. VINDICATE ME, O LORD**

*Psalm 26:1-4 A Psalm of David. Vindicate me, O Lord, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip. 2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. 3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth. 4 I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites.*

I am sure that your integrity might have been challenged by some coworkers, neighbors, fellow believers or even your own family members one time or another. There is nothing like it. It hurts, huh? Like Bill Clinton would say, "I feel your pain."

How did David handle his situation? Did he go after his enemy? No. he asked the Lord to intervene. He asked the Lord to redeem him and vindicate him.

*Psalm 26:11-12 But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me. 12 My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the Lord.*

This is a tremendously important lesson all the believers of Jesus Christ must receive and practice. If we choose to defend ourselves, the Lord will not defend us. But we let Him defend us, He does a much better job than what we can do.

Don't get me wrong. Integrity is not sinless perfection. A person with integrity does not live a life absolutely free of sin. No one does. But one with integrity quickly acknowledges his failures and doesn't hide the wrong.

## **Psalm 27**

Someone who is very wise said, "Safety is not the absence of danger but the presence of God." It is a great thing to remind ourselves that the Lord is omni-present and He is with us wherever we are.

But it is an even better thing for us to be in the house of the Lord by our choice because we can find confidence, security and comfort in Him. We can live in the assurance of God's protection and look forward to offering sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise in His temple.

### **A. THE OUTLINE**

This psalm mixes two categories – a psalm of confidence in v1-6 and an individual lament in v7-14 – held together by the theme of longing for the Lord's presence.

The psalmist focuses on the Lord. His circumstances become secondary. The strength of the psalmist's faith is expressed in his openness to the Lord's instruction, timing and priorities.

### **B. WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?**

*Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?*

Fear only works when we choose to be afraid. We cannot just boast with our mouths with empty courage. We will have fear of whatever – you fill the blank – as much as we allow it to come into our brains. If we focus on Jesus, His attributes, His promises and His strength, there is no room for fear to come into us.

There actually are things we should be afraid of without the Lord – for example: the presence of demons, the end of life, entrapped souls and more. It is because we cannot find hope in anyone who can rescue us from these.

But when we have the Lord as our Light and Salvation, the story becomes completely different. He is our Hope in the time of trouble. He protects us from harms according to His sovereign plan.

## C. ONE THING I HAVE DESIRED OF THE LORD

*Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.*

It has been said that the greatest danger in life is to permit the urgent things as well as not-so-urgent ones to crowd out the most important priority. The rabbit trails in life can cause us to lose sight of the one thing in life that matters: Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to follow the phrase "one thing" through the pages of Scripture. Each time a biblical author uses this phrase we find insights to the importance of making time for the Lord. For example, remember when Martha became agitated at her sister, Mary, for sitting at Jesus' feet while she did all the work? How did Jesus reply?

*Luke 10:41-42 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."*

Are Martha's actions a good description of your life right now? Are you so busy with work, even serving the Lord, and life's nonessentials that you have forgotten the one thing? Unless we have a sense of priority, we can find ourselves distracted and quickly forget our purpose to dwell with the Lord.

Make the time to sit at the Lord's feet. Some might protest, "When I can find time..." No, if we look for time to be with the Lord, we will never find it. We MUST MAKE TIME FOR THE LORD. If we don't make time for God's Word, prayer and church in our daily lives, we will fall apart spiritually. One thing is needful; pray for the strength and diligence to make time for it.

This Psalm 27:4 reminds me what Joshua, the servant of Moses did while they were in the wilderness.

*Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.*

Note how he wanted to be with the Lord's presence. We need that kind of mindset all the time.

Then someone might say, "If we hang around the Lord all the time, how are we going to get the work done? Who is going to bring the paycheck home, who is going to cook meals and do laundry?"

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Note in v17, it says, "pray without ceasing". Does it mean we chant all day long like a Medieval monk? You already know the answer. It is about communing with the Lord all the time. What is the benefit of having His presence and dwelling in His presence all day long? It is hard to sin against the Lord.

This psalm ends with confidence and hope in the Lord's presence.

## D. APPLICATION

To live in faith means to wait patiently in recognition of the Lord's goodness. Such a life is not always pleasant for the godly, but their future is secure.