

Fear the Lord and Take Refuge in Him
05/19/2019 Sunday AM

Scripture: Psalm 34:8-22

Introduction

- Most people can probably agree that life is hard at times.
- There are moments when you feel like you cannot get your breath before the next wave hits.
- Trials and tribulations are simply a fact of earthly living, this has been the case since the Fall of Genesis 3.
- However, that does not mean that we are hopeless.
- This morning we are going to look at how we should **Fear the Lord and Take Refuge in Him.**

Psalm 34:8-22

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. ¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. ¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹² Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, ¹³ keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. ¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry; ¹⁶ the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. ¹⁹ A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; ²⁰ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. ²¹ Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. ²² The LORD redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.

- **V.8** – Here David says, “Taste and see that the LORD is good.” This should give you the image of a worker at Sam’s giving out samples. The idea is that if you taste the product you will like it and see that it is good.
- That is what David is advocating here in this verse; for people to take the first step of obedience toward God and see for themselves how “good” He is.
- David goes on to say that “blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.”
- When you take refuge, you are seeking to find a “safe place” away from troubles and danger.
- If people would only realize that we are called to “take refuge” in God, not this world.
- In fact, we should take refuge in him daily, not just in times of trouble.
- **V. 9** – David now turns to explain to the people what they should do first before taking refuge in the Lord.
- He says, “Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.”
- To “fear the LORD” means to show deep respect and to honor him.
- In order to take refuge in God, you must first learn to fear him. Do you fear the Lord?
- Once we begin to revere and honor God, it says we will “lack nothing.” This is because He is all we need.
- **V.10** – Here David puts this another way by comparing how “lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.”
- This doesn’t mean we will have everything we want, it means we will have everything we need.
- **V. 11 – 14** – David now turns to connect fearing the Lord with our obedience.
- He says in these verses that a person who fears the Lord doesn’t lie, turns from evil, does good, and promotes peace.
- **Ecclesiastes 2:13b** – “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”
- **John 14:23** – “Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”
- Reverence toward God includes obeying him in the way we speak and the way we treat others.
- **You cannot get the blessings of fearing the Lord without actually fearing and obeying him.**
- We must do what **v.14** says, “Turn from evil and do good...”
- **V. 15** – This verse says, “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.”

- The “righteous” doesn’t include everyone. It is those that fear the Lord and have turned from their evil ways
 - It is these people that God is truly being “attentive” to.
 - **V. 16** – David explains this further by saying, “the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.”
 - If you are not going to fear God and honor him as he requires, you cannot expect that he will be attentive to your “cry.”
 - If you insist on living a life that is sinful, unrighteous, and “evil” then we will constantly feel like “the face of the LORD is against” you.
 - **V. 17-18** – David picks back up here and repeats that when the righteous cry out, God hears them and “he delivers them from all their troubles.”
 - This is absolutely true. It doesn’t say that he “prevents the righteous from ever experiencing troubles.”
 - If you feel “brokenhearted” or “crushed in spirit,” know that God is close to you and he can rescue you.
 - **V.19** – What is meant by **v.17** is explained here, “¹⁹A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;”
 - Again, trials and tribulations are a fact of life in a fallen world, however if you “fear the LORD” you have nothing else to fear.
 - **V.20** – This verse says, “he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.”
 - David is using this to illustrate how God protects “the righteous man.”
 - In its immediate context this verse is applying to all righteous people, however **John 19:36** quotes it and others as a prophecy about the Messiah not having a broken bone. (**Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:12**)
 - **V. 21-22** – David ends this passage with, “²¹Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. ²²The LORD redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.”
 - This is an awesome promise!
 - Evil will destroy itself and the enemies of the righteous will be condemned as well.
 - Who is it that will not be condemned? His servants that take refuge in him. Aka - the righteous.
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- So, when life seems to be throwing your curve balls and you can’t seem to get your head above water, remember, **Psalm 46:1** “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”
 - Fear the Lord first, then take refuge in him second. Don’t try it backwards, you will not find what you seek.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Romans 14:1-12