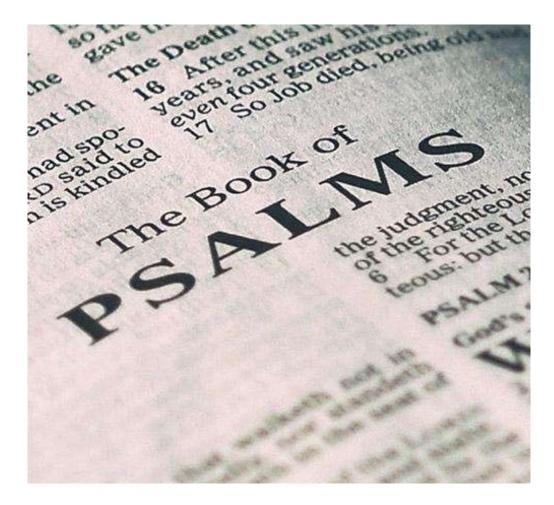
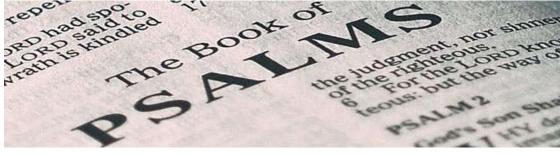
Let's Worship God

13th-18th April 2020 Psalms





Monday - Psalm 13 - Wait on the Lord

Psalm 13 is another psalm concerning David in the midst of trouble. In his life David experienced a multitude of difficulties; some caused by his own sin and some from external sources and thus he is in a perfect position to speak to the people of God in whatever circumstances they find themselves passing through.

One of the most difficult things for the child of God to do, especially when passing through trials, is to wait upon the Lord. We are so impatient and think that God should act according to our timetable, but God's timing, unlike ours, is always perfect. Here David cries out to God in despair; four times he cries out 'How long, O Lord'? In his trouble he did not turn away from God, but rather sought the answer from God. It seemed as though his trouble was never going to end, that God had forgotten him, that his constant searching for solutions was getting nowhere and that his enemies were continually triumphing over him and so he asks God 'How long?'

When we do not understand the workings of God it is good to do what David did, he cried to the Lord for deliverance. He asked that God would 'consider' or 'look' on his situation. It is always a great comfort to know that God sees and cares about our situation. He asked God to answer his prayer. Is it not sometimes the case that we do not have because we do not ask? He prayed for understanding. Trials are easier to bear if we understand why they have come. He prays that wickedness may not triumph.

Although David was not immediately delivered from his trouble, his prayer was answered for he was enabled to remember God's goodness to him in the past and thus be assured of his deliverance from his present trouble, and to acknowledge that the Lord had 'dealt bountifully' with him. This knowledge caused him to 'sing to the Lord'.

Questions

1. What should we do when we are going through a trial?

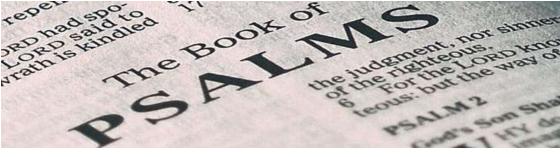
2. Why is it good to remember what God has done in the past?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that you would wait upon the Lord.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 **Praise: Psalm 13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.**



Tuesday - Psalm 14 - Wise or Foolish

There is a common perception that most people are good and are only made bad by their upbringing or environment. This psalm shows how fundamentally wrong such a perception really is and demonstrates the universal depravity of mankind and its cause. When the Lord looks from heaven upon all the children of men, and this refers to all men and not just Israel, he finds no-one who seeks God, no-one that does good, no-one who is not corrupt and filthy. This is a great shock to the pride of man, for nobody likes to think of himself in those terms, and yet that is how even the best of people appear in the sight of a holy God. This is what theologians call 'total depravity'. That does not mean that every person is as bad as they could be, it simply means that every part of man's being, his mind, his emotions, his will, his desires, is corrupt and depraved.

Not only does the psalmist point out the depravity of man, he also highlights the reason for it; 'the fool has said in his heart, There is no God'. This does not just apply to those high profile atheists who parade their hatred of God for all to see, it also applies to those respectable, sometimes religious people who live without submitting their lives to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The only solution for the foolishness of man in his refusal to acknowledge God is found in the Saviour that God would send 'out of Zion', his beloved son the Lord Jesus Christ. There are only two kinds of people in the world; the foolish, who live without God and without hope in the world, and the wise, who have been enabled by the Holy Spirit to repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

The most important question in the world is 'are you wise of foolish?'.

Questions

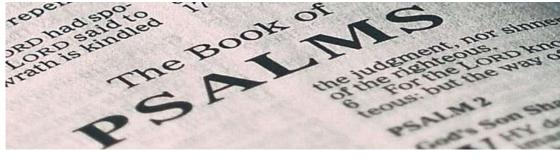
- 1. What is the true nature of man?
- 2. What are the two types of people in the world?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 **Praise: Psalm 14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.**



Wednesday - Psalm 15 - The Character of the Godly

It is very appropriate that this psalm, which describes the character of the godly should follow immediately a psalm that details the characteristics of man as he is by nature.

The psalm begins with a very important and necessary question. What kind of person does God accept into his presence? There is no doubt that there would be many different answers to that question if it were to be posed in a survey of the public. The only answer that needs to be taken account of however is the one that God himself would give, and that is what we find in this psalm.

There are three positive things that are said; he is said to 'walk uprightly', that is somebody who has a whole-hearted commitment to God and complete integrity in his dealings with other people; he 'works righteousness', in other words, what he does pleases a righteous God; and he always speaks the truth and uses his tongue to build up and not to destroy. None of these characteristics can be found in the natural man, but were seen in their fullness in Jesus. It is only as men and women are found 'in Christ' that they can begin to demonstrate these characteristics.

As well as the positive aspect, there are also negatives. The one who is acceptable to God does not seek to hurt his fellow man, he does not broadcast his neighbour's faults, he does not gossip, he does not praise or magnify the ungodly, but rather praises those who are faithful to the Lord, neither does he break his promise even if it costs him dearly to keep it. His concern is always to be just and honourable and will never take advantage of his fellow man.

If the heart is right with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it will be seen in the way that the life is lived before men.

Questions

1. What are the positive characteristics of the Godly man?

2. What are the negative characteristics?

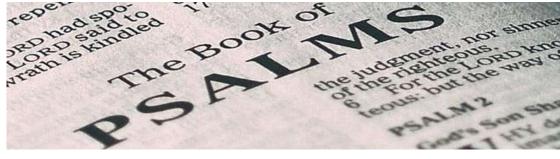
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that because of Christ we can come into God's presence.

- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 **Praise: Psalm 15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.**



Thursday - Psalm 16 - Preservation, Commitment, Contentment

Whilst it could be said that all of the psalms relate to Christ, there are some that are seen as being more especially Messianic and Psalm 16 is often said to be one of those. Spurgeon says that the psalm speaks of the faith of the Saviour in all of the circumstances of his life and thus gives an example for his people to follow.

There is no doubt that the psalmist had great need for the preservation of God during many of the trials that he faced, and this was no less true of the Saviour. Even as Jesus was preserved from harm until his time was come and from the wiles of Satan in the temptations, and the weakness of the flesh in the Garden, so those who are 'in Christ' through faith will similarly be preserved.

The preservation called for in verse 1 was assured because of the commitment to the Lord that the psalmist, in some measure, and the Saviour in full measure had. Commitment to God was shown by submission to his sovereign will v.2., love for the people of God v.3, hatred of false religion and idolatry v. 4, and satisfaction in God v. 5. The believer too, can be assured of the preserving hand of God in the circumstances of his own life as he trusts and commits himself daily to the Lord.

Commitment to God brings with it contentment with the path chosen by the Lord. Even although the pathway for the Lord Jesus led though pain and suffering, he was willing to accept it as the Father's will. So too the apostle Paul when he said 'I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am'.

Commitment and contentment lead to a confidence for the future. Although Jesus faced an agonising death yet there was the glorious confidence and assurance of final victory. He could see beyond the grave to the glory of resurrection.

The believer too, hears the words of assurance, 'because I live, you shall live also'.

Questions

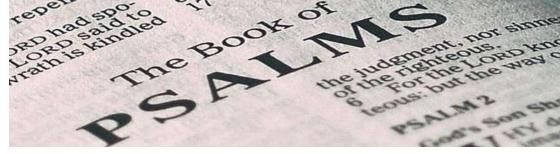
- 1. How does this Psalm point to Christ?
- 2. What does commitment and contentment lead to?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for God's preserving hand upon you.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 **Praise: Psalm 16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.**



Friday - Psalm 17 - Fervent Prayer

One of the evidences of a true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is what a person does when facing trials of one kind or another. Here in this psalm David demonstrates his own faith in the Lord in the midst of trouble by calling to the Lord in prayer.

The first five verses demonstrate the kind of attitude that should be seen when a believer approaches God in prayer. There is fervency in his prayer; he cries out to God. This is not just a saying of prayers but a heartfelt cry. He had examined himself and believed that his cause was a just one and therefore he could cry out to a just God. There was no deceit in his prayer, his heart and motives were open before the Lord and he was quite willing to leave his case in the hands of God for him to answer as he saw fit. David was able to go with confidence to God because he had sought to live a righteous and holy life; he speaks of resolutely keeping away from sinful men and seeking to walk in the ways of the Lord. A godly life, a just cause and submission to the will of God are very important for effective prayer.

In his prayer David not only prayed fervently but also specifically. There were three things that he asked for: protection from his enemies who were numerous and fierce; the destruction of his enemies and finally, and most importantly, he prays that he might have the presence of God both now and for ever.

Here then, is a model for the prayers of the people of God. Would not our prayers be more acceptable to God if they were always fervent, backed up by a righteous and holy life, submissive to the will of God, specific, and with the primary goal of knowing more and more of the Lord himself?

Questions

1. What kind of attitude did David have as he came before God?

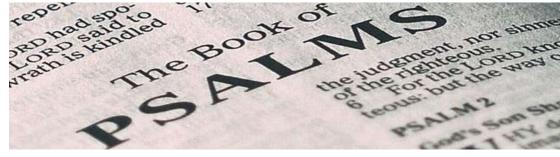
2. What did David ask for in his prayer.

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that our prayers would grow better and better.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 **Praise: Psalm 17 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.**



Saturday - Psalm 18 - The Goodness of the Lord

It is suggested by some commentators that this psalm was written towards the end of David's life as he looks back with thanksgiving on all that the Lord had done for him; others suggest that it was written after the defeat of Saul when David was finally at peace. Whichever is the case; this is a wonderful psalm of thanksgiving rejoicing in all the mercies of God in the differing circumstances of life.

The psalm can be divided quite simply into three sections together with an introduction and conclusion. After expressing his great love for the Lord for his protection, salvation and care in vs 1-3, David records the dangers and sufferings that he had experienced and how God had marvellously delivered him from them vs. 4-19. In the second section vs. 20-30, David asserts that God acted in accordance with his own righteousness; because God is a righteous God he acts graciously towards those who are upright. This is not David being arrogant or boastful, but rather an assertion of trust and confidence in the Lord. His words are similar to those of Paul in Acts 23:1 'I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day'. The third section vs. 31-45, David praises God for all the blessings and protection that he had enjoyed, for help and strength in battle and for making him to be a great king. He concludes the psalm with praise and worship to the God who had done so much for him.

It is always a good thing for believers to look back on their lives from time to time and review the blessings and mercies of God that they have enjoyed. When we remember the goodness of the Lord it leads us to praise and worship and causes us to rededicate our lives to him.

Questions

- 1. What is David remembering here?
- 2. When we remember God's goodness how should it affect us?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2 **Praise: Psalm 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law day after day and that the people of God were filled with joy!

Let's Worship God is produced by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com