

Taste and See God's Goodness

Psalm 34

Sermon by Chris Ball

Exegetical Idea: David appeals to his audience to praise, seek, and fear the Lord in the context of trials because the Lord is good.

Homiletical Idea: Because the Lord is good- YOU must praise, seek and fear the Lord in the trials you face each day.

Purpose Statement: I want my audience to understand the goodness of the LORD and practically apply the principles of praising, seeking and fearing the Lord through the trials of life.

Introduction:

- Discussion of Psalms - David writing in real life situations with real life emotions
- Historical setting of this Psalm referenced to us in the superscription - turn back to 1 Samuel 21:10-14
- David was taking refuge with King Achish until the King realized David's worth and turned on him. When David realized he was now a captive of the king he pretended to be "mad" and escaped.

This Psalm we are going to look at is a psalm written by David just after the circumstances in which we just read from in 1 Samuel. Knowing this context, I think we can learn many lessons from David. You may not be faced with being a captive to a foreign king, but I am sure you do not have to think long to think of various trials or personal struggles that face you when you leave these doors. This psalm is a "wisdom" psalm written by David following the acrostic of the Hebrew alphabet. I really want you as we now go through verse-by-verse and exposit this psalm to not forget the context in which the psalm was written.

Verse 8 is the center/theme of this psalm.--

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

"The taste and see invite, as it were, to a sumptuous feast, which has long been ready; to a rich sight openly exposed to view- E.W. Hengstenberg

Illustration: A juicy steak at Ruth Chris's Steakhouse...words cannot describe-experience firsthand!

Transition: We are going to look at this psalm backwards today. I want you to have a small taste of the Lord's goodness and see it in the writings of David and then we will go back to the beginning of the psalm and see how God's goodness should affect our life.

Please follow along with me as I read **Psalm 34:15 to the end of the psalm...**

*15 The **eyes** of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his **ears** are open unto their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD **heareth**, and **delivereth** them out of **all** their troubles. 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and **saveth** such as be of a contrite spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD **delivereth** him out of them all. 20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. 21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. 22 The LORD **redeemeth** the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.*

David points out that God's Goodness is displayed in the fact that...

- The Lord watches over the righteous (v. 15)
- The Lord heareth the cry of the righteous (v. 15, 17)
- The Lord delivereth the righteous (v. 17, 19)
- The Lord redeemeth the righteous (v. 22)

The awesome messianic prophecy and picture of how Christ would be a righteous sufferer whom God will vindicate. Both the righteous and wicked will suffer, but the wicked will be condemned and the righteous will be delivered! Take a moment to look to the cross- The ultimate example of God's goodness displayed. (John 19:36)

Transition: We have seen just so very briefly a quick reference to the goodness of God in the life of the righteous and those that trust Him. Let us look back together at the beginning of this psalm and see how the goodness of the Lord brings David to respond.

I. Because the Lord is good, we should Praise HIM (v.1-3)

- a. We should continually praise him-at ALL times (v1).
- b. We should make the Lord and his work our boast (v.2).
-*halel* - Hebrew word for Hallelujah
— *humility*- "not thinking more or less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less"
- c. We should plea with others to exalt the Lord (v.3).

"In his presence is fullness of Joy, In His absence is depth of misery" - CH Spurgeon

II. Because the Lord is good, we should Seek HIM (v. 4-6, 10)

- a. We are in need of HIM (v. 4, 6)
- Humble (v. 2) ; poor man cried (v. 6)
- b. We encounter his radiance! (v.5)
- This word is used in Is. 60:5 of a mother's face lighting up when seeing her children; Ex. Moses coming down from the mountain – transformation of the whole person.

III. Because the Lord is good, we should Fear HIM (v.7, 9, 11-14).

- a. We receive his deliverance (v.7)
- b. We will lack nothing (v.9)
- c. We should not speak evil (v.13)
- d. We should not live with deceit (v.13)
- e. We should turn from evil and do good (v.14)
- f. We should pursue peace (v.14)

"To fear God is to have such a Holy awe of God upon our hearts that we dare not sin"
- Thomas Watson

Conclusion: Does your life prove you really believe GOD is good ALL the time. How will you respond to God's goodness? David while going through trials and running for his life- took time to realize God is good and it was not anything in his own strength or wisdom that he could do. He responded by praising the Lord for his goodness. He responded by seeking the Lord with his whole heart and life. He responded by fearing the Lord, which was characterized in his speech and his actions. In light of the goodness of God--How do you respond when trials come? God is good and deserves your trust! He knows what is best for his children. Praise Him, Seek Him, Fear Him!

"Christians do not create the Truth- the Truth creates the Christian" - William Farley