

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Psalm 34

Next Sunday, March 1, is our annual DNOW weekend Sunday. This is a weekend of focused time for the students to sit under the preaching of God's Word and in-depth discipleship. This year the focus of DNOW is on the fear of God specifically as an antidote to fearing man. Our DNOW speaker is Todd Murray. Todd is the pastor of family ministries at Grace Immanuel Bible Church in Jupiter, Florida. Prior to joining the staff of Grace Immanuel in 2011, Todd, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute and Moody Graduate School, had been on staff at The Bible Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, for 28 years. He is the author of "Beyond Amazing Grace: Timeless Wisdom from the Letters, Hymns, and Sermons of John Newton" and "Love Beyond Degree" a commentary on Hosea, and has composed and recorded several collections of worship songs. In addition to training and shepherding families at Grace Immanuel, Todd teaches at The Expositors Seminary. He and his wife Tandy have been married since 1982 and are the parents of 5 children, two grown and married (David Todd and Heather) and three still at home (Blair, Glenn, and Emma Grace), and two grandchildren.

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Psalm 34.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times;  
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD;  
The humble will hear it and rejoice.
- 3 O magnify the LORD with me,  
And let us exalt His name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD,  
and He answered me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 They looked to Him  
and were radiant,  
And their faces will never be ashamed.
- 6 This poor man cried,  
and the LORD heard him  
And saved him out of all his troubles.

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- 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,  
And rescues them.
- 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- 9 O fear the LORD, you His saints;  
For to those who fear Him there is no want.
- 10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;  
But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
- 11 Come, you children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who is the man who desires life  
And loves length of days that he may see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil  
And your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Depart from evil and do good;  
Seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous  
And His ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers,  
To cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry,  
and the LORD hears  
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- 20 He keeps all his bones,  
Not one of them is broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked,  
And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,  
And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

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1. Where in the Bible do we learn about David feigning madness before Abimelech? What happens in that passage? *(Note: It is often considered that 'Abimelech' was a common title for Philistine kings. The king's proper name was 'Achish').*
2. Why do you think that David pens this Psalm for this occasion?
3. How does David respond to God's deliverance? Why is this an appropriate response to such deliverance?
4. David recounts God's deliverance (4-6). Have you had situations where the Lord 'delivered' you?
5. Why is it valuable to recount God's deliverance to others?

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6. What do you think verse 5 is talking about?

❖ Day 2

Read Psalm 34 again.

7. Why does David say that the man is 'blessed' who takes refuge in him (v. 8)?

8. Why do you think that David introduces the concept of 'fear' in verse 9?

9. How does David seem to think about, or describe, the fear of the Lord?

10. In verses 15-20, what are the attributes of those people whom God cares for?

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11. How does the Lord respond to his people in verses 15-20?

12. David places great emphasis on being 'brokenhearted.' Why is this character quality so valuable?

13. How should the truth in verse 19 affect the life of the Christian?

❖ Day 3

Read Psalm 34 again.

14. In verse 20, David speaks something that will later be applied to Jesus (John 19:36). In what sense did David mean it, and why is it valuable for us as Christians?

15. In verse 21, why would David say that 'evil' will slay the wicked, rather than 'the Lord'?

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16. Do you think that this Psalm is teaching 'works righteousness,' or doing good deeds in order to earn God's favor? Why or why not?

17. In what areas in your life are you in desperate need? What counsel do you think that David would give you based on this Psalm?

18. How does this Psalm affect the way that we relate to unbelievers?

19. Why do you think that David was motivated to write this Psalm?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for a brokenhearted attitude toward God. Ask that you would experience that sense of being 'crushed in spirit' that is pleasing to Him. Ask him for faith so that you would trust him in the difficulties of life. Ask for perseverance to believe in his sovereign deliverance even when your troubles are overwhelming. Pray that he would reveal sin that is incompatible with a sense of Christian humility. Pray for the students and DNOW weekend – that God would use his Word in their lives to convict them of sin and show them the sufficient salvation that is offered there.