

The Rescued Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 34

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I. Homo Adorans

While the Enlightenment classified human beings as *homo sapiens*, _____ man, the early church fathers tended to classify us as *homo adorans*, _____ man. Even in our fallen state we have what Calvin called the *sensus divinitatis*, the sense of the divine, the remnants of God's presence and God's image. Though we attempt to suppress that knowledge, in times of stress it tends to surface. *When we are troubled, we should cry out to Him and, when He answers our cry, we should praise His Name and encourage others to do likewise.*

II. Trouble in Gath (cf. 1 Sam 21:10-15; Ps 56)

III. The Rescued Man

A. *Introduction:* Join me to praise the Lord at all times! (1-3)

B. *Declaration:* For God has saved me and will save all who fear Him. (4-7)

C. *Invitation & Exhortation:* So fear the Lord in your words and deeds. (8-14)

- 8 – *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!*
- 9 – *Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!*
- 11 – *Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

D. *Instruction:* For God always hears and delivers those who fear Him. (15-22)

So why should we rely on the Lord, fear Him, and always permit His law to govern our lips and our actions? Because God is on the side of those who fear Him while He sets Himself against the wicked.

So what we see is that David has experienced the salvation of the Lord - God has delivered David from the hands of the Philistines. So David wants to share with us his joy in this salvation.

- He declares his intention to praise the Lord and invites us to join him.
- He recounts God's gracious salvation.
- He summons us to join him as he trusts and serves the Lord.
- He reminds us of God's faithfulness to his people and his hatred of the wicked.

IV. Application

A. Many are the afflictions of the righteous

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. Many are the affliction of the righteous. So why is it that we think that we shall make it through life with little difficulty? Paul reminded the disciples in Asia Minor, “*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God*” (Acts 14:22). We face opposition without, fears within, temptations to evil, the aging process, disease, bad harvests, etc.

B. But the Lord delivers Him out of them all. (cf. Rom 8:35-39)

But the Lord delivers him out of them all. If you are a follower of Christ, then there is not a single affliction that God has not crafted for your salvation and for your growth in grace.

Consider just verse 15: *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.* Who are the righteous? They are those who place their trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the ability to walk in righteousness.

So how do we reconcile this promise with the experience of those who are not delivered in this life? The complete fulfillment of Jesus’ words in Psalm 34 rests in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! (cf. 1 Pet 3:8-12)

⁸ *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;* ⁹ *not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

¹⁰ *For: “He who would love life*

And see good days,

Let him refrain his tongue from evil,

And his lips from speaking deceit.

¹¹ *Let him turn away from evil and do good;*

Let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² *For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, [to bless them]*

And His ears are open to their prayers; [to bless them]

But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”

V. Conclusion