

PSALM 34 – THE LORD WHO DELIVERS

Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 34:1** – “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth” – the beginning words of a heartfelt psalm of David
- 2) Superscription heading connects it to occasion in David’s life when he was in danger among the Philistines and feigned madness before the king of Gath (1 Sam. 21:10-15)
- 3) Emphasizes the blessedness of trusting in the LORD who delivers the righteous
 - a) **Vv. 1-10** – David’s praise of the LORD
 - b) **Vv. 11-22** – Exhortations to the righteous

I) **Exalting the Name of the LORD (vv. 1-3)**

- A) David’s blessing and praise will be “at all times” and “continually” be in his mouth (v. 1)
 - 1) Not just when convenient or in happy times (Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:4)
- B) His soul will “boast in the LORD” – the humble will hear and be glad (v. 2; 1 Cor. 1:31)
 - 1) The LORD and the humble have a close relationship (see v. 18; Jas. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6)
- C) The faithful should join together to magnify the LORD and exalt His name (v. 3)
 - 1) Common faith creates a common bond of fellowship and joy in the Lord

II) **The Deliverance of the LORD (vv. 4-10)**

- A) David reflects on his calling on God, God hearing him, and God delivering him (v. 4)
- B) Others who faithfully look to God will not be ashamed, but saved out of troubles (vv. 5-6)
- C) The “angel of the LORD” protects and delivers those who fear God (v. 7)
 - 1) Angels are God’s ministers to do His will for God’s people (Heb. 1:14 behind the scenes)
 - 2) The “Angel of the LORD” often found in context of divine actions (see Judg. 13:21-22)
- D) Invitation to “taste” [perceive] that the LORD is good (v. 8; cf. Heb. 6:4, 5; 1 Pet. 2:3)
 - 1) God and His will needs to be experienced and enjoyed by all (Psa. 19:10)!
 - 2) Blessings for all who put their trust in God (vv. 9-10; Psa. 2:12; 37:5, 40; Prov. 3:5)

III) **The Good Life (vv. 11-16)**

- A) David now offers inspired admonitions to all who will listen (v. 11)
- B) The good life (vv. 13-14) – not pursuit of money, fame, power, or goods (Lk. 12:15)
 - 1) **Keep tongue from evil and lips from guile** – honesty and integrity
 - 2) **Depart from evil and do good** – make godly choices
 - 3) **Seek peace and pursue it** – peaceful relations with God and man
- C) Lord for the righteous, but against the evil (vv. 15-16)
- D) The above verses quoted in 1 Peter 3:10-12 – we are called to be a blessing in this world

IV) **The LORD Delivers the Righteous (vv. 17-22)**

- A) The Lord is near to and delivers those who are humble and penitent (vv. 17-18; Jas. 4:8, 10)
 - 1) Must overcome the temptation to be proud/arrogant in our sins
- B) God delivers the righteous through many afflictions and guards his “bones” (vv. 19-20)
 - 1) Afflictions will beset the righteous, but they have divine help and hope (2 Cor. 4:17)
 - 2) Quoted about Jesus on the cross (Jn. 19:36 – Passover lamb Ex. 12:46)
- C) While evil slays and condemns the wicked, the LORD will redeem and not condemn the righteous (vv. 21-22; Rom. 8:1, 31)

Conclusion

Such faith and devotion to God is what made David a man after God’s heart (Acts 13:22). Let us possess this kind of faith in our life and trust completely in the deliverance of the LORD (2 Pet. 2:9; 1 Thess. 1:10).