

PSALM 34:1-22

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"The Lord has by right a monopoly in His creatures' praise."

A Psalm of David when he pretended insanity before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed (1 Sam. 21:10-15). The psalmist's gratitude prompted him to record the Lord's goodness in granting undeserved deliverance. Yet he weaves none of the incident into the narrative, but dwells on the grand fact that he was heard in the hour of peril. We learn from his example not to parade our sins before others, as certain vainglorious professors of Christianity do.

(Ps. 34:1) I will bless the LORD at all times. David is resolved, I will. He is determined; let others do as they wish. He is intelligent in head and inflamed in heart. The psalmist knows to whom the praise is due, and what is due, and for what and when. Our gratitude is to be given to Jehovah. The Lord has by right a monopoly in His creatures' praise. Even when mercy reminds us of our sin, as in David's case, we are not to rob God of His honor because conscience justly censures our part in the transaction. Though the hook was rusty, God sent the fish, and we thank Him.

At all times, in every situation, under every circumstance, before, during, and after trials, in bright days of glee, and dark nights of fear, David would never stop

praising. He was never satisfied that he had done enough. He always felt that he fell short of what the Lord deserved. Happy are those whose fingers are wedded to their harps. Those who praise God for mercies will never lack a mercy for which to praise.

(Ps. 34:19) Many are the afflictions of the righteous. They are made like Jesus, their covenant Head. Scripture does not give the idea that goodness will keep us from trouble. On the contrary, we are repeatedly warned to expect tribulation (John 16:33). Our afflictions come from all points of the compass and are as many and as tormenting as the mosquitoes of the tropics. It is the earthly portion of the elect to find thorns and briars growing in their pathway. Yes, it is their portion even to lie down among them, to find their rest broken and disturbed by sorrow.

But, blessed but. How it takes the sting out of the previous sentence! **But the LORD delivereth him out of them all.** Jehovah will lead His redeemed, uninjured and triumphant. There is an end to the believer's affliction, and a joyful end it is too. None of the trials can hurt so much as a hair of your head, nor can the furnace hold you a moment after the Lord orders you to come out. Hard would be

the lot of the righteous if this promise were not there to sweeten. The same Lord who sends afflictions will recall them when His plan is accomplished, but He will never allow the fiercest affliction to tear and devour His beloved. (*The Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

Is David praising God for the method he used to secure his safety or just for the goodness of God in his deliverance?

What is meant by the radiance of Ps. 34:5?

Who is the poor man of Ps. 34:6? Matt. 5:3

How do you “taste” the Lord to see that He is good (Ps. 34:8)?

Why do the “young lions lack and suffer hunger” (Ps. 34:10)?

How do you learn to fear the Lord? Ps. 34:11

Show how a verse like Psalm 34:20 can have double meanings. Ex. 12:46 Num. 9:12 John 19:36