



Taste and See That The Lord Is Good! *Psalm 34*

August 20, 2023
Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning Church! **Psalm 34** is one of the greatest invitations in the Psalms for all people to join together in praise because of God's goodness and deliverance. This acrostic psalm emphasizes redemption & deliverance throughout the text. **Psalm 34** is a near perfect acrostic Psalm. What this means is that each verse line begins with consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Once again, we find a psalm where a large part of its creativity and beauty is hidden behind the translation.

A Psalm of David.

*"Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech,
so that he drove him out, and he went away.*

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. 3 Oh, 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 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. 8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. 11 Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the 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 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. 22 The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned."

This psalm calls for the congregation to...

1. BLESS the Lord and BOAST in His Name. (v 1-4)

- Boasting in ONESELF is the height of pride and godlessness.

*"slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." **Romans 1:30***

“And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. **11** And the servants of Achish said to him, “Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, ‘Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands’?” **12** And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. **13** So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. **14** Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? **15** Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?” **1 Samuel 21:10-15**

- To boast in GOD is right.

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” **2 Corinthians 10:17**

The Lord...

- **HEARS and ANSWERS prayers** (v 4, 17)
- **DELIVERS** (v 4, 17)
- **SAVES** (v 6, 18)
- **Is NEAR** (v 18)
- **REDEEMS** (v 22)

2. REFLECT The Lord’s Goodness and FEAR Him. (v 5-14)

- Radiance reflects the JOY of God’s revealed PRESENCE.
- Those who FEAR God are those who are in RIGHT relationship with Him.
- We are TAUGHT to fear the Lord. (v 11)

“Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.” **Proverbs 3:7**

3. Human PERSECUTION and Divine PRESERVATION is The Saints Reality. (v 13-22)

- **The hope of every believer’s REALITY is being fully DEPENDENT upon the Lord.**
(v 18)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” **Matthew 5:3**

Because of Christ being the only perfect righteous Man who shed his blood as a most holy and unblemished sacrifice, our sins are paid in full. Those who trust in the Lord, can take refuge in His Son Jesus and are redeemed with no condemnation. Through a right relationship with Jesus, we can “taste and see that the Lord is good!”

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1