**David’s Testimony – Can it be Mine?**

***Psalm 18:1-3***

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Introduction: Psalm 18 is at once a prayer to the Lord as well as a praise of the Lord. In the title to the psalm, David identifies himself not as the King of Israel, but as *“the servant of the LORD.*” He seems to say that it is a higher honor to be the Lord’s servant than it is to be Israel’s king. God Himself called David *“a servant of the LORD”* in II Samuel 3:18 & 7:5, 8. This psalm is originally found in II Samuel 22. There we are told (verse 1) that it was David’s hymn of praise written to exalt the Lord for delivering David from all his enemies (particularly King Saul). The key word in the psalm is *“deliver,”* used 5 times (& *“deliverance”* is used one time). It has been suggested that David “edited” the psalm to use it as a national day of prayer & praise to give thanks to the Lord for His mercy & grace. David opens (:1-3) & closes (:46-50) with a doxology. One writer calls this psalm “…a great hallelujah, with which David retired from the theatre of life… In it the Psalmist thanks God, not for any single deliverance, but has throughout, before his eyes, a great whole of gracious administrations, an entire life rich with the experi-ence of the loving-kindness of God” (Hengstenberg). This psalm tells us what the Lord did for David & Israel. It also tells us what the Lord will do today for those who trust & obey Him! Note with me this morning just verses 1-3, where we learn of David’s devotion for the Lord, his description of the Lord, & his dependence upon the Lord. As I read the verses, ask yourself, “Could David’s testimony be mine tonight?”

 I. *“I will* [“continue to”] *love Thee, O LORD”* > David’s **devotion** for the Lord

 A. David’s *“love”* –

 1. The word defined:
 a. The Hebrew word is *“racham”* – used some 47 times in the O.T., but only here translated

 as *“love.”*

 b. The word means – to love deeply; to have compassion; to show tender & intimate affection.

 2. The word described:
 a. It is used elsewhere to describe the love of a mother for her baby (Isa. 49:15); a father for

 his children (Ps. 103:13); & the Lord for His people Israel (Ps. 103:13).

 b. It describes “…to love with the strongest & deepest affections of the heart” (Plummer).

 B. David’s *“love”* for the *“LORD, my strength”* –

 1. *“LORD”* – Jehovah or Yahweh; the self-existent or Eternal One; Israel’s Redeemer.

 2. *“Strength”* – “God is strength to His people in every sense, in which they can need strength.

 He supports them & gives them courage, success, & establishment” (Plummer).

 C. Our love for the Lord? [Commanded of us? Psalm 31:23.]

 1. Is your love for the Lord preeminent?

 a. Matthew 22:37-38 > is it with all of your heart, soul, & mind?

 b. Colossians 1:18 > is He preeminent in all things? (Does He have first place?)

 [Contrast our selfishness & substitution of other things instead of loving Him first.]

 2. Is your love for the Lord proclaimed?

 a. Is it vocal? Praise by your lips? > Declared.

 b. Is it visual? Pictured by your life? (cf. John 13:34-35) > Demonstrated.

 II. *“I will* [“continue to”] *trust* (the Lord)*”* > David’s **descriptions** of the Lord

 A. David as a “fugitive”? – the Lord as His Defense?

 1. *“My rock”* – *“cela”* (from verb “to be lofty”) – place of refuge; speaks of strength & stability.

 2. *“My fortress”* – stronghold (cf. city of Jerusalem on Mount Zion).

 3. *“My deliverer”* – “One who causes us to escape, or who carries us away safely” (Plummer).

 4. *“My strength”* – literally, “rock” (different word than previously); cliff or boulder; refuge –

 used in Deut. 32:4, 15, & 18, translated *“rock.”* “In such a God & Rock it is safe & wise to

 trust, to confide” (Plumer).

 5. *“My high tower”* – impregnable & inaccessible by human means; a citadel.

 Application: The Lord as our sure Defense? Our eternal security (John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:37-39)

 & our ever-present security (Hebrews 13:5-6 > His presence; I Cor. 10:13 > His provision).

 B. David as a “fighter”? – the Lord as His Offense?

 1. *“My buckler”* – shield; protection in battle.

 Illustration: “David was Israel’s shield, but the Lord was David’s shield” (Wiersbe).

 2. *“The horn of my salvation”* – horn speaks of irresistible strength.

 Application: The Lord as our sure Offense? Equipped for battle (Ephesians 6:10-18) & engaged

 in battle (Matthew 16:18).

III. *“I will* [“continue to”] *call upon the LORD”* > David’s **dependence** upon the Lord

 A. His call for salvation:

 1. Psalm 27:1, *“The LORD is my light & my salvation…”* (cf. Psalm 86:5).

 2. Romans 10:9-13, *“…For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

 B. His call for safety (sanctification?):

 1. David’s call in Psalm 4:1, 3 & the Lord’s promise in Psalm 50:15.

 2. Our call in Psalm 145:18, *“The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call*

 *upon Him in truth.”*

Conclusion: Could this be your testimony here this evening? “I will love the Lord! I will trust the Lord! And I will call upon the Lord!” Is your love for the Lord preeminent in your life? Is it proclaimed, by your lips & by your life? What has first place in your life tonight? Are you trusting the Lord completely this evening? Is the Lord your defense – your rock, fortress, deliverer, strength, & high tower? Do you find your refuge in Him? Is the Lord your offense – your shield & horn? Are you in the battle for the Lord –standing for Him? Have you put on the whole armor of God described in Ephesians 6? And have you called upon the Lord for salvation & for safety?

 Your devotion for the Lord will be evident in your devotional life with the Lord. Do you spend time daily in His presence & in His Word? Your trust in the Lord will be evidenced when He is both your defense & offense. Is He that to you? And your dependence upon the Lord will be evidenced by your salvation, as you rest in Him as your Savior as well as evidenced by your sanctification, relying upon Him as your Sufficiency.

 How about you this evening? Have you called upon the Lord to be your Savior? If not, why not do so tonight?