**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

“Teach Me Your Way O Lord”

A Psalm of David – 27:11

*Pastor ~ Matthew Diehl*

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(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted.)

Last Sunday, we focused on the first verse in Psalm 27. David begins his prayer to God with a proclamation that the Lord is his light and the One who provides for his salvation. There are two applications of salvation. One, David’s temporal life is saved from King Saul. Two, David is eternally saved. We see a witness in the Hebrew understanding of the afterlife when King Saul calls-up the prophet Samuel from the dead (1 Samuel 28). Since David knows his eternal destination is in the Lord. . . then everything that happens to him in this fallen temporal world will not abate his eternal destination.

 Consistent with David’s surety of his salvation, the Apostle Paul writes to Believers in Corinth, about nine-hundred years after David lived, and about two-thousand years ago, encouraging them to the reality and reliability of the Lord who will confirm them in the end.

Lord Jesus Christ, . . . 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

The phrase “day of the (our) Lord” is a known phrase that points to the “end of times”. The Old Testament prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) often used the term to point to a time that God will make judgement and bring justice, but for the Believer a time of rest. . .when all things become healed and there is not any more strife.

 There has always been an acute interest in “End-Times” study. The well-used term *eschatology* is the name given for the study of last things.

Eschatology (Hyphenation: es‧cha‧to‧lo‧gy) concerns knowledge of events detailing the end of the present age, human history, and the world as we know.

The Bible-centered Christian message is that the “End-Times” are a divinely ordained era of human temporal history when the climax of humanity’s temporal existence comes to an end. The term *eschatology* was first coined by Protestant theologian Charles Harold Dodd (1884-1973) in 1935. *Eskhatos* is a Greek word meaning "last", and -*ology*, means the study of things. Eschatology: "the study of last things".

This era includes the resurrection of the dead, the Rapture, God’s Judgment (Great White Throne Judgement), and Second Coming of the Messiah.

We see the “day of our Lord” applied to judgement at the Great White Throne Judgement, when our Lord Jesus Christ is the Judge who reads the names that have been entered in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:11ff).

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it,

from whose presence earth and heaven fled away,

and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life,

he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15

Peoples whose names are recorded in the ***Book of Life are held*** ***blameless*** because they had chosen to humbly surrender to God in their temporal life. Therefore, they gained access to the application of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary as payment for their sins. . . a debt they owed to God that they could not pay.

Paul is consistently proclaiming the final rest for Believers. We see this again when he writes to his friends in Philippi.

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

David possessed the same saving knowledge that Paul had but only nine-hundred plus years before Paul preached. From the Psalms of David, in the 10th c. B.C., to the Apostle Paul, writing for the Lord in the 1st c. A.D., we see the same message of the promise from God that Believers are saved in the Lord and have another life after this temporal life has expired. . . which is to be with God, in His Heaven for an eternity.

 Let us read the **27th Psalm**, again today, and focus on its eternal messages to us.

**1 A Psalm of David**. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life;

Whom shall I dread?

**2** When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh,

My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

**3** Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear;

Though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident.

**4** One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.

**5** For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle;

In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;

He will lift me up on a rock.

**6** And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

**7** Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice,

And be gracious to me and answer me.

**8** When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You,

"Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."

**9** Do not hide Your face from me,

Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help;

Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!

**10** For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

But the LORD will take me up.

**11** **Teach me Your way, O LORD,**

**And lead me in a level path Because of my foes.**

**12** Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,

For false witnesses have risen against me,

And such as breathe out violence.

**13** I would have despaired unless I had believed that

I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

**14** Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage;

Yes, wait for the LORD.

Obviously, many sermons can be written about Psalm 27. Every sentence has a message which is connected to each other. Last week, we identified that David most likely wrote the 27th Psalm in reflection of his time when he was fleeing from King Saul. David praises and seeks the Lord’s assistance. Today, we look at verse 11 but not without considering the context of David’s life and the whole Psalm; we need to particularly focus on verse 10.

**Psalm 27:10** For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

But the LORD will take me up.

Many scholars interpret v.10 to mean that David’s parents had died. Most English Bibles translate the Hebrew word עָזָב azab as *forsaken* or *abandon*. The Hebrew dictionary also has the word used as “left behind” which is the appeal to what happened when David’s parents died. David was left behind. His parents were no longer a source of counsel. A Jewish Midrash explains that David’s parents were most likely killed in Moab. David had moved his elderly parents there to escape the wrath of King Saul who was pursuing David to kill him. The Moabite King thought David could be of use to him because he was perceived to be an enemy of King Saul. But when David refused to harm King Saul, the Moabites killed David’s parents. And so, the Midrash states.

This understanding of verse 10, sheds light on verse 11, when David appeals to God the “teach me Your way, O Lord”.

**11** **Teach me Your way, O LORD,**

**And lead me in a level path Because of my foes.**

David did not have anyone capable of teaching him or assisting him in defense of King Saul’s wrath. So, he prays to God. Other Bible scholars see the statement in verse 10, “For my father and my mother have forsaken me,” is a reference that David’s people, the Hebrews, abandoned assisting him due to their allegiance to King Saul. Either way that the verse is interpreted, David turns to God for teaching.

 **To whom do you turn for advice when you find yourself in pressing or hard times?**

Many people have no one to whom they can turn. They only have their spiritually lost circle of relationships. But this is when we Believers have an opportunity to minister to them.

Most of us know that life’s troubles and challenges are best seen before they round the corner, before they are knocking at your door. Here is the obvious, and, in my opinion, a no-brainer list.

Why go to a bar where alcohol and testosterone runs deep in men’s veins and the supply of available women are often fought over? Why jump in shark-infested oceans or water-moccasin swamp bottoms?

**Common Sense and Good Judgement** is an often-overlooked personal ability. Many times the application of “common sense and good judgement” is not taken because a person’s uncontrolled feelings and emotions rule the day. The well-known practice of taking three deep breaths in a challenging situation or life-event is well advised. For Believers, we have the advantage to consult other Believers and our leaders. Without God at work in a person they can be carried away by every wind of life.

**Ephesians 4:14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

**Colossians 2:7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

**And then there is the list that is dragging down all of society.**

Why get in an automobile tanked-up on booze? Why marry a non-believer? Why have children out-of-wedlock and the one-night-stand where the biological donor is unknown or nowhere to be found? And the list goes on. . . This is why America has the highest prison population in the world.

 **I have often related that my father gave me two general and sound pieces of advice.**

1. **If you are not there. . . it cannot happen to you!**
2. **Whatever you do . . . do not let it cost you the rest of your life!**

Let’s turn to God’s Word for advice in order to avoid trouble. Paul, guided by God’s Holy Spirit, gave the church in Corinth some advice about relationships and how to live. Remember, there is difference in knowing someone in order to witness to them and being their *hang-out-with-friend.*

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 **Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?**

 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

 King David did not have a problem with whom he hung-out. His main problem was letting his eyes affix on Bathsheba. And he was a man of much bloodshed. So, we focus on Psalm 27:11.

 For our sermon today, I have also included historical English translations to highlight the exacting consistency in God’s Word. Remember that these English translations published after the 1950’s A.D. draw from the original source language (Hebrew) manuscripts which include the Dead Sea Scrolls dating back to before the Incarnation of God as Jesus Christ. The miracle is that the Geneva Bible of 1560 A.D. and the 1611 A.D. KJV are translated from 10th c. A.D. Hebrew manuscripts and say the same thing. There is over a fifteen-hundred (1,500) year gap between the two Hebrew manuscripts families of text.

**Geneva** **1560**

Teache mee thy way, O Lord, and leade me in a right path,

because of mine enemies.

**KJV** **1611**

Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path,

because of mine enemies.

**Revised Webster Bible 1833 (RWB - 1995)**

Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path,

because of my enemies.

**ASV 1901**

Teach me thy way, O Jehovah; And lead me in a plain path,

Because of mine enemies.

**NAS** **1977 (Updated 1995)**

Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path

Because of my foes.

**NKJ 1982**

Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path,

because of my enemies.

**Christian Standard Bible (CSB) 1999 (Updated 2017)**

**Originally Named - “Holman Christian Standard Bible”**

Because of my adversaries, show me Your way, LORD,

and lead me on a level path.

**ESV 2001 (Update 2017)**

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

**New English Translation NET** **2002 (Updated 2019)**

Teach me how you want me to live; lead me along a level path because of those who wait to ambush me!

 From these words of David, we are encouraged to turn to the Lord in our most desperate times. When David’s life is in jeopardy, he does not turn to any other source for guidance but God alone.

 The most contemplative times of our lives are when we are or a person who we are in a close relationship is…gravely ill, or at the birth of our children. Attending funerals and being with a loved one till the end presents us with an inescapable reflection upon their lives and ours.

 It is my observation that during life’s contemplative times is when we have the greatest opportunity to experience life and our lives in relationship to others. . . to be most precious. I thank God that He created me with the freedom of choice to choose to experience life with personal alternatives. I mean. . . in challenging times, we have a choice to humble ourselves to God and see and live life through and by His intent at work in us. Living God’s intended life. . . provides us the opportunity to experience life to its fullest. Believers choose to have God’s intent work in their lives. Therefore, Believers choose to have God’s love, joy, peace, and hope operate in us. This empowers us to forgive and not be unforgiving. . . to be happy and not bitter… to be gentle and not heavy-handed. . . to be kind and not hateful. . . to live righteous lives and not practice evil. . . to have self-control and not allow the impulses of the fallen operate in us.

**Ephesians 2:1-3,. . .10**

**1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. . . .

. . . **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

 During David’s life, he seemingly was constantly faced with great challenges to his physical health and life. His account of going after and killing the bear and lion, who had taken his sheep, is a view to his teen years filled with life-threatening events. As an adult, David was a warrior where his life was routinely at stake. So, when David writes many of the Psalms, they are based upon life-experiences when God carried him through to live another day.

 **AMEN**