

Psalms Instruct Christians in Righteousness

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

We must complete last week's lesson; we had already considered:

- A. The Bible's use of Psalms in prayer
- B. The use of Psalms in prayer today
- C. Wrestling with doubts and fears
 - 1. It is acceptable to express doubts and fears to God.
 - 2. God's longsuffering is not indifference.
 - 3. The wicked will be suddenly overthrown while the righteous will live forever enjoying fellowship with God.

IV. CLIMBING OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR

- A. After battling through doubts, we emerge with renewed faith and hope
 - 1. "If out of the depths we cry, we shall cry ourselves out of the depths" (Alexander Maclaren)
- B. Psalm 88 is unique in that it is sad and plaintive from beginning to end.
 - 1. It is said to be the darkest prayer in the Bible. No ray of hope appears. Psalmist cries out for deliverance from bodily weakness and loneliness
 - 2. It is a lifelong process, not an instant cure - Ps. 90:12-17, 91:1-4 92:1-2
- C. Out of the depths of persecution and slander - Psalm 31:19-20, 33, 34, 35
- D. Out of the depths of disaster and defeat - Psalm 60:9-12, 74, 79, 89
 - 1. The Psalms address the trial of the exile and captivity (586-7 BC).
 - 2. When we suffer from calamities, whether from a church division or a monetary reversal, Psalms can help. Psalm 60 closes with confidence

Introduction:

- A. When Paul wrote Timothy that the Scriptures were profitable for many things, one of which is that the man of God may receive "instruction in righteousness"
 - 1. 2Tim. 3:16-17
- B. This is especially true of the Psalms; many of them were designed to teach

I. THE USE OF INSTRUCTIVE PSALMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Jesus used many of the Psalms in His sermons
 - 1. Matt. 5:5; Psalm 37:11
 - 2. Matt. 5:8; Psalm 24:3-4
 - 3. Matt. 16:27; Psalm 62:12
- B. The New Testament writers often appealed to the Psalms in their exhortations
 - 1. Psalm 118:6; Heb. 13:5-6
 - 2. Psalm 138:6; James 4:6-7
 - 3. Psalm 34:12-16; 1Peter 3:10-12
- C. Observations
 - 1. Many of the Psalms teach principles of righteousness still relevant today, even though we are living under the covenant of Christ
 - 2. It is appropriate for Christians to study the Psalms to receive instruction in righteousness that can be applied in our service to Christ today

3. Some moral principles of righteousness have been true and relevant since the Creation - Matt. 19:4-5

II. PSALMS THAT INSTRUCT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. Psalm 32:1-8

1. This psalm was written by David after he was forgiven of his sins committed in his affair with Bathsheba
2. Lesson: the importance of confessing our sins, and the blessedness we enjoy when God forgives our sins

B. Psalm 52:1-9

1. This psalm was written when David had been betrayed to Saul by Doeg the Edomite
2. Lesson: the futility of boastful wickedness, and of the peace enjoyed by those who live godly lives

C. Psalm 37:1-40

1. This Psalm, written by David, was the one upon which Jesus based the beatitude, "Blessed are the meek..."
2. Lesson: the security of those who humbly trust in the Lord, contrasted with the insecurity of the wicked

D. Instructions to young men trying to remain pure before God - Psalm 119:9-11

E. Wisdom for those wanting to grow old gracefully - Psalm 71:17-18

F. Jesus, the Psalms, and the Gospel - Luke 24:44-47