



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: God's Righteousness

Sermon Title: "Righteous in Christ" (2 Samuel 22:7-31)

Connection to Session 13

In Psalm 5, David prayed to God concerning his enemies. He asked God to hear his cry and to lead him in righteousness. David faced many enemies throughout his life. David recalled that the Lord blesses those who are righteous, while the wicked face destruction. In 2 Samuel 22, the Lord rescued David from all of his enemies, including Saul, according to His righteousness.

Introduction/Opening

King David had many enemies throughout his reign over Israel. From Saul to the Philistines, David rarely caught a break. One has to wonder, how did David make it through all of the onslaughts of his enemies? Was it because of his great military skill? Was it because David did not sin? The answer to both questions is no. David succeeded because he trusted in God and his commitment to uphold his righteous King. David points us forward to Christ, who, because of His perfect righteousness, defeated His enemies. Now, all who trust in Jesus share in His righteousness and have a refuge for safety.

Outline

1. God Hears the Cry of the Righteous (2 Sam. 22:7-20)

- a. It's often when we are in trouble that we call out to the Lord for help. David was no different. When we are in distress, we must remember that God is our God and He hears our prayers (2 Sam. 22:7).
- b. Throughout the next several verses, David painted a picture of how God responded to his cry for help. God was not slow to respond; rather, David's request roused God to act strongly on David's behalf. If a child is hurt and cries for his father, the father does not slowly walk to discover what is wrong. He runs quickly to help his child. God is not aloof from our suffering.
- c. David highlighted his weakness in his request and confessed that his enemies were too strong for him (2 Sam. 22:18). We cannot fool ourselves into thinking that we can face the enemies of sin and Satan on our own; we desperately need the help of God. When Paul challenged the Ephesians to stand against spiritual enemies, he told them to put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:2ff), not their own armor.
- d. God hears our cry because He delights in the righteous. Psalm 147:11 says, "The LORD values those who fear him, those who put their hope in his faithful love." Though David was not perfect, he was righteous because of his fear and trust in

God. If we hope in the faithful love of God in Christ, God values us and delights in us as well.

2. God Honors His Righteous One (2 Sam. 22:21-25)

- a. David declared that the reason the Lord delivered him from his enemies was because of his righteousness (2 Sam. 22:21). David exhibited his trust in the Lord in many ways throughout his life. David was righteous in his dealing with King Saul. On one occasion, after David spared Saul's life, David said, "The LORD will repay every man for his righteousness and his loyalty" (1 Sam. 26:23).
- b. We demonstrate our righteousness and loyalty to God by consistently turning to and trusting in Him. This does not mean we will never sin; it means that we always return back to God. "Though a righteous person falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will come to ruin" (Prov. 24:16).
- c. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are all born with a sin nature (Eph. 2:1-3) and fundamentally fail to uphold the righteous requirement of God. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, wholly righteous before God. It is through our faith in him that an exchange takes place—His righteousness is given to us, and our sin is given to Him (2 Cor. 5:21). As those who trust in Jesus, we cling to His righteousness alone, not our own.

3. God Helps All Who Take Refuge in Him (2 Sam. 22:26-31)

- a. David emphasized the relationship between the righteous and God. Those who are faithful, blameless, and pure will enjoy a relationship with God where they experience His faithfulness, blamelessness, and purity (2 Sam. 22:26-27).
- b. Sometimes it is hard to ask for help. In our pride, we don't like to be seen as needy or helpless. However, God sets His eyes against those who refuse to turn to Him for help. (v. 28). God gladly forgives those oppressed by sin and the enemy who turn to Him for refuge. The righteous run to the name of the Lord like a strong tower and are protected from the enemy (Prov. 18:10). Like running to shelter during a thunderstorm, those who take refuge in God avoid His judgement.

Conclusion

If we are in Christ, we are now considered the righteous ones of God. We share in the blessings of Christ's righteousness. God hears our prayers, honors our faithfulness, and helps us when we run to Him for safety.

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