

# Psalms Instruct Christians in Righteousness

# Psalms:

## Teaching Christians How to Pray

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

# Climbing Out Of The Depths Of Despair

- After battling through doubts, we emerge with renewed faith and hope
  - “If out of the depths we cry, we shall cry ourselves out of the depths” (Alexander Maclaren)
  - Psalm 88 is unique in that it is sad and plaintive from beginning to end. It is said to be the darkest prayer in the Bible.

# Climbing Out Of The Depths Of Despair

- It is a lifelong process, not an instant cure
  - Psalm 90:12-17
  - Psalm 91:1-4
  - Psalm 92:1-2

# Climbing Out Of The Depths Of Despair

- Out of the depths of persecution and slander
  - Psalm 31:19-20 - “Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! 20 You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues.”
  - Psalms 33, 34, 35

# Climbing Out Of The Depths Of Despair

- Out of the depths of disaster and defeat
  - Psalm 60:9-12
  - Psalms 74, 79, 89

# Psalms Instruct Christians in Righteousness

- 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”
  - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- This is especially true of the Psalms; many of them were designed to teach and instruct

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- Jesus used many of the Psalms in His sermons
  - Matt. 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”
  - Psalm 37:11 - “But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- Matt. 5:8 - "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God."
- Psalm 24:3-4 - "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully."
- Matt. 16:27 - "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."
- Psalm 62:12 - "Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; For You render to each one according to his work."

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- Psalm 118:6 - “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”
- Heb. 13:5-6 - “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- Psalm 138:6 - “Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.”
- James 4:6 - “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- Psalm 34:12-16 - “Who is the man 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 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.”

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- 1Peter 3:10-12 - “For He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”

# The Use Of Instructive Psalms In The New Testament

- Many of the Psalms teach principles of righteousness still relevant today, even though we are living under the covenant of Christ
- It is appropriate for Christians to study the Psalms to receive instruction in righteousness that can be applied in our service to Christ today
- Some moral principles of righteousness have been true and relevant since the Creation
  - Matt. 19:4-5 - “And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?”

# Psalms That Instruct In Righteousness

- Psalm 32:1-8
- Lesson: the importance of confessing our sins, and the blessedness we enjoy when God forgives our sins

# Psalms That Instruct In Righteousness

- Psalm 52:1-9
- Lesson: the futility of boastful wickedness, and of the peace enjoyed by those who live godly lives

# Psalms That Instruct In Righteousness

- Psalm 37:1-40
- Lesson: the security of those who humbly trust in the Lord, contrasted with the insecurity of the wicked

# Psalms That Instruct In Righteousness

- Instructions to young men trying to remain pure before God
  - Psalm 119:9-11 - “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”

# Psalms That Instruct In Righteousness

- Wisdom for those wanting to grow old gracefully
  - Psalm 71:17-18 - “O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. 18 Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.”

# Jesus, the Psalms, and the Gospel

- Luke 24:44-47 - “Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”