

Series: Psalm

Title: He Has Dealt Bountifully with Me

Text: Psalm 13: 1-6

Date: February 3, 2013

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Psalm 13: 1: «To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.»

Many look upon this Psalm as strictly a Psalm of King David. Therefore they charge David with complaining against God, for thinking God could forget one of his children.

Indeed, King David was used of the Spirit of God to write this Psalm, but a greater than David is here.

This Psalm is the heart-supplication of Christ the King as he suffered on the cursed tree. There is nothing irreverent or unfaithful in what is said here, just the opposite.

Proposition: In this Psalm, we see the holy obedience of Christ toward his God and Father even as he endured justice for his people.

Psalm 13: 1: How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? 2: How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *having* sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? 3: Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of death*; 4: Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; *and* those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. 5: But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. 6: I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

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Divisions: 1) We will go through the Psalm seeing Christ's faithfulness to the Father; 2) We will go through the Psalm seeing Christ's faithfulness to his redeemed child.

I. FIRST WE SEE CHRIST'S FAITHFULNESS TO THE FATHER ON THE CROSS

Psalm 13: 1: How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

Cut Off

When the LORD made Christ sin for his people, in divine justice, the LORD hid his face from Christ.

Matthew 27: 45: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.
46: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Try to imagine those three agonizing hours—three of the longest hours in history; try to imagine the agony of his heart when he said, "How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?" The hiding of the face—means the hiding of his presence, of his countenance.

Before the foundation of the world, God gave an elect people to Christ and Christ our Surety entered into covenant with the Father to become the Scapegoat of God's people. The type was in Leviticus 16.

Leviticus 16: 21: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

The prophet said, “after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:” (Daniel 9: 26). Christ knew no sin. But in obedience to the Father he willingly submitted to bear the sins of his people his own body on the tree. And in justice, “he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.” (Is 53: 6, 8) So there on the cross, God justly hid his face from our Substitute.

While he walked this earth, Christ had known the delight of his Father’s countenance. Peter described it this way, “he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (2 Pet 1: 17) Now, he is made a curse for all his people over all time. And for three hours God turned his face from him.

Forever

The question asked is, “How long...forever?” Yes, forever—for all eternity. Because to be forgotten forever for all eternity is what justice demanded holy God do to his people for our sin.

1 Corinthians 6: 9: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10: Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such WERE some of you: but ye ARE washed, but ye ARE sanctified, but ye ARE justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

How so? Because since “the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God” it meant when Christ took the sin of the unrighteous from all his elect from every age, he had to be cut off into that separation we owed to justice.

I do not know what is more amazing—1) That eternity could be swallowed up in three hours because the one suffering is the eternal Son of God—or—2) That Christ bore that shame and separation for sinners so undeserving as we are.

Alone

Psalm 13: 2: How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *having* sorrow in my heart daily?

On the cross, Christ was alone. God did not remove his strengthening presence, but he removed his comforting presence. He had no one to comfort him while he hung on the cross. There was none to help. All his disciple forsook him and fled (Mt 26: 56) His heart was filled with sorrow.

Living Death

Psalm 13: 2...how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?

This must have been agonizing. Satan and the fallen angels were raging against him: powers and principalities and spiritual wickedness in high places, wicked hands and wicked tongues of wicked men

Psalm 22: 7: All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8: He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

Psalm 13: 3: Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of death*; 4: Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; *and* those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.

This gives some understanding of how crushing the bruising weight truly was upon our Substitute. He said, “No man takes my life from me, I have power to lay it down.” But his prayer here was for strength—“lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of death*.” The italicized words are added by the translators to make it read more smoothly. But remove the italicized words and read it again. “Ligten mine eyes, lest I sleep the death.”

In that separation on the cross, Christ was bearing “the second death.” Separation of final judgment will be the death that never dies—a living death. But in order for justice to be satisfied, Christ had to bear that death alive. He could not sleep—could not give up the ghost—until he make “the death” die. Otherwise, the enemy prevailed. So he cries, “Consider, hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep...the death. Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; *and* those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.”

Faith Looks Outside of Self

Psalm 13: 5: But I have trusted in THY MERCY mercy; my heart shall rejoice in THY SALVATION.

Here is Christ our Wisdom! Christ our Mercy-Seat, whose own blood was being shed that God might be just in showing us mercy, trusted in the Father’s mercy as he did so. Our great Savior who put away our sin and saved us from the pit of death—as he did so looked steadfastly to his God and Father for his salvation.

This is the amazing God we serve. Christ is manifesting righteousness of God—here Christ was made sin to declare God just and the Justifier. Christ was made sin so that God was just in pouring out justice on Christ in our stead and God was doing so that he might be just in justifying his people from our sins.

But at the same time Christ is manifesting how not only has he put away our sin, but how he is himself our righteousness and our sanctification. While he is made sin and justly bearing separation to satisfy justice, Christ remains holy and faithful within, depending entirely upon his God. Have you noticed throughout the Psalm, he keeps saying, “O LORD, My God, I have trusted in THY MERCY; my heart shall rejoice in THY SALVATION.” This is his holy heart, his holy faith—the faith of Christ by which his people are saved.

Obedience and Death

The work of declaring the righteousness of God and of making his people the righteousness of God required Christ to be obedient, “even unto the death of the cross”—obedience and death.

On that cross, Christ was bearing that living death. He did not give up the Ghost and enter physical death until he said, “It is finished.” Physical death was the final trumpet blast that the eternal living death—the wages of sin—had been paid. It was obedience to go to the cross and be made a curse and bear that living death.

But even as he bore that death on the cross—Christ had to remain the obedient servant. He had to never waver from holy, faithful heart obedience, trusting the word of his God and his Father, even in separation.

And he WAS obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. One of the most remarkable scriptures is John 19.

John 19:28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Even under that supreme suffering, and shame and separation, his thoughts were on fulfilling the will of his Father. It was not his own “will”, his own “wants”, his own “need” for which he cried, “I thirst”; it does not say “because he was thirsty” he said, “I thirst.” But it tells us the obedience of his heart, he said it,—“that the scripture might be fulfilled.”

Not even his last request was because of his will—he said, “I came not to do mine own will but the will of him that sent me.” Even his last request was to do the will of his Father. Remember, when he was tempted in the wilderness he said, man does not live by bread alone but “by every word of God.” He said, “My meat is to do his will.” So now when he says, “I thirst.” It was not that he might be ministered to; it was not for that physical water, that bread alone; but his meat, his life, his eternal joy was that not one jot or tittle of God’s word remain unfulfilled, but that all the law of God be magnified and honored—so “that the scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I thirst.”

And even in this, we see his faith in the Father. The scripture where it was written reads, Ps 69:21: They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." He is not giving himself the vinegar, but he trusted his Father to unleash those wicked hands, that they would give him vinegar to drink. So in faith, that the scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I thirst.”

John 19: 29: Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

He Was Heard

Now go back to Psalm 13. This morning I preached to you on the subject of “Learning Obedience” from Hebrews 4 and 5. We read in Hebrews 5:

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.

Christ was heard for his piety, his holy obedience. Now back in our text, the song changes in the next verse—“all things having been accomplished, now that he cried, “It is finished...and gave up the Ghost”—we turn to a note of victory and triumphant and delight!

Psalm 13: 6: I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

He WAS heard. The smile of God his Father’s countenance shined forth as the dawn of a new day. The clouds rolled back, the veil rent in twain in the temple, the rocks rent and the graves opened. Our triumphant Savior came forth three days later singing in the midst of the congregation, “he hath dealt bountifully with me!”

Hebrews 9: 11: But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12: Neither by the blood

of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us

Hebrews 10: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

II. NOW BRETHREN, HE CALLS US TO TAKE UP OUR CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM AND HE SHOWED US HERE HOW TO DO IT. NOW, LET'S SEE CHRIST'S FAITHFULNESS TO US FROM THE CROSS.

God the Father called his Son to suffer the cross for us and as he did AND he did so believing on God and his Father. Now, the work of redemption is finished. He has become the Author of eternal salvation to all them that obey Christ. Our Redeemer calls us to trust him—to believe that his cross work is finished—that he has purged our sins, that all for whom Christ died are reconciled to God and none shall be lost.

Now the cross we bear shall come from believing on Christ. This world hates God and his Christ. The suffering we are called on to endure is the cross of suffering for his name's sake.

- We will suffer when our enemies become those within our own household: when father or mother, husband or wife, son or daughter reject Christ and despise our gospel.
- We will suffer when your best friend betrays you, goes away, rejecting you because of your Redeemer.
- We will suffer when you are unjustly charged and punished at school, or at work, because of the gospel you believe.
- We will suffer when brethren give you their word contrary to scripture and you must suffer their frowns when you reject their word for God's word.
- We will suffer when you are tempted to save your life, to just given in and do that which would make it easy on you and ease your suffering.

But like as the Father called Christ to suffer his cross trusting the Father, our Redeemer calls us to bear our suffering, believing on him.

We Are Never Forgotten

Psalm 13: 1: When suffering and it seems like he has forgotten you—instead of asking how long—remember that because he bore separation and purged our sins, he says, “I will not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. (Is 49: 15-16)

The Throne of the Counselor is Always Open

Psalm 13: 2: When you begin to “take counsel in your own soul, finding sorrow in your heart”—Remember, that because he suffered with none to help, you always have One to help! Instead of taking counsel in our own soul flee to THE Counselor, the Mighty God, our Everlasting Father—to find mercy and grace to help in time of need.

We Are More Than Conquerors Through Christ

Psalm 13: 2: When the enemy seems to be exalted over you...go to his throne pleading, “Lord, lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. Lighten mine eyes, lest I perish.”

While the old lion is roaring, doing all he can to frighten us into rebellion, the Spirit and Presence of Christ shall draw near..his voice answers, “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Rom 8: 34, 36)

Look to Christ Not Self

Psalm 13: 5: When your eyes cannot see for the darkness, still trust in the Lord Jesus. Look away from self and suffering and remember Christ’s heart rejoiced in GOD’S Mercy and God’s Salvation, and remember God’s Salvation and Mercy for all the elect of God IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

And let patience have her perfect work—wait on his time. Christ shall prove that the suffering was the best thing that could have ever happened to us—but wait and trust him and you will see.

Believer, there is no trial, distress or anguish of spirit which our gracious Redeemer calls us to, in which he has not walked and felt.

The thing that sustained our Savior on the cross was looking to his God and Father. He trusted that though for now the cross must be born, in the end his Mercy and Salvation would be great. So when we suffer, look to Christ, believe Christ, obey Christ as Christ obeyed the Father.

Christ purged away our sin making us the righteousness of God in him. By obeying his Father, perfected obedience, “He became the Author of eternal salvation until all them that OBEY HIM.” We obey him by simply believing on Christ.

It is not our feelings that are the cause of true joy. It is the object of faith. His omnipotent hand guides, consoles and gives us paths to follow in all our suffering—and those paths always lead straight to him.

We Are Complete in Him

When you eat that broken bread and drink the wine remember the unrighteous shall never inherit the kingdom of God, but because he suffered in our place, his words to those who trust him is:

“And such WERE some of you: but ye ARE washed, but ye ARE sanctified, but ye ARE justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

What a price he paid to do it!

Psalm 13: 6: I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Amen!