

Confidence in Facing the Future

Many psalms deal with the problems and circumstances that enter a godly person's life. These situations are such that the only help we have is from God. In Psalm 3, we encounter the problem of danger as a new day dawns. King David (even while fleeing danger) gained strength and courage as he trusted in God.

David faced a real crisis. As we would expect of a man in a high place, he made many enemies over the years. As Absalom tried to overthrow his father, many of these enemies were making their moves to "get their licks in" on David. Their numbers seemed many and were many.

David, a realistic man, recognized the dangers (Psalm 3:1-2). Believers in Christ do not adopt a "Pollyanna" view of the world, that everything is just fine if we maintain a positive attitude. Rather, we--of all people--see the spiritual dangers that abound on every hand. Sometimes these dangers manifest themselves physically, and sometimes in the words of others.

Yet David had an answer to these dangers. He specifically responded to danger with confidence in God (Psalm 3:3-4). The believer can and must turn to the Father when faced with overwhelming situations. The godly person can trust God to shield him, to encourage him, and to hear his prayers. Charles Spurgeon said, "We need not fear a frowning world while we rejoice in a prayer-hearing God." Romans 8:37 says, "We are more than conquerors through Him that loves us."

When we place our confidence in the Lord, He gives us specific relief. He gives us His rest. Worry robs us of rest and peace. In Psalm 3:5-6, David said that he was able to lie down and sleep. There are times that, by all earthly measure, we should be at our wit's end; yet the Lord gives a peace that "passes all understanding." "True grace may be shot at, but can never shot through; grace puts the soul in Christ, and there it is safe" (Thomas Watson).

The ultimate result of God's care is His salvation and deliverance (Psalm 3:7-8). David placed his complete trust in the Lord for his rescue. God did rescue him. How has God dealt with His enemies before this? He has utterly destroyed them!

What will be any different now? "God did it before, and He will do it again!" God's blessing rests on those who are in Christ and that

blessing comes only through Christ. Someone has said, "God's blessing flows from God's grace, is availed by faith, and is assured by God's solemn promise." Gregory of Nazianzus (an early church father) wrote, "Where God gives, envy can avail nothing; and where God does not give, labor can avail nothing." God is sovereign in His care and blessing.

As we face 2017 together, we do so with the utmost confidence in the promises and providence of God. Look to Him and you shall never be disappointed! May we say with the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me!" (Philippians 4:13).

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