

**TRUTH B-P CHURCH**  
**Adults Sunday School**

**PSALM 18 – PRAISING GOD WHO DELIVERS! (Part 3)**

**I. GOD’S DELIVERANCE DUE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**

God is sovereign and in control of all situation. However, we must also realize that it is entirely up to Him to deliver His people or not. God does not owe them anything or should He feel obligated at all that He must surely save them out of their troubles. Having said that, it can also be the case that God can grant deliverance simply because He is pleased with the right response and attitude that His people has shown in the midst of trouble. And such was the case here in this section from verses 16 to 27 that God's deliverance came as a result of the psalmist's righteousness which he manifested at such a time as this.

**Verse 16, “He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.”**

“Sent,” “took” and “drew” are the three verbs that described God taking action to deliver the psalmist out of his trouble. But exactly what and how God sent the help from above, or how He took the psalmist and then drew him out are not told to us. God could have sent His angels to deliver the psalmist. God could have carried the psalmist in a chariot away from his enemies. And God could have pulled him out literally out of the traps.

God could have done all these things to deliver David. But how God has done it did not really matter since what is important to note is that we know God heard the cry of the psalmist and responded to him. Many waters would describe the great calamities that keep coming like the waves that continually hit against the shore non-stop.

**Verse 17, “He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.”**

It is definitely certain that God is the One who delivered the psalmist from his enemy. And this is especially significant when it came from the man who had killed giant Goliath and has been known as the man of war. How did such a man who could be independent of God's help came to rely completely on God and not himself? Surely he is not called a man after God's own heart for nothing. He has learnt to trust in God.

His enemy is described in two ways. First they are referred to as strong. In fact, they were too strong for the psalmist to overcome. Strong enemy means that the enemy has the ability and capability to attack and destroy God's people. Second they are referred to as “them which hated me.” The word “hate” is a strong emotional feeling of dislike against each other. The psalmist was facing his enemy who is both strong and burning with wrath against him. Surely he was afraid and intimidated.

And the psalmist acknowledged that his enemy is powerful, and even more powerful than him. What else can he do after accessing his ability that is deemed too weak to handle the enemy? To go and fight the enemy would be a foolish thing to do. He will surely perish if he were to do that. The psalmist knew that only God can deliver him. And for the fact that he was delivered, it means that God is the One who is responsible for his victory over the enemy. He could not have won over the enemy by himself. It is impossible. The enemy was too strong for the psalmist but not for God. The psalmist gave all glory to God!

**Verse 18, “They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.”**

The psalmist tried to escape but was intercepted by his strong enemies who hated him to the core. The enemies were able to see through all his escape routes that there is simply no way out for him. Just when all is lost, and there is no more hope, God delivered him. The word “stay” means support. God is the One who supported the psalmist all the way. In a way, with God as his support, he will never fall into the hands of the enemy. What perfect guarantee of support which God assured us as His children!

From verse 19 onwards to verse 27, the psalmist began to highlight how he found his way to the heart of God that made him testified of His deliverance upon him.

**Verse 19, “He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.”**

A large place is an open area where everything is exposed and nothing covered. It signifies that there is nothing to fear at all. It is peace time and those who are there are free to walk about without getting hurt. The psalmist was able to wander freely without the enemy's threat since God was the One who brought him to this large place and He will ensure his life be well protected.

And the reason the psalmist gave for such deliverance and protection was because God delight in Him. God saw that it was not due to any sin that the psalmist had done and therefore it was because of just cause that he cried out to Him for help.

**Verse 20, “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.”**

We see synonymous parallelism from verses 20 to 24. It is clear that the LORD had taken notice of the psalmist's righteousness and cleanness of his hands. God has not overlooked that. He rewarded and recompensed him by providing deliverance from his enemy. Here we see that God is perfectly just and fair. He will reward His children accordingly. Not only that, God knew all things. For He is the omniscient God, and He can see through all our intents and any secret that is found in our heart and mind. What is hidden to man is seen clearly by God.

**Verse 21, “For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.”**

The failure to keep the ways of God is the same as departing from God. Keeping the ways of the LORD means following the instructions God has given. The psalmist knew the law of God through the prophets and priests. And surely he remembered those times which his own father Jessie had taught him the Word of God during his childhood days.

To know is one thing, to obey and keep is another. The psalmist declared that he has kept God's ways and had not depart from God which is deemed as a wicked thing to do. To depart from God who is good means that he has rejected God to lead him. He thinks he can do better without Him. What arrogant thought is this, which is why only the wicked departed from God and will not take heed of His ways?

**Verse 22, “For all his judgments *were* before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.”**

God's Words are described as judgments and statutes in this verse. Judgment are instructions that bring about punishment if they are not obeyed faithfully. Statutes are ordinances which are required to observe. The psalmist could be referring to the ceremonial laws which are required to be kept as part of their worship to God in the temple. In other words, both judgments and statutes refer to the same thing: God's instructions.

All His judgments, without exception, are presented before the psalmist. It is not the mere sight of it but the delight in keeping them as the way of life. Therefore it is not the physical presentation of the Law that is before him but the high respect and honour the psalmist gave to keep remembering and keep obeying them in his whole life. Not once did he put away His statutes from him. This shows his commitment to obey God in His Word. The statutes were kept close to his heart and not far from him.

**Verse 23, “I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.”**

The psalmist is clear about who he is before God and it is God whom he is pleasing. He makes sure he does those things which are wellpleasing to God and not provoke God to wrath by his sin. It is not enough to just do the right thing. It is also important to stop doing the wrong thing.

There are those who are trying to balance their life of right and wrong. They think they are all right as long as they do more right than wrong. They did not realize that they must completely stop doing the wrong thing and keep on doing the right thing.

The psalmist said it rightly and perfectly. Both must be done in order to glorify God, both the keeping of God's Word and refraining from committing any sin.

**Verse 24, “Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.”**

This verse is similar to verse 20 except the last three words “in his eyesight.” What matters is how God looks at us and not how man evaluates our life and works. Since this verse is repeated, it stressed the emphasis on God being the One who will reward us in the end. Let me quote from Apostle Paul, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).

**Verse 25, “With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;”**

The psalmist is stressing the perfect justice of God. No one could point a finger at God and accuse Him of injustice. To the merciful, God will show mercy to them. To the upright, God will show Himself upright to them.

**Verse 26, “With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.”**

Same as above. To the pure, God will show Himself pure to them. To those who are perverted, God will show Himself unsavoury to them. This means that they will reap what they have sown. They will taste the very treatment that they afflict upon others. This is the power of God. God will not become perverted Himself like the pervert in order to deal with them in the same way. Yet God can ensure that these perverted ones will suffer the same treatment as they did to others.

**Verse 27, “For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.”**

Usually those who are afflicted lack power and ability. They were likely to be despised by many in the society. But as God is no respecter of persons, whether rich or poor, male or female, young or old, as long as you do the right thing in His sight, He will deliver you as promised.

In this verse, the psalmist believed that God will deliver the weak and humble, but will judge those who are proud and boastful. “High looks” refer to those who think they are indispensable and independent of God and needed not God at all. They believe they are the only ones who deserve to live and everyone must give way to them. But God will humble them and they will be severely humiliated.

The psalmist is confident that God will rule with perfect justice and righteousness. All he needs to do is to keep doing the right thing before God and there is no need to be afraid of those who give all sorts of threat to do otherwise. God will deliver us as He did to the psalmist. May God help us. Amen.

(To be continued)