

I. Review

Last week, we looked at the last half of Psalms chapter 33 and saw a number of things that were important. We got to see how God is going to have a judgment of the nations, Psalms 9:17

17. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Proverbs 9:17

We saw how man has many devices and we looked at that in Proverbs 19:21

21. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand. Proverbs 19:21

The devices will be what man uses to get around God and the Word of God. We built it around the idea that in life, you are either going to follow the counsel of man or the counsel of God. One deals with the reality of life, which will be God. The other, the fantasy or illusion of life, which will be the counsel of man.

We looked at the aspect of nations: "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*" I took you back to a historical aspect of that, showing you how that not only is that a picture of the nation of England back in history, but also America in her early days, up to about the beginning of the 1900s. I showed you how the devices of man are the philosophies of life that he comes up with. All of those philosophies are found in the book of Ecclesiastes, where he goes through and critiques and dissects every one of them. From the philosophy of man in time, man develops the philosophy of government that he is going to follow. I walked you through all of that. Every one of them will be man's device against the coming government that God is going to establish, as talked about in Isaiah chapter 9:6-7

6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7

We looked at the fact that the national security of any nation, the protection of that nation, will not lie in the army, the air force, or its power and might to be able to defend itself, but rather in its trusting God to be everything that God wants them to be and making God their God.

The thing that came out of last week is a recurring theme that I bring before you all the time. I really appreciate how almost everywhere we go in Psalms, as you will today, you see this happening. That is the great concept about life: **life will be about the choices we make**. It is just that simple. We like to blame our issues on somebody else, something else, some circumstance,

somebody did this, said this, or whatever the case may be. **Life will simply be about the choices we make, not only as a nation but as an individual.**

II. Psalms 34

Today, we are going to begin Psalm chapter 34. This Psalm will be a Psalm of David. You have seen that a number of these Psalms are attributed to David where at the beginning it says, "*A Psalm of David.*" Each one of these Psalms of David will reflect a particular point of time in his life. I would suggest that you put that little note by each Psalm so you can have it, and I will give it to you as we go through it. But this Psalm, in particular, will be when he has to go before Abimelech. This will be 1 Samuel chapter 21. It is a thing where he feigns being mad, scrabbles at the gate.

And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. 1 Samuel 21:13

He is running from God; he is out of fellowship with God. Now he is fearful for his life. Saul is after him, and he is an easy target for anybody. He comes up against Abimelech, who is the king. So he will not be killed, he feigns that he has gone mad. For whatever reason, back then, if you were mad, they did not kill you; they just let you stay mad. Anyway, it is where he wants to protect himself by feigning that he has lost his mind.

Let's read Psalms 34 verses 1 through 22, and then we are going to make some comments on it. In my little note at the top, it says: "*A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.*"

- 1. I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*
- 2. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*
- 3. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*
- 4. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*
- 5. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.*
- 6. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*
- 7. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*
- 8. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*
- 9. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*
- 10. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*
- 11. Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*
- 12. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?*

- 13. Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*
- 14. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*
- 15. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*
- 16. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*
- 17. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*
- 18. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*
- 19. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*
- 20. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.*
- 21. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.*
- 22. The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.*

This Psalm is one of those Psalms that touches more of the believer's life than the doctrinal theme of the Second Coming and the Tribulation, though it is in there and we will see it. As I said earlier, David in 1 Samuel chapter 21, which is a reference to this Psalm, is out of fellowship with God. Saul is after him, and he loses faith in God, much like we all do from time to time. One of the most interesting things about that story over there in 1 Samuel is a real personal picture of where we get to be sometimes. David is afraid and running from Saul. He runs down to where the priests are, and he is in fear for his life. He has not eaten, so he eats the shewbread, which he is allowed to do because he is a priest. Then he asks them, "Do you guys have any weapons? Do you have a sword or a spear?" He is looking for something to defend himself with. Boy, have we all found ourselves in that kind of a situation.

David was the guy who, when he was a little guy, went out and fought Goliath. When he went out and fought Goliath, he did not have a sword. He did not have any of the weaponry. He did not have all of the armor that Goliath had. But when he came to Goliath, he said, "I come to you in the name of the Lord." That was the sword that he had, Revelation chapter 19.

He is out of fellowship with God. Oh, you had to know this is what God does in his life to get him to start thinking about getting back, because God will do the same thing in our lives. David says, "Do you have a sword? Do you have a spear?" And the priests say to him, "The only sword we have here is the sword of Goliath, whom you killed. We got it back here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod." You know what David says? He says, "Oh, give me that sword. There is none like it." Really? You see, we as a child of God can get to the place in our lives, after all that God does for us, that we think Goliath's sword, which represents the sword of the world, can take care of us better than the Word of God out of God's mouth and God's sword. That is where he is at.

We will find ourselves there at some point. Once he does that, he says, "Give me that sword. There is none like it." But you did not need a sword when you fought him. You did not go out and fight that giant and say, "I need to have a sword." In fact, Saul put all his armor on you. You could not wear it. You took it off, and all you had was five smooth stones and a slingshot, and you took him out. Now we have come to the place that we are fearful, we are out of fellowship with God, and we actually think this sword of Goliath, "Give it to me. There is none like it." Really? Oh, how we can get to that place in our lives where we think that the world can protect us more than the Book that you have in your hand.

It does not get any better. That is what he does here. Then just a couple of verses down, this is where he meets Abimelech. The sword of Goliath did not do him any good. Now he has to feign a madman, foaming at the mouth, jittering probably all over the place. He is jabbering, trying to pretend that he has lost his mind so this guy will not kill him. You see, that is where it always ends. When you dump the Word of God and you take the sword of this world, you are going to wind up scrabbling at the gate. What a great lesson that is. So, as I said, you are going to see in this Psalm a lot more of the personal stuff, which I think is great. I am just going to tell you, there is nothing in this world that is going to help you. The more you get out of fellowship with God, the more you try to go to the world for some kind of solitude or peace or some kind of whatever, you are not going to find it.

Now we are going to break this Psalm down into, I do not remember, four or five sections. Each section will be a great set of principles for us. We will see it doctrinally and historically, but as I said, a lot of this is going to move into the inspirational side.

Section 1: Psalms 34:1-6

Our first section will be verses 1 through 6.

- 1. I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*
- 2. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*
- 3. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*
- 4. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*
- 5. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.*
- 6. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*

This Psalm is where we see David coming back to reality. He is coming back to understanding where the real problem is. You see a number of places like this in the Bible that when we get out of fellowship with God, we actually feign that madness, and it becomes a thing that we actually get out of our right mind. I think of the story back in Luke chapter 15 with the prodigal son. Here is another example. This kid has everything he could want with his father, the father being a type of God the Father, the prodigal son being a type of me and you. He thinks it is better out there in the world living with the pigs. So he takes everything that his father had given him and he wastes it on riotous living. The Bible says that he winds up with the pigs, which is an unclean animal if

you are a Jew. But the greatest part of that, and this is what happens or has to happen with all of us, it is what happened to David: he is out there in the pig pen. He is out there miserable. Then the Bible says that "*when he came to himself*," he realized what he had lost with the father. When you and I get out of fellowship with God, you know where the road starts coming back? When you come back to yourself and you realize what you have lost, and you are living with the pigs. That is David. David realizes that the reality is with the sword of Goliath, and all the goofy stuff, "I have got to get back to God." This is where it all starts. It starts with what I call God-consciousness, being conscious of God in your life.

David starts out by saying, "*I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*" As far as I can tell, there are only three men that ever practiced this in the Bible: Job in the Old Testament, John, and then the Apostle Paul. It is a thing where they did it longer than anybody else I can think of in the Bible. It is a picture of what your life and my life should be on a lifelong scale.

He says in verse 2, "*My soul shall make her boast in the Lord.*" That is our boasting in the things that God does. Most of the time when we see the word "boast" or hear the word "boasting," it is always used in a bad connotation. But here it is not. It is not talking about me boasting what I have done or what you could do, but basically talking about boasting of what Christ has done. That is the right kind of boasting. In fact, in 2 Corinthians 11:10, Paul is boasting in the truth of God. He boasts in what God has done in people's lives.

*As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.
2 Corinthians 11:10*

Our boasting in the things that God does, not in the things that we do, is so that others may see His power. Others may hear what we say and our boasting in Him.

➤ Five Keys to Our Boasting in the Lord

You are going to have five keys to our boasting in the Lord as we bless the Lord at all times.

1. ➤ Magnify Him.

The first key will be to magnify Him. What does that really mean? It means to, when we magnify something, we make it bigger. When you magnify the Lord, you enlarge His presence. You enlarge who He is. When you take some young Christian, or you are preaching at the jail, or wherever it may be, and teach them the Word of God, you are basically taking somebody and taking a concept about the Lord and enlarging it so they can see it. You are showing them more than just face value of the issue. You are showing them details of some particular thing that magnifies Him in their sight.

2. ➤ Praise Him.

The second key is that we praise Him. The Bible says that our praise and worship has to be in spirit and truth. That will be over there in John chapter 4, verse 24.

24. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

We that worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth. That is the only criteria found in the Bible defining what worship is and what praise is. It is about your spirit and God's truth. You put those two together in the right framework and format, then you praise Him.

3. ➤ Bless Him.

The third key is that we bless Him. You know how we bless the Lord and make Him happy? It is not hard. We bless the Lord and make Him happy by our conduct of life and how we live our lives. The Bible says without faith, it is impossible to please Him. When you live a life of faith, He gets blessed by that, and you bless Him, you please Him.

4. ➤ Exalt Him.

The fourth key says we are to exalt Him. That is to lift Him up to a lost world. Lift Him higher than the things surrounding us in the world that everybody is focused on.

5. ➤ Boast in Him.

The fifth key is once you do those, then you can boast in Him. You take all day, talk all day, talk to everybody you know about His wondrous works, and you bless Him at all times.

Section 2: Psalms 34:7-9

Our second section will be verses 7, 8, and 9.

7. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

8. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

9. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

Last week, I focused on this on a national defense issue, that a government should not trust in their might and power in their armies but in the Lord. But here it is talking about, as I said, in a more practical way. This verse in places like this has given rise to the occasion and the idea that each of us has a guardian angel that is looking over us.

I got a letter this week from one of the young men that our guys are working with. Let me just stop and say this letter was an incredible letter that he wrote, and I appreciate you younger guys and gals and all that you do. But there are older guys in our church, many of them have been with me for many, many, years, that really have a depth to them that are working with guys

across the country out there and really doing a job. This guy is being worked with by Randy and Kevin. You guys have done a tremendous job. He went on and on about how he is learning the Bible, and that is what it is all about. You know, all the young guys and gals, you are in the process of growing, and you are doing really well. But you older ones have been around for a while. You have seen more. You have experienced more. You have been through more. There is a depth to you that people like this really need. This guy just went on and on and on about how you have helped him with the Word of God. I want you to know, I appreciate you being an extension of my life and my ministry to be able to do that.

His question he had for me was this: he wanted to know about the concept of guardian angels. He went into a little bit of his life, and he talked about how there were times in his life when there was an intervention in his life. Somebody or something stepped in and altered the course of things, which in his mind, he wanted to know, "Do I have a guardian angel? Do I have somebody that is looking out for me and did that in my life?" Well, let me just say this, I am not saying that angels are not around us at all times. I think that 1 Corinthians chapter 11 and Daniel chapter 10 make it clear that there is a warfare going on around us. But I think it is clear that when you read verse 7, that "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about," that is Jesus Christ. Israel as a nation does have a guardian angel, and it is Michael. You are going to find that Michael's particular task seems to be the protection of the nation of Israel. No question about that in the Old Testament.

The question comes up in the New Testament: Do you and I need to have a guardian angel? Some angel that whenever you got born, he stepped up and the Lord says, "Okay, I am going to assign you to Bob Alexander." The guy says, "Oh, no, anybody but him, anybody but him." Of course, you know, that is the idea we have today. People do not think it through. **The reason why you do not have to have a guardian angel is because if you are saved this morning, the Angel of the Lord is living inside you.** You do not need some angel. I do not need a guardian angel protecting me. You know why? The Angel of the Lord is encamped inside me. He goes everywhere I go. He sees everything I see.

To answer his question, the intervention in your life: God sees what He wants in us and what He wants to accomplish in us long before we see it. I think sometimes before we even get saved. Life is choices, but God will put events in our life to see what we choose even before we are saved. As you move in the right direction, God puts more things in your life. You keep moving and making the right choices. At some point, those right choices are going to lead you to salvation. I do not believe it is a guardian angel, but I believe the Holy Spirit of God through the Angel of the Lord who has His eye on you, who wants you desperately to be saved. After you are saved, desperately will do everything He can do, will intervene through your life. No question about it. But the concept of a guardian angel is a thing that is a nice little cute thing, you know, but it is not really anything to do with the Bible, especially if you are saved. You do not need a guardian angel. You have got the Lord Jesus Christ living inside you right now, and He will take care of everything that you need.

➤ O Taste and See that the Lord is Good (Verse 8)

Now, look at verse 8. "*O taste and see that the Lord is good.*" The tasting here will be God's salvation through the Word of God. In Revelation 10:8, John eats a little book.

8. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

9. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. Revelation 10:8-9

The book is either the book of Revelation or the book of Daniel. Maybe it is the whole Bible; it does not really say, but it is one of those three books. John eats that little book, and it is a picture of what we do spiritually. You have to eat physically to maintain your physical body. If you do not eat physically, you get weak. The more you do not eat, the weaker you get, and then you become very susceptible to everything around you. Well, think of it in a spiritual sense. We all like to eat. We all have our favorite meals that we like to eat, our favorite places we like to go and eat. For the child of God, spiritually speaking, the best place to eat is at the Master's table with the Word of God. If you know your Bible, you know the Bible is likened to food. It is likened to food that will produce a spiritual strength in you, as physical food will produce a physical strength in you. The Bible is likened to honey. The Bible is likened to meat. The Bible is likened to vegetables, it's likened to milk. It is likened to apples, to bread. It is the things that it is likened to that when you taste the Word of God, you digest the Word of God. You eat that book like John did. When he ate the book, it went into his belly and it produced two things. If you remember, it produced a sweetness like honey and a bitterness. That is because when you get into the Word of God, the honey is the sweetness of the Word of God, but the bitterness is the judgments of the Word of God. So it is a beautiful picture of that. I told you, this Psalm is more about what you and I go through.

➤ O Fear the LORD, Ye His Saints: for there is no want to them that fear him (Verse 9)

Then he says in verse 9, "*Fear the Lord, ye saints, for there is no want to them that fear him.*" Of course, this goes along with Philippians 4:19,

19. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

But there is a greater principle here. I told you when we went through Genesis that I would not have time to give you every aspect of it. But I did tell you that if you did your part and you got in what you did, as we continue on through just our studies in the Bible, you will find things that you want to go back in Genesis and put in. Here is one of them. This will be found in Genesis chapter 47. It is one of the most beautiful pictures in the Bible that shows what God wants for each of us.

You know that when you were in Genesis chapter 47, we are in the life of Joseph. You know that Joseph is the greatest type of Christ anywhere in your Bible, over 152 places. Let me tell you historically what you got. Egypt, a type of the world, is in the middle of a famine. They do not have any food. The Bible says that the famine and the money have failed. If that is not a picture of the world system, I do not know what is. There is a famine in the world today, not a famine of bread, but a famine of the hearing of the Word of God. Your money has failed you. Egypt is the type of the world. So they come to Joseph, a type of Christ. Joseph says, "Okay, give me all your cattle, and I will give you bread." So they give him all the cattle. Later on, the famine gets worse, and they have no bread again, but they have no cattle either. So they come back to Joseph, a type of Christ. This is a picture of me and you. This is a picture of me and you growing in the grace of God. You know, you hear me say a phrase a lot. "*You want to keep it, you have got to give it away.*" This is where I get that from. The famine continues. Now they have no bread and they have no cattle, and they come back again, and he says, "Okay, this time, give me all your land," and he gives them bread.

The picture here is you and I coming to the place in our lives after you are saved, that you turn everything over to God. You give your kids to God, you give your money to God, you give your house to God, you give your worldly possessions to God. It is a picture of you and I coming to that place of recognizing....He says it in verse 23 when they bring the cattle, they get some bread. Then they give him the land, they get some bread. He says in verse 23: "This day, I have bought you." You know, that is 1 Corinthians 6:19.

19. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19

You are not your own. You are bought with a price. You have been bought. Once they bring everything to him, he has got the cattle, he has got the land, he has got everything. He owns it all in Egypt, a type of the world. Joseph, a type of Christ. You know what he does? He gives it back to them. He gives it back to them with seed. There is the Word of God. Now that they have turned everything over to him, all their worldly possessions, and he gives it back. **If you want to keep it, you have got to give it away.**

Now they work in his field, the world, Matthew 13. He gives them the seed that they plant that brings forth bread. The Word of God in your life. You know what he says then? He says, "All right, you have given me everything. I have bought you. I own everything about you. Now I am going to give it back to you and you are going to work in my field. I am going to give you the seed to do it that produces the bread. You just give me one-fourth of it, and you keep the rest of it." There is the tithe. In other words, when you come to the place in your life, when you turn it all over to him, you want to keep it, you have got to give it away. When you turn it all over to him, he gives it back to you and then blesses it with the seed. Blesses it with the seed that produces the bread. You get to keep 90 percent of it. What a great picture that is. You know what else that is a picture of? That is a picture of how every government should take care of its people instead of the way they are doing it. You see, that is something that as we came through Genesis I did not have time to give it to you. Now you have got it. You know what I would be doing next week? You know what I would be doing this afternoon? You know what I would be doing is

getting up out of here and going to my office and sitting down and putting that in my Bible." That is how you learn it. We are going to continually add things. **You want to keep it, you have got to give it away.**

Section 3: Psalms 34:11-14

Our third section will be verses 11 through 14.

11. *Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*
12. *What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?*
13. *Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*
14. *Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

This section will be a teaching session. Again, all this stuff, most of it, is for you and me. I know David, I know Israel, but boy, there is some great stuff here.

➤ I Will Teach You the Fear of the LORD (Verse 11)

He says, "I am going to teach you how to fear the Lord." The fear of the Lord, without a doubt, is probably the most confusing mystery for most of God's people on planet Earth today. They get the idea that they fear the Lord because they are looking for that next footstep that God is going to crush them like a bug. I fear the Lord, so He does not give me cancer. I fear the Lord so He does not do this. I fear the Lord, so He does not do that to me. Nothing could be farther from the truth. My fear of the Lord is not my fear of what He is going to do to me. I am going to give you the answer, and then I am going to go back and put the pieces together. My fear of the Lord is not my fear of what He will do to me, but rather my fear of the Lord is that He will not use me in the power that He has. That is my greatest fear. That has to be your greatest fear. But instead, we fear all the wrong things.

➤ The Fear of the Lord Defined in Four Places in the Bible

The Bible defines the fear of the Lord in four places, and I want to give those to you.

1.) *Job 28:28*

28. *And unto man he said, Behold, **the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.***

Here we are told that the fear of the Lord is the wisdom to depart from evil. That is God showing you the difference between good and evil. That you have some kind of moral compass in your life, which is, by the way, missing today in America and around the world, and in most of God's people. But he says in Job 28:28, the fear of the Lord is the wisdom to depart from evil.

2.) *Psalms 111:10*

10. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

He says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and good understanding. Now it is more as you see the power of God, **understand the power of God** in your life. You do not want to be without that power of God. You realize that there is nothing that you can do in life without that power of God. You realize that the sword of Goliath is never going to get you through this life. You begin to get wisdom to depart from evil, but along with that wisdom, you get good understanding. You understand why things are the way they are. You understand why people do the things that they do. You understand why things go sometimes the way that they go.

3.) *Proverbs 8:13*

13. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

He says the fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride, arrogancy, the evil way, and the froward mouth. You see, once you understand the power of God, your fear is not going to be, "God is going to do something terrible to me." Your fear is going to be, "I am going to go through my Christian life without the power of God in my life."

4.) *Proverbs 15:33*

33. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Finally, the fear of the Lord will be to instruct you in the wisdom of God. That is, once you have it, once you understand it, and you see the awesome power of Almighty God that is in your fingertips. Like we looked at last week in Psalm 33:6 or a couple of weeks ago. You do not want to go through life without that power of God in your life. Your greatest fear should be as a child of God is that you will go through your whole life without understanding the fear of the Lord and how that fear represents the power of God for you to do everything that God wants you to do. So verse 11 says he will teach you the fear of the Lord.

➤ **What the Fear of the Lord Will Do in Our Life (Verse 12-14)**

Then when we look at verses 12, 13, and 14, we see a little bit more of what the fear of the Lord will do for us. Verse 12 says the fear of the Lord gives a long life. Look at verse 12. "*What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?*" When you have the fear of the Lord in your life and you are doing what God wants you to do, the promise of Proverbs 10:27 is he prolongs your days.

27. The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

He gives you a longer life.

➤ Four Things to Remember (Verses 13-14)

"Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Okay, four things here. 1. He keeps our tongue from evil. 2. Our lips from speaking guile. We talked about that a couple of weeks ago. 3. Depart from evil and 4. to do good, to seek peace and pursue it. You see, the fear of the Lord is a reverent fear of God's power in the world that He wants to put in my life. As I fear Him as far as the power that He has compared to the power I do not have, my greatest fear becomes, "I will live my whole Christian life and never experience the power of God in my life one time.

Did God really use you." You are coming to the place in this church by God's design. I have nothing to do with it other than just preach the Book. You are going to have the opportunities of a lifetime to experience that power of God in your life that you will never have to fear the Lord in that sense. You will fear Him because of His power. You will fear Him because of His majesty. You will fear Him because of who He is. But the fear will never be, "He is going to come down and whack me." **The fear will always be, "I do not want to go through my life.... my greatest fear is to go through my life without the power of God in my life to do what God saved me and called me to do."**

Section 4: Psalms 34: 15-16

Then our fourth section, that will be verse 15 and 16.

15. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.
16. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

We talked about verse 15 a couple of weeks ago when we were in Psalms 33, how God looks down on man and watches the creation. I do not know how intimate of a relationship you have with Christ, but if you are ever going to have the intimate relationship that you really need to have, you are going to have to get the book of Song of Solomon down. We have got a book in the bookstore on it. I taught it in a Bible study, maybe 15 years ago on a New Year's Eve. It took like four hours to lay the whole book out. It is a book that shows you what your love affair should be with the Lord Jesus Christ. Song of Solomon shows you and me what Christ thinks when He looks at you, the church. It shows you the depth of His love, the depth of His attitude of heart as He sees you. The other side of the book shows you and me what we should think when we look at Him, how we should see Him. It exposes or reveals the depth or lack of depth in our heart of our love for Him. It is an incredible book!

In Song of Solomon, chapter 2 is, in my mind, I think the most, maybe not the greatest, but certainly the most intimate picture of the rapture of the church. There are a lot of people today, you know, I get emails all the time. They say, "Well, I do not believe there is a rapture anymore." That is good. We do not want you there anyhow. Song of Solomon, chapter 2 shows Him right now. You know what He said here? "*The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.*" You know what, right now? Song of Solomon, chapter 2, He is up there in the third heaven, but He is

looking down through the lattice. He is looking down through the windows. He cannot wait to have His bride. All in that chapter, it shows that right now, as we are sitting here, He is looking at us. How He takes a personal interest in all that we do. I mean, Hebrews chapter 13, verse 5, we already know He will never leave us nor forsake us.

*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** Hebrews 13:5*

It is the reality of the Christian life. I am in Him. He is in me. I do not need a guardian angel because the Angel of the Lord, Jesus Christ, encamped inside me and never can leave.

I have told you this before. When Marty passed away here a couple of months ago, you know, he asked me to talk about death and dying and how he should look forward to it. It was a great time. I took him to Psalms 139 in the first 12 verses.

I do not know of any greater place, any greater source of comfort for any child of God. Some of us are going to go in the rapture. Some of us are not going to make the rapture. Some of us are going to die before the Lord comes. Some of us will get through it and be taken up in that rapture. There is a tendency to think in Laodicean Christianity that the rapture is a better deal than dying. I understand a little bit. Nobody really wants to die physically. The idea is not very pleasant. The rapture seems to be a quick fix, so to speak. In a twinkling of an eye, you are gone and you are out. But we are not all going to be blessed with that.

We tend to think that the rapture is a lot better than dying on earth. Truthfully, I do not care what you see your flesh going through in a hospital bed or the ICU ward or hospice or whatever. If you are a child of God, He says that if you go in the rapture or you die on this earth, it is the same. It is the same joy. It is the same comfort. It is the same feeling. You just have to watch it. That old flesh who does not want to die, struggling to hold on. Well, in most cases, the soul is probably halfway out and on its way home rejoicing. That is Psalm 139, he says:

1. *O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.*
2. *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*
3. *Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.*
4. *For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.*
5. *Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.*
6. *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.*
7. *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*
8. *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*
9. *If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; **(Rapture)***
10. *Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

11. *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.*
(Here is your dying, missing the rapture)

12. *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

That is the greatest comfort that any child of God can have, that if you go in the rapture, praise the Lord. If you die in a hospital bed, praise the Lord.

I cannot read that verse without thinking about Billy Bray. Billy Bray was an old preacher out of the Philadelphian church. Wherever he went, he preached the Word of God. He had a little thing that he got attention for the Lord, boasting in the Lord, that he would get preaching, and he would start talking about, "Every time I walk, I give glory to God. I put down my right foot, praise the Lord. My left foot, glory to God." He says, "I will walk through life, glory to God, praise the Lord, glory to God, praise the Lord, glory to God, praise the Lord, glory to God, praise the Lord." One of his skeptics came up and he said, "Billy, Billy, Billy, you are such a fool. You are not even saved. You are making a fool out of yourself, and someday you are going to die and you are going to be in hell, then what are you going to do?" Billy said, "Hmm, oh, I know. I will walk through the corridors of hell. Praise the Lord, glory to God, praise the Lord, glory to God, praise the Lord, glory to God." And the devil will come up and say, "You cannot talk that way down here, Billy. You are going to have to leave."

He will never leave you. He will be there for you wherever you go. Not so with the wicked. He says He cuts them off, "*to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*" Nobody on earth will remember them. That is because when the Lord comes back in Matthew 7:21-23, there is a group that come before Him, the sheep and the goats. The sheep go into the kingdom, and the goats go into eternal damnation. He says, depart from me, I never knew you. For all of eternity, your name is never spoken again. For all the millennium and eternity, the wicked will be remembered no more.

21 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

23 *And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.***
Matthew 7:21-23

Section 5: Psalms 34:17-22

Then our fifth section, this will be verse 18 through 22. I will start on verse 17.

*17. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all **their troubles**.*

*18. **The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.***

19. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

20. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

21. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

22. The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Doctrinally, this will be Israel in the Tribulation period. You can note the word "their troubles." He says, *nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and a contrite spirit*. Historically, this reference will be to Psalm chapter 51, verses 1 through 19. In Psalm 51, you have David's incredible confession. He sinned with Bathsheba. He has been confronted by Nathan. Now he tries to restore himself to God and teaching a great truth to all of God's people, whether it is in the Old Testament with David's life or your life and my life

1. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

4. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

5. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

9. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

13. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

14. *Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.*

15. *O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

16. *For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.*

17. ***The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.***

18. *Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

19. *Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar. Psalm 51*

In the Old Testament, when you did something that was wrong, transgressed, you had to bring an offering, a sacrifice. But anybody with any common sense knows that through bringing an act of an offering does not mean you have the right attitude of heart about your transgression. It can be just going through the motions. The real sacrifice will, and this is what David is saying here, **the real sacrifice will be a broken heart and a contrite spirit.** It is the same with us.

You hear me say this all the time. This is a legitimate concern and worry I have. We live in a Laodicean Christianity that I am afraid that many people who claim to be saved have never truly been saved. You may think, "Well, you cannot say that." Well, maybe I can't, but I just did. The bottom line is the Bible says, "*by their fruits, ye shall know them.*" We live in a Christianity today, folks, where a person can claim to be saved and born again, but have not changed their life. That is found nowhere in the Bible. That is the illusion of the devices of religion and man in the Laodicean church age, that you can come to God, say the right prayer, do the right things, and God will accept that as your salvation. **Without a broken spirit and a contrite heart, there cannot be any salvation in a person's life.** You can say the words, but the real sacrifice for God's forgiveness will be our broken heart and our contrite spirit. That is not preached today. You have a hoopla of a service, all kinds of fun stuff to do, a rah-rah time, and then people come down. Nobody deals with them. Nobody shows them. Nobody asks them any questions. Nobody digs deep into what they are already believing that may have to be discarded.

It comes down to your attitude of heart. When it comes to God, it is not what you do. It is not what you say. It is the attitude behind what you are doing and what you are saying. In life, you can serve God with the wrong attitude. You see it all the time. In life, you can go to church with the wrong attitude. In life, you can study your Bible with the wrong attitude. In life, you can minister to people with the wrong attitude. You can teach the Bible, disciple one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, and have the wrong attitude. I am sure that people can think they can get saved with the wrong attitude. Attitude is everything. **Attitude for the sacrifices of God will just simply be two things: a broken heart and a contrite spirit.**

➤ Two verses that Deal with Christ's Crucifixion on the Cross (Verses 18-20)

Look what he says in verse 18, 19, and 20. "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.*" You need to see this. Here we have inserted right in the middle of this chapter **two verses that deal directly and completely with Christ's crucifixion on the cross.** It is a prophecy on the cross.. True, He is afflicted by many, and God does deliver Him. That is Christ. But on the cross, you will remember John 19, verses 31 through 36, that they did not break His legs. This is the reference in the Old Testament to it here in Psalms 34.

31. The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

Let me explain that to you. Crucifixion is one where you are hanging up there, and your body is sagging. Your feet were on just a little pedestal, and the way you stayed alive to keep from drowning in your own fluid or suffocating was you had to push up. If you sag down, your lungs filled up and you suffocated. So to stay alive, they pushed themselves up on that little wooden plaque or pedestal there and could stay alive as long as they could. When it is time for the end, the Roman soldiers broke their legs. By breaking their legs, they could no longer support themselves up, and they suffocated and they died. They come to the first thief, they break his legs, come to the second thief, break his legs. But when they come to the Lord Jesus, they see He is already dead. Now this is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Psalms where we are today in verses 18, 19, and 20.

Watch this. There is no breaking of the legs, but one of the soldiers wants to make sure that He is dead. This is the beauty of the Bible. They take a spear and he throws that spear up in His side. The Bible does not say this here, but it is just something you can write it down. In the Old Testament, every man that was stabbed and killed was stabbed and killed under the fifth rib. I guarantee you that spear went up through the fifth rib. The soldier wanted to make sure that He was dead. How would you like to be that soldier that had a great white throne judgment? That would be a trip, wouldn't it?

34. But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. John 19:34-36

The Bible tells us in John that when he put that spear in His side, water and blood came out. The Bible also says that John witnesses it, a type of the church. To him, it signified something, and he made note of it. When you get over to 1 John chapter 5, verses 1 through 6, he tells you what that was and what it represented.

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. 1 John 5:6

It is "*he that came by water and blood.*" The water represented the fact that He was the Son of Man through a human birth. The blood represents that He was sinless, God's blood, and that He was the Son of God. When that soldier put that spear in His side, the testimony that John noted, the church, that we should understand that He was the Son of Man and He was the Son of God.

Let me show you something else. You see this type in Genesis with Adam and Eve. Adam was a creation of God directly. Eve was an indirect creation. Adam was a type of Christ. Eve is a type of the church. When God wanted to bring forth a help meet to Adam, a type of Christ, He brought Eve, a type of the church. He caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, a picture of Adam dying. Then He opened up his side, fifth rib, brought that rib out, fashioned a woman. You know what you have there? You have a picture of what happened in John. Christ died on the cross. They put that spear in His side. He died, water and blood came out, the start of the church age. Pictured by Adam and Eve in the garden, He died. Deep sleep fell upon Adam, brings out the woman, a type of the church out of His side, a picture of Christ and the church. It is all through the Bible.

➤ Evil Shall Slay the Wicked (Verse 21)

Look at verse 21. "*Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate righteousness shall be desolate.*" This is one of the clearest verses that you wish you could get across to people, especially young people, but you can't. It shows that a life without Christ, and when you give yourself to wickedness, in time, your own sin will slay you. It will get you killed either in this life, or at the great white throne judgment. 2 Peter chapter 3, verses 17 and 18 says,

17. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:17-18

If you are saved, your demise is going to be from the chastisement of God. Don't you think for a moment, God will not take you home early because you failed to fulfill what He saved you for, because you walked away from it, and because you were led away with the error of the wicked. Do not ever kid yourself for a moment. Unsaved, that will be the judgment of God in this life, and also with the great white throne judgment.

The world will never leave you better than it finds you. A life of sin and wickedness will always lead to a life of desolation that will wind up slaying you. You start drinking, turn into an alcoholic, you will die of that alcohol. It will slay you. You will have liver failure, get a stroke, you will have a heart attack. You smoke and smoke and smoke, you die of lung cancer. You eat, eat, eat, eat, eat, you die of gluttony. You take drugs and you get an addiction of heroin, fentanyl, and marijuana, whatever the case may be. Last year, over 250,000 people were slain by the sin that they got into. You have a life of moral sinful merriment, you die of AIDS. You go through life and do your own thing, go your own way, you get depression, you commit suicide. Hang yourself, shoot yourself, overdose of drugs, whatever the case may be.

➤ The World of Sinful Degeneration, one of lust and self-gratitude

I think one of the greatest examples that illustrates this in history is the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire, without a doubt, was one of the most powerful nations in the history of man. It comes into the beginning around 300 BC, 300 years before Christ. It lasts up to around 400 AD, and then it is attacked by the Huns and destroyed. In less than 1,000 years, the greatest nation, maybe the Greeks were better, but they are up there rivaling each other. Less than 1,000 years, it is gone. You know why? One thing: sinful degeneration. They got to the place where they were so godless, so paganized, so perverted, unbelievable the things that they did. Their whole culture had shifted to one of lust, one of self-gratification.

Syphilis is a disease that can be controlled now, but there was not a cure for it until, I do not know, maybe the 1940s or someplace in there. Up to that point, if you got syphilis, you had a death sentence. There was no cure for it, and it destroyed your mind and brain and then killed you. The reason why, at that time, there was no cure for it because it was not a natural disease. Syphilis did not come the way other diseases came. Syphilis came from the Roman Empire with human beings having sexual relations with animals, and it jumped the strain and produced a disease that nobody could stop. That is the Roman Empire. The orgies that they had were unprecedented. It makes Jeffrey Epstein look like an amateur. They had places called vomitoriums, where they had orgies with food, where they stuffed themselves with food that they could not stand it. They went into the vomitorium, and this is where you stick your finger down your throat and throw up everything you eat, and then you go back and eat some more. The corruption of government, the Senate, the Caesars, power-mad, would murder, kill anybody. "Evil shall slay the wicked."

In less than a thousand years, the greatest nation, not in a good sense, but the most powerful nation in the world was gone, slain by their ungodly wickedness. That is a cute thing there because the devil who was running that country, he knew where it was going. He wanted to run the world, and up to that point, he had run the world through the Roman Empire, but he knew now that Attila the Hun was going to come on a European tour on his big buses and wipe them out. So he said, "I have got to keep control of the world." The Roman Empire as a government is going to fail. So in 400 AD, 325 AD, you know what he did? He took the Roman Catholic government, converted it to the Roman Catholic Church, and now he runs the world through that. He doesn't miss a trick. Do not think for a moment that America is not on the chopping block.

Hosea chapter 8 says, "For they have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind," doctrinally Second Coming. Inspirationally, the desolation that comes into your life when your sin slays you.

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up. Hosea 8:7

➤ None of Them that Trust in Him Shall be Desolate (Verse 22)

Look at verse 22. "The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."

All this will come down to what we have seen in the last couple of weeks. Saw it with God in Israel, saw it with Christ in you. Desolation will never be a word to define a child of God who walks with God. The word ends with desolation when you go your way. God's way will be the fruitful way.

VII. Summary

I heard a guy say one time, and it is so true, **a life walking with Christ will be endless hope. A life walking without Christ will be a hopeless end.** Desolation. Life will simply be about the choices we make. In this chapter, you can see how, as I told you when we started, how this one lends itself to so much practical stuff. In this chapter, we see some great examples and stories of how to not be led away with the error of the wicked. But as verse 18 says:

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

That is my prayer for every one of you. With all that God has given us, everything at your fingertips, that you actually never have to make another bad choice in your life unless you just want to.