

Psalm 25

Title: Waiting Upon the Lord

Author and Date: David

Key Verses: Psalm 25:3, 5, 21

Outline

- A. Trust: a prayer to live without shame (verses 1-5).
- B. Transgressions: a prayer to live without sin (verses 6-14).
- C. Troubles: a prayer to live without sorrows (verses 15-22).

Notes

Title: “A Psalm of David.” See the notes on Psalm 3.

Verses 1-22: There are three distinct literary features of this psalm. First, this psalm is an alphabetic acrostic psalm (see the notes on Psalm 9 and 10). The first 21 verses in this psalm begin with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet (two letters are omitted and two letters are repeated – the *aleph* and the *resh*). The last verse is not a part of the acrostic. Second, this psalm employs chiasm (see the notes on Psalm 12). Third, this psalm is marked by a repetition of important words like “shame” (verses 2-3), “remember” (verses 6-7), “good” (verses 7-8), etc.

Verses 1-3: The song “Unto Thee, O Lord” (Charles F. Monroe, 1971), is based upon these verses as well as verse 7. To “wait” on the Lord (verse 3, 5, and 21) means to patiently trust in the Lord’s will and trust the Lord’s time-frame to work out his plans (see Psa. 22:5; 40:1).

Verse 7: The psalmist wants his “sins” (Heb. *chattah*, missing the mark) and his “transgressions” (Heb. *pesha`*, lawlessness) forgiven (see also verse 11 and 18). He knows that the Lord will not hear his prayer while he is living in sin (see Psa. 66:18).

Verse 9: The “meek” are those who humbly trust in the Lord and wait upon him (verses 1-2).

Verse 13: “Inherit the land” means to be blessed with peace while living in Palestine (see Psa. 37:11; 69:36).

Verse 15: The “net” is a reference to being snared by enemies.

Questions

1. What does the psalmist do with his Lord and God (verses 1-2)?

2. What will those who trust in the Lord and wait for him not experience in life (verses 2-3)?
3. What does the psalmist ask for from the Lord (verses 4-5) and why (verse 5)?
4. What does the psalmist want the Lord to remember and why (verse 6)?
5. What does the psalmist want the Lord to not remember and why (verse 7)?
6. How is the Lord described and what will he do with sinners and the meek (verses 8-9)?
7. How does the psalmist describe the paths of the Lord (verse 10)?
8. What does the psalmist request of the Lord (verse 11)?
9. What things come to the man who fears the Lord (verses 12-14)?
10. What will the Lord do for the psalmist (verse 15)?
11. What does the psalmist request of the Lord and why (verses 16-17)?
12. What does the psalmist want the Lord to consider (verses 18-19)?
13. What does the psalmist request of the Lord and why (verses 20-21)?

14. What does the psalmist pray for concerning Israel (verse 22)?

Applications for Today

1. Let us always “trust” and “wait” upon the Lord regardless of our life circumstances (verses 1-3, 5, 21). What things did Paul experience which caused him to trust in God (Ac. 27:22-26; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:16-18).
2. We need to say, “Show me ... teach me ... guide me ... O Lord”, when making decisions in life (verses 4-5, and 9). We need to be willing to let the Lord “instruct” us (verses 8 and 12). What do faithful Christians do with Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30; Jn. 10:4-5; 14:6; 1 Pet. 2:21; Rev. 7:17; 14:4)?
3. The psalmist does not try to hide or downplay his sin. He wants his sin forgiven (verse 7, 11, and 18). It is important to want our sins forgiven. How does a non-Christian receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)? How does an erring Christian receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:22-24; 1 Jn. 1:7-9)?
4. The Lord will instruct sinners in the way that they should go to be forgiven (verse 8). What kind of sinner will allow the Lord to instruct him (Acts 2:37, 41; 13:48)? What kind of sinner will not allow the Lord to instruct him (Acts 7:51, 54, 57; 13:45-46; 14:2; 19:9)?
5. The Lord guides, teaches, and blesses the meek (verse 9). What do the “meek” inherit (Mt. 5:5)? How does a Christian show meekness toward others (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 2 Tim. 2:24-25)? How does a Christian show meekness toward God’s word (Jas. 1:21; 3:13)?
6. Those who fear the Lord will be blessed and will have the Lord as their friend (verses 12-14). How are Christian to live each day with respect to God (Heb. 10:31; 1 Pet. 1:17; 2:17; Rev. 14:7; 15:4).