

Psalm 62

Title: God Alone

Author and Date: David

Key Verses: Psalm 62:1-2, 5-7

Type: Didactic

Outline

- A. Trust God: rock (verses 1-2).
- B. Don't trust man: violent (verse 3-4).
- C. Trust God: refuge (verses 5-8).
- D. Don't trust man: vanity (verses 9-10).
- E. Trust God: reward (verses 11-12).

Notes

Title: "For the Chief Musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A Psalm of David." For "Jeduthun", see the notes on the title of Psalm 39.

Summary: Psalm 62 is similar to Psalm 61. It is a psalm that expresses confident trust in God's protection. Psalm 62 is also didactic (teaching or instruction). It seeks to teach the proper placement of trust: trust in God, not man. The psalmist waits in silence for God only who is his rock, salvation, and defense (verses 1-2). He does not trust wicked man who slays others and delights in lies (verses 3-4). He repeats his confident trust in God alone (verses 5-7) and he calls upon others around him to put their trust in God as well (verse 8). The righteous are not to put their trust in wicked man (verse 9) or in ill-gotten gain (verse 10). The reason that one should put his trust in God is because God is powerful (verse 11), merciful, and just in his judgments (verse 12).

Verse 1: The Hebrew adverb *'akh* ("only") is characteristic of this psalm (see also verses 2, 5, and 6). God "only" (alone and no other) is the psalmist's rock and refuge.

Verse 2: A "defense" (KJV) is a "high tower" (ASV) (see also Psa. 18:2).

Verses 3-4: The psalmist switches his thought to talk about wicked men or enemies who seek to slay others (verse 3) and speak lies (verse 4). Wicked men try to slay the psalmist or others like a wall and fence falling down. They are also two-faced liars. For "Selah", see the notes on Psalm 3.

Verses 5-6: The wording here is similar to verses 1 and 2.

Verse 8: “Pour out your heart” (KJV) is something one does in prayer to God. Note the “us” in “God is a refuge for us”. The psalmist admonishes all the righteous to put their trust in God for a refuge. For “Selah”, see the notes on Psalm 3.

Verse 9: Men cannot be trusted because they are like “vanity” (KJV) or a breath of air. They have no weight (substance, worth) when they are put in a balance scale (a tool used in everyday commerce and trading).

Verses 11-12: The psalmist has heard the truths of God “once ... twice”. In other words, he has heard these truths over and over repeatedly (compare Deut. 17:6; Prov. 6:16; 30:18). The reason for trusting God is now stated. God is powerful, merciful, and he is fair, just, and righteous with his judgments and rewards. He renders to every man “according to his (each man’s) work”. Those who trust in God (verses 1-2, and 5-8) will be rewarded with good. Those who are wicked (verses 3-4, and 9-10) will be punished.

Questions

1. Who does the psalmist wait for and how does he wait (verse 1)?
2. What is God to the psalmist (verse 2)?
3. What question does the psalmist ask about wicked man (verse 3)?
4. What does wicked man do with his mouth (verse 4)?
5. Who does the psalmist wait for and how does he wait (verse 5)?
6. What is God to the psalmist (verses 6-7)?
7. What admonitions concerning God does the psalmist have for his readers (verse 8)?

8. How does the psalmist describe the men of low degree and men of high degree (verse 9)?
9. What council does the psalmist give concerning oppression, robbery, and riches (verse 10)?
10. What belongs to God (verses 11-12)?
11. What does God render to every man (verse 12)?

Applications for Today

1. God alone is our rock and refuge (verses 1-2 and 5-7). Why is God a refuge (Heb. 6:18)?
2. Wicked men slay others and delight in lies (verses 3-4). Why do some fall away from the faith (1 Tim. 4:2)?
3. Trust in God at all times and pour out your heart to him in prayer (verse 8). Why was Daniel saved (Dan. 6:23)?
4. Do not put your trust in man or in riches (verses 9-10). What does Paul teach Christians concerning God and riches (1 Tim. 6:17)?
5. Power belongs to God (verse 11). What is God's power to save mankind (Rom. 1:16)?
6. The Lord is fair and will render judgment to every man according to his work (verse 12). What does Nehemiah want God to remember (Neh. 6:14)? What does Paul want for Alexander the coppersmith (2 Tim. 4:14)? What is the basis of God's judgment upon all mankind (Rom. 2:6; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 2:23; 18:6; 20:12-13; 22:12)?