

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27

Psalm 27 is a part of a trio of Psalms (26-28), that give instruction on seeking and finding the Lord in His house, His tabernacle (v.6). Of course the Lord Jesus is the ultimate tabernacle of God (John 1:14).

I. Be Confident in the Lord's Protection 27:1-3

David is confident and concerned, a man of faith and a man of fears.

1. The Lord will deliver you. 27:1

A beautiful example of synonymous parallelism as the second thought re-enforces the first. This is a great missionary verse, a great missionary psalm.

Light appears at the beginning (Gen. 1:3-4) and the end (Rev 22:5) of the Bible.

Its source is God and it overcomes and defeats darkness (John 1:4-5).

2. The Lord will defend you. 27:2-3

David speaks of the wicked, enemies, foes, an army that come against him to “eat up (devour) his flesh,” and “those who rise up against him in war.” Indeed they “encamp against him” surrounding him on every side.

II. Be Confident in the Lord's Presence 27:4-6

A proper perspective will lead to proper priorities which we lead to a proper perspective about life and its circumstances. David knew what should be the overarching passion and priorities of his life, of our life, and he lays them before us clearly and simply in vs. 4-6.

1. Seek the Lord. 27:4

- David expresses the soul's desire of all who have tasted of the Lord's goodness and experienced His salvation. “One thing I have desired (*NIV*, “ask”) of the Lord, that will I seek.” David speaks also of the temple (v.4), His pavilion (v.5), and His tabernacle (vs 5 & 6).
- “The temple was the visible expression of the Lord's presence.” Jeremiah 29:13 promises, “and you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (cf Rev. 21:3; Rev. 22:4-5).

2. Trust the Lord. 27:5

The weights of this world can nearly crush us. When those times come what will you do? Trust the Lord! Run to Him and let Him “hide you in His pavilion” (*ESV*, “his shelter”), in the secret place of His tabernacle. However, if you trust Him, He will not only hide you, He will exalt you, He will set you high upon a rock, he Himself being that rock (Ps 28:1).

3. Worship the Lord. 27:6

- This is another example of Hebrew parallelism where the second line re-emphasizes the theme of the first. David will honor the Lord with sacrifice and singing.
- Our God is a great God and we should not be hesitant to let others know.

III. Be Confident In The Lord's Promises 27:7-12

There is a significant mood change in vs. 7ff. Some have speculated that we actually have 2 psalms: 1) vs 1-6 and 2) vs 7-14 that have been joined together. However,

there are literary, rhetorical and content evidences that would support the original unity of the Psalm.

1. The Lord will hear you. 27:7-8
 - The voice that shouts and sings to Him in worship (v.6) can be confident that the Lord will hear that same voice when we pray.
 - Speaking to the Lord means seeking the Lord. What David does in vs. 4 he is instructed to do in vs. 8.
 2. The Lord will care for you. 27:9-10
 - He pleads to the Lord:
 - Do not hide Your face from me (cf vs. 4,8).
 - Do not turn Your servant away in anger.
 - Do not leave me nor forsake me.
 - Yet his doubt is quickly swallowed up in faith!
 - You have been my help.
 - O God of my salvation.
 - When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me. (Most likely a hypothetical ill. here).
 3. The Lord will guide you. 27:11-12
 - Ps 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
 - David asks the Lord to “teach me Your way, Oh Lord.” Let me live and respond to what I may face as you would.
 - David also ask the Lord to specifically guide his life.
 - Eugene Peterson in *The Message* paraphrases it this way:
 - “Show my enemies whose side you are on. Don’t throw me to the dogs, Those liars who are out to get me, Filling the air with their threats.”
- IV. Be Confident in the Lord’s Power 27:13-14
 This psalm concludes on a high note of confidence and assurance.
1. Let the Lord sustain you. 27:13

The *NIV*, *ESV*, and *HCSB* all translate the Hebrew with a positive emphasis, and I especially like the *HCSB* which says, “I am certain that I will see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.” How awesome it is that we can pray these words in full confidence, absolute faith, and complete certainty, because the greater Son of David, the Lord Jesus, prayed such a prayer on the cross as His enemies surrounded Him (v.3), slandered Him (v.12), and violently took His life (v.12). (cf Heb. 5:7).
 2. Let the Lord strengthen you. 27:14

Adrian Rogers said, “God is not concerned with time, only timing. He is never late and never early, but right on time.” Therefore “wait (in faith) on the Lord. Trust His plan and timing.”