

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27

Intro. 1) During one of Israel's great holiday celebrations, the Feast of Tabernacles, giant lampstands were lit that could be seen throughout the city, reminding the nation of God's guiding light as they made their way out of Egypt and thru the wilderness (Ex. 13:21; Num 9:15-23). It was with this backdrop that Jesus stepped forth and declared in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life (cf John 1:4).

2) What a marvelous incarnation and fulfillment is the Lord Jesus of the first verse of Psalm 27, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, Who shall I fear?" David, in a wonderful Psalm of confidence, expresses his trust in the Lord who is his light, salvation and strength (v.1), his teacher, guide and deliverer (vs 11-12).

3) 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 tabernacle of God (John 1:14), "the word who became flesh and tabernacled among us." We must seek Him and find Him if we are to experience the Lord as our Light and our salvation. Fleeing to and finding Him, what should be our response?

I. Be Confident in the Lord's Protection

27:1-3

David is an honest man as he pens this Psalm. He is confident and concerned, a man of faith and a man of fears, trusting and yet wondering about it all. He is very much like you and me; and like us, he needs to get his focus back on the Lord, who He is and what He will do.

1. The Lord will deliver you.

27:1

“Jehovah is my light and my salvation. Who shall I fear? Jehovah is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?”

- A beautiful example of synonymous parallelism as the second thought re-enforces the first. This is a great missionary verse, a great missionary psalm, for those taking the life saving gospel of Jesus Christ into the difficult and dangerous places.

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). It is the source of life, allows people to see, is a symbol of purity, goodness and blessing.

It finds its grand fulfillment in him who is the “Light of the World” (John 8:12).

Thus the one who is my light is also my salvation (my deliverer, the one who rescues me from all dangers) and my strength (*NIV*, “stronghold”, fortress, refuge of protection).

- With such a God on my side of whom shall I fear? No one! With such a God on my side of whom shall I be afraid? No one! As Paul says in Rom 8:31, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Trans. The Lord will deliver you.

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. And yet he can say at the end of verse 3, “In this I will be confident.” In what? Verse 2: “they stumble and

fell” (the past tense sees a future action as certain and complete!). It is clearly implied that the Lord causes their stumbling and fall, and therefore David’s heart “will not fear” because he is confident the Lord will defend him.

- When God is on our side we are never outnumbered. We have the advantage. We are assured of salvation, deliverance and rescue. In Rev. 12:10-11 the Bible says, “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” The Warrior Lamb is our deliverer. The Light of the world is our salvation. I will fear no one. I will be afraid of nothing.

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. Seek the Lord. Trust the Lord. Worship the Lord.

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.” And what is it that we should seek? “That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold

the beauty of the Lord.” 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” (Van Gemeren, 244). David is saying the one thing that matters most and trumps all others is to be in the very presence of the Lord beholding his beauty and pursuing Him wholly and completely. Jeremiah 29:13 promises, “and you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” To see His beauty is to see His glory, know his love, and enjoy His presence as Father, Savior, and Comforter.
- Rev. 21:3 promises the servants of God, “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” Rev. 22:4-5 adds, “they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”
- 2. Trust the Lord. 27:5

David was a realist and we should be too. There will be times in life when trouble comes. It may be physical, spiritual, psychological or some combination of all three. The weights of this world can nearly crush us. When those times come what will you do?

Ill. Timothy being hit by a car in Dallas when he was 3. What did we do? What can 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).

- Trust the Lord and He will both hide you and establish you on a firm foundation. You will have His safety and you will know His strength. As the hymn writer so beautifully wrote, “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

3) Worship the Lord.

27:6

- I have seen His beauty (v.4) and experienced His security (v.5). Being placed high upon a rock my head is now “lifted up (*NIV*, “exalted”) above my enemies all around me” (cf v. 2-3). There is left then only one right and proper response: I will worship this great and awesome God.
- I will offer sacrifices of joy (*ESV*, *NIV*, “shouts of joy”), in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.” 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, with His sacrifice being expressed in the form of song. In other words he will both do something for God and testify to others about God.
- Because of the opposition of his enemies David had been on the run. Perhaps he could not get to the visible and concrete place of worship now...but he would and soon. In faith he declares when I do, I will give, sacrifice to the Lord, and I will shout as with a “war cry” to my God who delivers me. Our God is a great God and we should not be hesitant to let

others know. Personally and corporately we should shout of His beauty, His salvation, His faithfulness to those who trust Him. Shame on us that some sports fan shout with more passion and enthusiasm for their favorite team that do we for our awesome God. Seek Him and you will find Him. Trust Him and he will prove faithful. Worship Him and He will exalt you above those who would do you harm.

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. In a sense vs 7-14 provide the context from which vs 1-6 arose. Our God is a promise keeping God. Of that we can be certain. David again highlights 3 areas in particular where we can count on the Lord to keep His word.

1) The Lord will hear you.

27:7-8

- We can ask and expect the Lord to hear when we call. 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. A merciful answer can be our confident expectation.
- Speaking to the Lord means seeking the Lord. What David does in vs. 4 he is instructed to do in vs. 8. And His response is what ours should be: obedient and immediate. God would not tell us to seek His face unless He would show Himself to us when we do. Picking up on several of the themes found in Psalm 27, Paul writes in 2 Cor. 4:6, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge

of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” This is the God who will have mercy and answer when you cry to Him in prayer.

2) The Lord will care for you. 27:9-10

- The trouble that David is experiencing is real. It is intense. It is severe. It batters him and wounds him but it does not defeat him. He knows his own heart, his own sinfulness. Perhaps God is not on his side after all he thinks...but only for a moment. 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).

God helps, He saves and he cares. As great as the love is of an earthly father and mother, it is no match and pales in comparison to the love and care of our Lord, our heavenly Father. He is the God who has promised in Heb. 13:5, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

3) The Lord will guide you. 27:11-12

- Ps 119:105 teaches us, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. We need the light of God when we face difficult and trying times. We must not rely on our emotions or feelings. We dare not trust our heart or

experiences. We must stand firmly on Christ our Rock and the rock solid direction of His Word.

- 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 sovereignly, providentially, precisely and specifically to guide his life. “Lead me in a smooth (*NIV*, “straight”) path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me (*NIV*, “turn me over”) to the will (desire, the hands) of my adversaries.” And why? “For false witnesses (liars) have risen against me, and such as breathe out violent” (would do me harm).

- 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.”

- What a good word for every believer. What a great word for Christian leaders who live in a glass house, experience the CAT scan of the world, and the microscopic examination of those they serve. We must learn the way of Christ and let Him lead us in every step. Just one misstep can undo years of consistent, faithful service, and know your enemies wait, lungs filled with evil accusations ready, for any opportunity.

IV. Be Confident in the Lord's Power

27:13-14

This psalm concludes on a high note of confidence and assurance, even triumphant and victory. Because of the power and might of the God who is our light and salvation, we can trust and rest in the Lord who will do 2 things for us.

1) Let the Lord sustain you.

27:13

This verse lit. reads, “Unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.?” The *NKJV* translates it in a neg. manner supplying the words, “I would have lost heart.” 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). He commended His life, His destiny, into the hands of a heavenly Father knowing, in full confidence, He would see the goodness of the Lord 3 days later in the land of the living thru glorious and powerful resurrection. No wonder the author of Hebrews writes in Heb. 5:7, “During His earthly life, he offered prayers and appeals, with loud cries and tears, to the One who was able to save Him from death and He was heard...”

- The God who sustained Jesus, and David, will sustain you and me. We too will see His goodness in the land of the living. You can count on it.

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. Be of good courage (strong) and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait (in faith) on Jehovah.”
- As Joshua said to the Hebrew children in Joshua 10:25, “Do not be afraid or discouraged. Be strong and courageous, for the Lord will do all this to all the enemies you fight.” (*HCSB*).
- As Paul said to the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 16:13, “Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave and strong.” (*HCSB*).
- Paul would add in his letter to the Philippians, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (4:13).

Conclusion**Whom Shall I Fear? (Psalm 27)**

The Lord is my Light, my Salvation:
 Whom shall I fear?
 The Lord is the rock of my being:
 Whom shall I fear?

Enemies rise up against me.
 Battle lines are drawing near.
 Though I'm surrounded by danger,
 I have no reason to fear.

Lord, in the day of my trouble,
 Safe in Your house may I be.
 You are my hope and salvation.
 My heart will cling unto Thee!

Wait on the Lord and trust Him
 Jesus, my Salvation, my Light.
 You are the One I seek.

Strengthen me with your great might.
(verse by D. Akin)

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