

Week Ten – August 2

THE HEART OF MERCY

PSALM 91:14-16

Overview: Psalm 91 is a very powerful Psalm which assures us of God's Protection from all dangers. It a Psalm that is full of God's grace and demonstrates His mercy to those who love Him and call upon Him to deliver them from their trouble. The Psalm begins with words of confidence knowing that God desires to have a relationship with us. He wants to have a deep abiding presence in our lives. "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." The Psalmist is urging us to live in the Holy of Holies, to come into the presence of God and dwell in the secret place. There He will meet us, guide us, and show us His will protecting us under His shadow. It is in this place where we are in God's abiding presence, and where we are secure and protected, not in the sense that we will not encounter difficulty, danger or ever get hurt. But that as we walk through the valley, we will not be harmed. He will protect us, and we can rest in the assurance of knowing He is shielding us. But finally, in verses 14-16, the Psalmist expresses the abundance of life that awaits the faithful one who sets his love upon God. For God will answer his call and set him on high. He will be with him and deliver him and satisfy him with long life.

What is the central focus of this Psalm?

The central focus of this Psalm is that when we have an abiding presence with God, we can have assurance of life guided and protected by God. We will face trials and tribulations, but we are assured of His protection and help as we go through these difficult times. When we deepen our faith and demonstrate our love to Him, He will answer our prayers, deliver us from trouble, meet our needs, and grant us salvation. He is full of mercy and grace, and He will neither leave us nor forsake us, but will comfort us and grant us peace and joy as He helps us overcome our troubles.

This Psalm not only expresses God's desire to have a relationship with us, but it shows the significance of this abiding relationship in which our character is shaped through our love for God. As we draw closer to Him, and call out to Him, He will deliver us and set us on solid ground. It is a deepening relationship in which His abiding presence is felt in the midst of our troubles. He delivers us, rescues us and honors us. His mercy is in full display as He provides salvation that leads to a long life.

Progression or Steps that lead to a deeper relationship with God

The progression that leads to a deeper relationship with God as expressed through this Psalm is rich and greatly demonstrates God's mercy. An abiding presence leads to an assurance of life that leads to an abundant life. We are called to dwell in the secret place of the Most High, abiding under His shadow. He is our refuge and our shield and buckler. No evil will fall upon us nor plague come near our dwelling place when we are under His guidance. This does not mean we will not be faced with troubles or that we

will suffer, but we can rejoice knowing that He will be there with us during these times. He will guide us along the way. He will set us on high and honor us with long life. And finally, He will grant us salvation and everlasting life.

How does this impact your walk with God?

Psalm 91 is one of the best Scriptures in the Bible to see the Mercy of God. This Psalm is full of special promises. Here are seven that are of significance for us as we look at verses 14-16.

First: God is pleased when we set our love on Him, and in response, God promises to “deliver” us. The term “deliver” here means to enable him to escape. That is what it means, to allow one to escape, to find safety. It simply means to be saved.

Second, He will set us on high. He is talking about being seated on high with Christ. We are seated in the heavenlies. “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the Heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,” (Ephesians 2:6) That is the high place, he is talking about, crucified with Christ, raised with Christ, and seated with Christ at the right hand of God.

Third, God will answer our call. But the implications here are significant in that God will not call upon us in our sinful state. Why? Because he hates sin and will not speak to any sinner without a mediator and God will not be spoken to by any sinner without a mediator. But we have a mediator. There is no one except Jesus Christ who can go into the presence of the Father. No one can enter the Holy of Holies (the secret place of the Most High) except through Jesus Christ. “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Fourth, God will be with us in our troubles. Everyone faces trouble but only the believer in time of trouble is aware of the presence of the Lord. He will be there in our darkest hour and walk with us through the valley. Not only do we as believers feel His presence but we know His purpose. “All things work together for good to them who love God, who are the called, according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) We know that whatever takes place, it doesn’t matter what it is, if it’s good or bad; it is for God’s glory and for His good.

Fifth, God will bring us up out of our sinful state and He will honor us. We are redeemed and cleansed so that we no longer are burdened with our past. In 1 Samuel 2, God says, “I will lift them from the dunghill and seat them on the throne.” He forgets the past and honors us in the present. “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (Hebrews 10:17) What greater honor do we have than to be called the sons of God?

Sixth, God will grant us long life, eternal life, life that will never end. God will satisfy us. In Psalm 17:15 David wrote, “I shall be satisfied when I awake with His likeness and not until. So, there is the essence of satisfaction. We have joys of course. We have happiness. We have the blessings of God and the mercy of God, but not satisfaction.

That will be ours when Christ comes and we are given that long, long, eternal existence in glory with Him.

Seventh, God will show us His salvation. This is the last, the greatest, and is the climax of all blessings. This includes them all and concludes them all; God is going to show us His glory, He's going to show us His glory, and as expressed in Ephesians 2:7, "in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Moses prayed for God to show him His glory. We have the privilege of seeing the Lord's redemptive glory through His one and only son, Jesus Christ. What a blessing to know that we are forever secure in Christ Jesus.

Does it give you comfort that God does not remember the past for those who have been redeemed? How does the present world view the past? How would Jesus respond to the present-day concept of "political correctness"? Do you seek an abiding love with Christ, and if so, do you feel great joy and happiness when you grow closer to Christ and His abiding love?