

PURSUING PEACE



IN A CHAOTIC WORLD
PSALM 34

The Nourishment We Need

Psalm 34: 8-11

- What do we do to obtain peace in our lives? How do we pursue peace? How can we actively cultivate peace as ministers of reconciliation?
- These are a few questions we have addressed from Psalm 34. True peace is only possible through Jesus.
 - We are called to be peacemakers in a world filled with chaos and confusion. Sometimes, war has to be fought to obtain peace. Peace will never come from abandoning the truth.
 - Some confuse peace with appeasement. *Appeasement is temporary and based on the circumstances at hand. Peace is lasting and based on wisdom from God.*

- When we talk about peace in this world we often talk about provision. After all, it is hard to find peace if you cannot find food. In fact, many of the great rebellions of history were started because the people were hungry.
- Going back to the garden and the effects of sin – when God punished Adam and Eve, they had to then start working for their provision. Man would have to till the ground. Women would have pain in bringing new life into this world.
- When the basic needs of a society are met – there is a highly likelihood of peace and stability. That’s what brought about the period that Jesus lived in known as the Pax Romana. That is the period in which you and I have lived in here in the United States.
- But think about your personal life – *isn't it easier to have peace when your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are being met?* If one of those is neglected or wounded, our hearts become overwhelmed with worry and anxiety.

Main Point: God will provide all that you need when you trust in Him.

- What do we need?
 - o 1 Timothy 6
 - o But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
- Much of our economy is based on wants, not needs.
 - o You need food, water, and clothing. Good things come when we are content with what God provides.

- Half of the world's population lives on less than \$6.85 a day. That's around \$200 a month.
- We do have inflation and that's been difficult, but if most people looked at their budgets I think we would see that most have continued to spend money on wants. Inflation is up but consumer spending has stayed the same. Credit card debt is up and savings are down.
- Start here – thankfulness for God's provision for the things you need.

I. The blessings of God

- a. VERSE 8
- b. Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- c. Taste is the Hebrew word for savor. Ever ate a meal that you wished would never bend. You savor every bite.
- d. Much different experience than going through the drive thru at McDonald's. Sometimes we scarf food down as quickly as possible.
- e. Much more enjoyable to eat quickly ingredients prepared by someone who knows what they're doing.
- f. The Lord invites us to His table. And it is a feast incomparable to the things of this world.

II. The result of obedience

- a. VERSE 9
- b. Those who fear Him lack nothing.

- c. This may be difficult to understand since we do see believers who suffer and die. We may even wonder if there are any weight to these words considering that. There are Christians who have starved to death.
- d. As a whole, this principle is true – if you obey the Lord, God will look after you and provide for you.
- e. There have been many times we have prayed for God to provide, and we saw His providence first hand. You have too, I'm sure.
- f. Just lost my job when we found out Jac was going to be born. Someone anonymously paid our rent for two months. I subbed and got some side work. We never missed a bill.
- g. Even if we lose everything, God has provided our greatest need – salvation and eternal life.

III. Leaning on God's strength

- a. VERSE 10
- b. Lions to us are fierce creatures. We don't often think of lions going hungry because they can devour anything in their sight. Unless it's a hippo. Not sure if y'all have seen videos of hippos, but they are insanely vicious.
- c. Especially lions that are young and healthy – we expect them to never have to worry about their next meal.
- d. Compared to God's strength, lions are weak and feeble.
- e. If you're seeking peace – don't forget the source of strength for the Christian life. We live and breathe based on the strength of the Holy Spirit.

- f. Lord Saboath – Lord of hosts or armies. God is so immense it's as if He exists as a mighty army. His strength is incomparable.
- g. Different American leaders have advocated for peace through strength. America has been a force for peace because we have bigger ships, bigger armies, and bigger bombs than the forces for evil in this world.
- h. The world is more peaceful because of our strength as a nation.
- i. Imagine the state of the world if God removed His divine hand from the course of human affairs? What chaos would exist if God's common Grace wasn't available to all?

IV. Leading others to do the same

- a. VERSE 11
- b. Don't forget about teaching the next generation about the provision of God. Tell the stories, write them down, take pictures.
- c. Most importantly, point them to the Word. They're going to need it.