

MESSAGE OUTLINE



August 22, 2021 - Pastor Mike McClenahan

PSALM 34:1-22 (NIV)

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek, who drove him away, and he left.

- 1 I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- 3 Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
- 6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
- 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
- 9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- 11 Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
13 keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;
- 16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;
- 20 he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.
- 21 Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The Lord will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him
will be condemned.

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Our community response of worship: *let us exalt his name together.*

1. Receive God's blessing.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." **Numbers 6:24–26 (NIV)**

The fear of the Lord is indeed the foundation of life, the key to joy in life and long and happy days. But it is not a guarantee that life will be always easy, devoid of the difficulties that may seem to mar so much of human existence. The fear of the Lord establishes joy and fulfillment in all of life's experiences. It may mend the broken heart, but it does not prevent the heart from being broken; it may restore the spiritually crushed, but it does not crush the forces that may create oppression. **Craigie, P. C. (1983). Psalms 1-50**

2. Turn from evil.

...the face of the Lord is against those who do evil... Evil will slay the wicked

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17–21 (NIV)

3. Do good and pursue peace.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! **Romans 7:19–25 (NIV)**

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