

Psalm 34

Introduction.

- A. David a fugitive from King Saul (1 Sam. 21:10-15).
- B. Fled to Gath.
 - 1. In fear for his life.
 - 2. Acted like a madman.
 - 3. Driven away by the king (Achish = Abimelek).
- C. In Psalm 56, fear turned to faith because of God's power.
- D. In Psalm 34, praise for God's goodness (Yahweh used 16 times).
- E. Acrostic poem of 22 verses.

I. Call to praise (1-3).

- A. He answers and delivers (4-7).
 - 1. I sought ... he answered (Mt. 7:7-8).
 - 2. He delivers from fear.
 - a. God's answers are meaningful.
 - b. Not deliverance from the king but from fear.
 - c. The Christian may be in fearful situations, but God's love drives out fear (2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Jn. 4:18).
 - 3. Radiant face = no shame.
 - 4. Angels surround us (2 Ki. 6:17).
- B. Experience proves the LORD's goodness (8).
 - 1. Taste and see – a reasonable faith (Is. 1:18).
 - 2. David had experienced God's love many times.
 - 3. He has showered us with goodness in the past – he will continue.
- C. God provides for his people (9-10).
 - 1. Fear = awe and reverence.
 - 2. Lack nothing.
 - 3. Even lions ... but his saints lack no good thing.

III. The fear of the LORD (11-16).

- A. It is learned (11).
- B. It brings great reward (12).
- C. How?
 - 1. Negatives.
 - a. Avoid wrong speech (Jas. 3:3-8; Mt. 15:11-18; Lk. 6:45).
 - b. Avoid lies.
 - c. Turn from evil.
 - 2. Positives.
 - a. Do good.
 - b. Seek and pursue peace.
- D. Results (15-16).
 - 1. Loving attention for the righteous.
 - 2. Condemnation for the wicked.

IV. Conclusion (17-22).

- A. Broken-hearted and crushed in spirit (18; Mt. 5:3ff.; Ps. 51:17).
 - 1. David knew what it was like.
 - 2. When we carry a burden, the LORD picks us up, burden and all.
 - a. Doesn't always remove it.
 - b. Carries the whole load.
- B. Prophecy about Jesus (20: cf. Jn. 19:36).
- C. No one who takes refuge in the LORD will be condemned.