

LESSONS FROM PSALMS SEVENTEEN

Scripture: Psalm 17:1-15

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This is identified as a prayer of David. Some say it is a prophetic statement of the prayer of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. Both views may be true.
 - B. Since both Jesus and David are set forth as examples for the saints of God, this can well be the petition of any saint of God in any generation.
 - C. This Psalm readily divides the human race into two classes—the people of God and those who trouble the people of God.
- I. LEARN WHAT CONSTITUTES EFFECTIVE PRAYER. vs.1-3
- A. God hears the righteous ...those who are saved. v.1
 - B. God hears those who pray with unfeigned lips ...Lips without deceit. v.1
 - C. One whom God Himself sees and judges to be right. ..my sentence (judgment) comes forth from God. God has proved my HEART ...not my life..no person is perfect in the flesh ...all saved are perfect in HEART. vs.2,3
 - D. Any saint of God who has purposed to please God.. He has purposed that his mouth shall not transgress... v.3
- II. LEARN ABOUT THE NATURE AND ACTS OF THOSE CALLED "MEN OF THE WORLD". vs. 7-14
- A. v.14 identifies them as MEN OF THE WORLD.
 - 1. These are they:
 - a. whose portion is in this life
 - b. whose belly is filled with treasure
 - c. who have many children
 - d. they die and leave their substance to children
 - 2. v.9 calls them wicked and deadly enemies
 - B. v.7 speaks of them rising up against God's saints.
 - C. v.9 speaks of them oppressing God's saints.
 - D. vs.9,11 speak of them compassing the steps of God's saint (they lie in wait watching for any opportunity to put God's saints down.)
 - E. v.12 characterizes them as lions greedy of his prey... ready to tear him apart ...AND as young lions lurking in secret places ...lying in ambush.
- III. LEARN THAT GOD'S PEOPLE MUST DEPEND ON THE LORD TO PROTECT THEM AND KEEP THEM. vs.4,6
- A. By the WORD of God's lips we have help. We must LEARN it, ACCEPT it, and ABIDE by it. v.4
 - B. Lord hold up my goings in thy paths ...I know that I cannot keep myself in your way...YOU KEEP ME IN THE RIGHT path. v.5
 - C. Arise, O Lord, disappoint the wicked, cast him down. vs.13,14
 - D. O Lord, deliver my soul from the wicked by thy sword. O Lord, deliver me by thy hand from men of the world. vs.13,14
 - E. God's saints NOW, as in every other age, must understand that we are too weak to the world and its wickedness alone...BUT in the Lord we can find deliverance.

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IV. LEARN THAT PRAYER FOR PROTECTION MUST BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF MERCY.
vs.7-9

- A. It is by His mercy God saves those who put their trust in Him. It is by His mercy that He will save us from those who rise up against us.
- B. Only in mercy can we plead for God to hold us as the apple of His eye...(The pupil of His eye...protect us as the most sensitive part of the eye.)
- C. Only in mercy can we plead for God to hide us under the shadow of His wing...hide us from the wicked.
- D. All of this is according to His loving kindness...His mercy...None of us deserve to be saved nor protected. v.7

V. LEARN WHAT IS THE SATISFYING HOPE OF GOD'S SAINTS. v.15

- A. To awake in the likeness of the Lord.
- B. To behold our Lord's face in righteousness.
- D. I John 3:2