

“God, the Righteous Judge”
(Psalm 7)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. There are difficulties in understanding the Christian life.
 - a. Sovereignty/responsibility.
 - b. Call to perfection/inability to be perfect.
 - c. Law/grace; works/grace.
 - d. These can be understood.
 - e. Sometimes when answers aren't easy they seem impossible.
2. One of the most difficult is how to pray for our enemies.
 - a. The Scripture says love your enemies (Matt. 5:44).
 - b. But we have many examples – especially in the psalms – of prayers against the enemy.
 - c. How can we love them and pray for their destruction at the same time?
 - d. The answer is we can't.
 - (i) There appears to be a time when love ends and judgment begins.
 - (ii) When patience is at an end, and it's time to act.
 - (iii) When that is, we can't always tell.
 - (iv) But God knows.

B. Preview.

1. This morning, we see another psalm/prayer like this.
 - a. David is again persecuted by some enemy:
 - (i) The enemy is Cush, a Benjamite.
 - (ii) Who is he? We really don't know.
 - (iii) Some have suggested Saul – Cush is similar to Kish, Saul's father.
 - (iv) Perhaps it's someone sympathetic to Saul – a Benjamite.
 - (v) The context appears to be when Saul was pursuing him – there were many strong adversaries (vv. 6-7).
 - b. David is convinced it is not God's retribution upon him (vv. 3-5).
 - (i) If he has done evil, he is willing to accept punishment.
 - (ii) But he is convinced of his innocence.
 - (iii) Since they don't have just cause, it reveals their injustice/evil.
 - c. And so David prays that the righteous Judge would intervene.
 - d. At the same time, he puts his trust in the Lord and purposes to praise Him for dealing righteously.
2. I want us to see four things:
 - a. When the enemy is too strong for us, we must turn to the Lord for His help.

- b. We must examine our own hearts to see if the fault is with us.
- c. If the fault isn't with us, we must pray for the Lord's intervention.
- d. Finally, we must trust in the Lord and stand ready to give God His due for help: praise.

II. Sermon.

A. When the enemy is too strong for us, we must turn to the Lord for His help (vv. 1-2).

1. First, David was faced with something beyond his strength.
 - a. Again who was the enemy? Not known.
 - (i) Seems unlikely this was before he was anointed by Samuel as king: who would these enemies be?
 - (ii) If after ascending the throne, perhaps Absalom.
 - (iii) But if between the time of anointing and before coronation: Saul.
 - b. But clearly the enemy is too powerful for him.
 - (i) This wasn't a minor problem he could deal with as king.
 - (ii) This enemy was strong as a lion, powerful enough to drag him away.
 - c. And so he calls out to God.
 - (i) He takes refuge in Him.
 - (ii) Admits his inability.
 - (iii) Calls on Him to save.
2. The Lord often brings us to the end of our resources, before He helps.
 - a. If the situation is within our power to resolve:
 - (i) We wouldn't sense our dependence on Him.
 - (ii) We generally wouldn't ask for help.
 - (iii) Do you pray and seek the Lord over every minor problem?
 - b. If we can't resolve it, and our enemies are too strong:
 - (i) We see our need of help.
 - (ii) We feel our dependence more keenly.
 - (iii) We seek the Lord more fervently.
 - (iv) Does He want this? Yes.
 - (v) Whatever that enemy is – someone attacking, some sin overcoming you – call out to the Lord.
 - (vi) He alone can deliver.

B. Second, we must examine our own hearts to see if the fault is with us (vv. 3-5).

1. David goes through a time of self-examination.
 - a. It appears as though the enemy accused him:
 - (i) Of injustice.
 - (ii) Rewarding evil to his friend.
 - (iii) Plundering someone without cause.

- b. If he was guilty, he didn't refuse to face the consequences:
 - (i) Similar to Paul when accused by the Jews: "If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is *true* of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar" (Acts 25:11).
 - (ii) But like Paul, he said this to declare his innocence.
2. Sometimes our difficulties arise from our own sins.
- a. The Lord punishes/brings retribution on the wicked.
 - b. He also disciplines His own.
 - c. If we are faced with difficulties, we must determine the cause:
 - (i) Are we not His? We must repent and believe in His Son.
 - (ii) Are we His? Are we guilty of sin? We must repent.
 - (iii) We must be willing humbly to face the consequences of our sins.
3. But sometimes, it's not from our sins.
- a. The Lord may be testing, trying, refining.
 - b. The attacks may be unprovoked.
 - c. In which case . . .
- C. If the fault isn't with us, we must pray for the Lord's intervention (vv. 6-16).
1. David calls on the Lord for help (vv. 6-10).
- a. He asks Him to intercede/get involved on his behalf (v. 6).
 - b. He asks Him to take His stand for him, and as his champion to fight his battle (v. 7).
 - (i) Let them assemble against You.
 - (ii) But exalt Yourself over them and subdue them.
 - c. He calls upon the Lord to judge:
 - (i) To vindicate David and establish him because he is innocent (vv. 8-9).
 - (ii) But to destroy the wicked – to bring their evil to an end (v. 9).
 - (iii) God sees not just the actions, but also the intent of heart – He will judge righteously (v. 9).
 - d. Then he makes a declaration of trust: "My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart" (v. 10).
 - (i) Again, see the blessing attached to the one who delights and meditates on God's Law (Psalm 1).
 - (ii) God is a shield to His children; He saves them.
 - (iii) Who are they? The upright in heart.
 - (iv) How can one be upright in heart? Only through Christ.
2. Through David, the Spirit also gives us further insight into how the Lord works (vv. 11-16).
- a. He says the Lord is a righteous Judge (v. 11).
 - (i) He is perfectly just.

- (ii) He judgment is perfectly true: it cannot be false or biased.
 - b. He has indignation every day (v. 11).
 - (i) He is angry with the wicked every day.
 - (ii) “You hate all who do iniquity” (Ps. 5:5).
 - (iii) He pours out His wrath every day (Rom. 1:18).
 - c. He gives time to repent.
 - (i) God is patient.
 - (ii) He very mercifully allows opportunity.
 - (iii) If He didn’t, no one would be saved; He would have destroyed the world.
 - d. But if there is no repentance:
 - (i) If the wicked continue in their wickedness – travingling with wickedness.
 - (ii) If they continue to plan evil and speak lies (v. 14).
 - (iii) If they continue to plot against the righteous (v. 15).
 - (iv) God prepares His weapons (vv. 12-13).
 - (v) And causes the wicked to fall to their own devises – falls into the hole they made, their mischief and violence falls on their own head (vv. 15-16).
3. This gives us insight in how to pray:
- a. If we are going through difficulties – enemies or sins – we should examine our hearts.
 - b. If we are not guilty, we need to pray for our enemies repentance.
 - c. If they do not repent, then we need to pray the Lord would intervene.
 - d. We cannot dictate the time frame:
 - (i) We must leave that in His hands.
 - (ii) He will give them time, but that time will end.
 - (iii) Even as He waits now to judge the wicked and vindicate the righteous.
 - (iv) We don’t see it fully now, but we will.
- D. Finally, we must trust in the Lord and stand ready to give God His due for help: praise (v. 17).
- 1. David rejoices in the righteousness of God.
 - a. He promises to give thanks and to praise the Lord for His justice.
 - b. He knows the Lord will judge righteously.
 - 2. We have a strong confidence when we walk with the Lord.
 - a. He is the help of the helpless.
 - b. He won’t withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly (Ps. 84:11).
 - c. If we are His, and walk in His path, we know He will maintain our cause.
 - d. He will judge our adversaries and take vengeance on them.
 - e. But we must wait, trust, and continue to thank and praise Him. Amen.