

Trusting God is the Main Thing

- The Consequences of Unbelief (Uprooted Tree – Spiritual Death...Death)
- Psalm 22 – The Battle for Faith (New Humanity; New Tree)
 1. Why is God so far from hearing/helping me? (I want God to answer me)
 2. The word tells me it is foolish to trust God (I want people to approve of me)
 3. I am weak (I want to rescue myself)
- The Perfect Faith of Jesus (**Philippians 2:5–10**) 
- **Psalm 23** (Spiritual Life...Eternal Life)

Psalm 23

The Experience of Life-Giving Faith

I. God's Life-Giving Faith Saves Us from **Self-Rescue** (1-2)

- ¹ *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Phillip Keller
- ² He makes me *lie down* in *green pastures*. (Fear. Friction. Flies. Famine.)
 He leads me beside *still waters*.
- ✓ The gift of food, drink & rest (**Jesus** - Luke 23:46 "into thy hands")
 - ✓ Have you tasted this rest?
 - ✓ Watch out for the allure of the "if only"

II. God's Life-Giving Faith Saves Us from **Vain-Glory** (3-4)

A. He **Restores** My Feet & My Heart (3)

- ³ He *restores* (turns back) my soul.
 He leads me in *paths of righteousness* (My steps)
for his name's sake. (My motives) 
- ✓ In what sense did **Jesus** need to "turn back."
 - ✓ Have you experienced this freedom? (e.g. At Church...)

B. He Gives Me **Emotional Strength** for the Journey (4)

- ⁴ Even though I walk through the *valley of the shadow of death*,
I will fear no evil, (**Jesus** - Luke 23:46 "into thy hands")
for you are with me;
 your *rod* and your *staff*,
 they *comfort* me. (alleviates my sorrow)
- (Cf. John 12:27, "my soul is troubled...")

✓ **Jesus** leaned into obedience (Lk. 22:42, “not my will...”; Jn. 19:28-30, “I thirst...”)

✓ Do you know the **comfort** of our Lord’s strong presence?

III. God’s Life-Giving Faith Gives True **Satisfaction!** (5-6)

A. Vindication in the Present (5)

⁵ You *prepare a table before me*
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

✓ **Jesus** made a spectacle of his enemies on the cross!
(Cf. Col. 2:13-15)

✓ Have you tasted the complete satisfaction of walking by faith
in Jesus Christ?

B. Unescapable Blessing (6)

⁶ Surely *goodness and mercy* (hesed) shall **follow** (pursue) me
all the days of my life,
and *I shall dwell* (return to) in the house of the LORD
forever.

✓ The new birth gives us eyes to see our certain joy in Christ!

I want you to earnestly desire this peace & joy that
only Jesus can give to you.

Psalm 34:8 (Cf. 1 Peter 2:2-3, “Long for pure spiritual milk...”)
Oh, *taste and see that the Lord is good!* Blessed is the man
who takes refuge in him!



Next Sunday: Psalm 24 – “Receive King Jesus”

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What strategies do you use to secure your own rest? How are they working? Is this an area you need to confess before God? In daily life are you relying on yourself or God to secure your provision?
2. Do you find yourself preoccupied with your own reputation? What heart changes are needed in this area?
3. Is it a relief that God especially uses your weaknesses to highlight his power & glory? How should this free us up to share our struggles with our brother and sisters in Christ?
4. What specific vain-glory are you tempted to pursue? Consider praying through this question with a brother or sister.
5. Have you tasted this personal relationship that satisfies your soul? Does this help you when God feels far off?
6. If God has never satisfied your soul, what should you do about this? Who could you talk to about this?