**7.23.23 / Safe Home / Psalm 27**

Van trouble – 3:00am arrival – Safe at home

When/were do *you* feel most safe and at peace? exercise, coffee…

The Psalms proclaim that God is **creator** / **King** / **Shepherd** / **Refuge & shield…** this morning consider**…**Safe home / inhabitants

Psalm 27 – infallible, inspired, authoritative

v1- Light and salvation – direction (revelation) & rescue

**Light:** “*Yahweh is illuminating light that vanquishes the shadow of death*”. Picture a cave.

Light provides vision and revelation. How? For us (His Word) - Scripture shows me truth. Holy Spirit reveals the truth.

Remember… God’s revelation doesn’t need to fit into our understanding of reality. Our understanding of reality needs to fit into God’s revelation. See Psalm 119:105 Your Word…

**Salvation:** Jesus saves us from spiritual **death** to spiritual **life**. Romans 6 & Psalm 18.

Jesus turns on the lights and frees me from my trap (i.e. bike tangle)

**What should I fear?** Honestly… about 10,000 things. But David is focused. David realizes, “God has saved me and given me direction.” Nothing can take away **God’s redemption of me and revelation of Himself to me.** Sure there are things to fear…

**But none** of those things can come close to taking away God’s redemption of me and revelation of Himself to me. **If** that’s what I’m **focused on or care about most** than the troubles of this life seem relatively harmless. (See 2 Corinthians 4:16-17.)

v2-3 How can David “not fear” and “be confident”? *Consider his literal enemies.* Confident of what!? – Redemption & Revelation.

His enemies can do nothing to change… God’s redemption of me and revelation of Himself to me! Is he scared at all? Certainly. Should you and I be scared when trouble faces you? Certainly… relatively.

But that relative fear does not **have to** weaken our confidence in **God’s redemption of me and revelation of Himself to me**. My focus on that confidence will have a minimizing effect on my fears. The opposite is also true… Focus on fears 🡪 minimize confidence in God.

If I **take** my confidence in God’s redemption of me and revelation of Himself to me **out of my view**… my fears become insurmountable.

As a teenager I … (paralyzed with fear)

As an adult I … (paralyzed with fear)

v4

David understands the benefit of his **focus**. When He is thinking about (redemption & revelation) – the other stuff in life is not gripping him with fear. That feels great. He wants more of that so he wishes to **dwell**… and *gaze upon the beauty of the Lord*. If he could do that, he reasons, than the fears of life would not overtake Him.

What about you? Do you/we/I desire to **dwell** in the house of the Lord…?

Be honest with yourself. Or is this your truth:

*I desire to dwell in good health and financial security all the days of my life – to gaze upon the sweet stimulation of endless fun and recreation.*

If you don’t; own it. Admit it. And **consider this**. Consider the testimonies of men and women in scripture (David & Solomon) and in modern life who have achieved these (earthly) things and expressed an emptiness in them. Consider your own experience of achieving a taste of these things. Have they provided all you hoped they would?

**David** – who achieved all worldly success – testifies that his greatest desire is to **gaze** upon the beauty of the Lord. **Consider the angelic** beings who gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. Though you don’t see it or feel it now, could there be far more to God than you realize?

Also… ***seek him in his temple***: This is **not** a casual observer asking some probing questions (like a consumer researching a product). This is a worshipper who has chosen not to worship other gods but to **seek** the Living God – to give oneself wholly to the Living God – to seek Him in his Temple is to follow after Him more and more closely – to climb deeper and deeper into a life of obedience to His Word and faith in His promises.

**Dwelling… Gazing** upon the beauty of the Lord and **seeking** Him in this way – David declares – is his highest desire.

v5-6 There (dwell/gaze/seek) I am completely safe.

Protection and exaltation **lead to** praise and sacrifice of allegience.

This is like when you’re warmed up well and in the middle of a good workout and your body feels so good – so strong – so alive and right. The athlete who is warmed up and loosened up is ready to perform/compete.

When your soul is warmed up (with the knowledge of God’s **redemption**) and loosened up (with the **revelation** of Himself to you) **than** you are ready to rejoice in the Lord with a full heart, you’re equipped and empowered to do the kingdom work that the Lord has for you.

v7-9ish commitment to seek Him… yet… fear is creeping back in…

Kind of like Peter walking on water and looking away – changes in an instant.

V9-12 (is like when Peter looks away from Jesus)

V13-14 (is like when Peter gets back in the boat and acknowledges that Jesus is truly the Son of God)

Dwell/Gaze/Seek

Then we see the Lord… light and salvation… look away 🡪 get wet

This is us. How can we increase our focus on Redemption & Revelation?

Practice: *Face to Face* recommendation

When we meet God in prayer we find that our safe place doesn’t have to be a set location. **He dwells in us!** (You are temple…)

**Our Safe Place is communion with the Living God!** Anywhere… anytime...

**Closing prayer time**

3.3 a shield around me – the one who lifts my head up

32.7 my hiding place – surround me with songs of deliverance

32.10 unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him

34.7 angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and he delivers them (from trouble – or into the deep love of God)

84.10 better is one day in your courts than 1000 elsewhere

84.4 blessed are those who dwell in the house of the Lord

90.1 you have been our dwelling place

91.1 whoever dwells in the shelter of the most high will rest in the shadow of the Almighty

139.5 you hem me in behind and before, you lay your hand upon me

**You are our safe home.**