

Eleutheros Newsletter

September 2020

News of Interest

To date, Eleutheros Books has produced five books on different subjects:

[The Ramifications of Our Salvation](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace!

[Bible Translations: A Closer Look](#) defends the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of Scripture and explains why the wording in one translation is so different from that in another.

[Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse](#): A Commentary on [I Corinthians 12-14](#) is a thorough phrase-by-phrase commentary on a major passage that deals with spiritual gifts.

[A Portrait of Jesus](#) has 37 short chapters in 5 sections: Jesus before time existed; what Jesus did in Old Testament times; what Jesus did on this earth; what Jesus is doing now; what Jesus will do in the final state. Jesus is from eternity past to eternity future!

[The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#) gives significant reasons for believing in this miracle and offers commentary on every verse in the New Testament that makes reference to the greatest event in all of history!

You can check out all these books on the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

Progress is being made on a sixth book, 19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity. There were many things that happened about 200 years ago that still have impact today! God willing, this book will be available in a few months.

Thoughts from the Psalms

Psalm 4

1 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

One thing is very clear about David: he was very honest in his relationship with God! He begins this psalm with a cry of desperation ("hear me when I call"). He was a man of war, a king, and had faced many issues in life and wanted to maintain his relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

David was approaching the only One Who had the solution to his problems. He referred to Him as the "God of my righteousness," recognizing that he was a sinner but God had provided him with a holy standing before Him! He also realized that God had been good to him in the past ("Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress"). No doubt David often thought about some of the struggles he had faced with political and military enemies and

the calamity of sin in his life, realizing that God had brought him through all of them with good results.

David recognized that he needed God in His mercy and answered prayer. “Mercy” is God’s love extended to those who really need it, and David knew (and even pleaded) that He would again experience that blessings that He had so faithfully given him in past days.

2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? How long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah.

David now takes his concerns about himself and looks at the situation of others. There were many in Israel and surrounding areas who were turning “glory into shame.” Truly these people, whether Jews or Philistines or others, were perverting wonderful things by shameful attitudes and actions. This, of course, is an issue that believers face in this world today! How often God’s people pray, show love, or present the Gospel only to face ridicule or rejection!?

David realized that this lifestyle and attitudes were vain (“empty”) and sinful (“leasing”). Again, he was very honest in his prayer life and relationship with God! He was not being “holier than thou” in his thoughts here, but was concerned how so many were so far from honoring the God he loved so dearly. “Selah” is a word that indicates we should take time to meditate on these thoughts.

3 But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for Himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto Him.

It is amazing how our attitude can change when we approach God honestly! In verse 1 David was desperate. In verse 3 he is confident!

He encourages others who are godly to realize they have a wonderful relationship with their God (know that the Lord hath set him that is godly for himself”). The picture here is that God wants and does get along with His people who are right with Him! And He does it for Himself because He sincerely desires that closeness!

Not only did David encourage others, but he also rejoiced to say “the Lord will hear when I call unto Him.” Closeness to God has impact that is a blessing to others and to oneself!

4 Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

David had learned quite a bit about the awesomeness of God, that He is holy, eternal, loving, omnipotent, and omniscient. He realizes that it is important to take the time to ponder these great attributes and be amazed by them.

Such adoration causes one to avoid sin when it is done sincerely (“with your own heart”). It is good when this is done privately and quietly (“upon your bed, and be still”). Again, the Selah here indicates that we should ponder the truth of this verse because it is saying important things.

How many today simply go to church and then basically ignore God all week only to return to church again the next Sunday?! We surely need to commune with God every day and in a sincere way!

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

In this verse David realized that this relationship with God needs to be applied in life experience. "Sacrifices of righteousness" involve obedience; "trust in the Lord" involves faith. Obedience and faith are essentials to a close relationship with our God!

6 There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us.

David realized that the world was dysfunctional and missing the blessings that come from appreciating the awesomeness of God. He then simply asks in faith that God would continue to provide the light only He could give to him.

7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and wine increased.

David now thanks God. Having begun with desperation, he now is full of the joy that God had given to him! What an important lesson this is for us! Closeness to God brings far more fulfillment and joy than "the time that their corn and wine increased." God does bless with financial resources as He wills, but it is the gladness in our hearts that is far more valuable!

8 I will lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

David can now enjoy peace, rest, and assurance of safety.

The world talks about these things but knows nothing of them. One word that would describe world conditions today would be "restless." People all over the world are not satisfied with their income, their political leaders, their relationships. How sad and empty they are!

David, having communed sincerely with his God, can now rest.

And so, can we if we follow his example!

We will continue these thoughts from the Psalms in next month's newsletter.