THE APPLE OF GOD’S EYE

**DATE: 5/3/2015 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 17:8**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we come to **Psalm 17** we find David continuing to run from King Saul’s jealousy

**Psalm 17** is 1 of 5 Psalms identified as ***“prayers”***

The others are **Psalms 86, 90, 102** & **142**

While most of the psalms contain prayers to the Lord

We only find these 5 attributed as such, 3 of which are written by David (including **Ps.17**)

In this **17th Psalm** the psalmist prays in **v.8 – *“keep me as the apple of the eye”***

This phrase is 1st found in **Deuteronomy 32:10** (and says)

***“He (God) found him (Israel) in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye”***

It’s in what is known as “Moses Song” (Swan Song)

This portion of Scripture would have been very important to any real Israelite

This portion of Scripture would have been very important to David!

(Also found in **Proverbs 7:2; Lamentations 2:18; Zechariah 2:8**)

Many of us have used this expression to speak about someone we regard as special

It speaks of someone that when you think of them, you think tenderly about

David is asking God to regard him as such

The literal meaning of the phrase ***“the apple of the eye”***

… refers to the reflection a person sees of themselves in another person’s eye when they are looking at them

Interestingly by-the-way …

For your reflection to be caught in someone’s eye … and for you to be able to see that reflection … you must be very close to that other person

They must have their gaze fixed on you, and you must be standing close enough to see that reflection

**James 4: 8a - *“Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you”***

To say to someone - *“You are the apple of my eye”*

You must consider that person special

To be considered – *“the apple of someone’s eye”* is to be considered special

David prayed to be the Apple of God’s eye

I like that prayer

I want to make it my prayer …

***“Lord keep me as the apple of Thine eye”***

How about you?

Do you want to be blessed and used of God?

Not for selfish reasons …

But that we can be a blessing to others?

Then let’s desire to be the apple of God’s eye

I want to preach on that thought this morning

And how it may apply to you

In this prayer, David deals with 3 Major Requests and brings 3 Pressing Concerns before the Lord

Each section opens with David addressing the Lord

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First we see David say …

**I. LORD, “HEAR” ME – vs. 1-4**

**v.1 – *“Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer…”***

3 times in this one verse David asks the Lord to hear him

David understood that God hears and answers prayers

We need to recognize how important prayer is in our lives!

As we look at **vs. 1-4** we understand that David had been falsely accused

But he does not attempt to defend himself before men

He simply brings his case before God

**A. David’s Concern was for ‘Vindication’ – v.2**

**1.** David says – ***“let my sentence come forth from Thy presence”***

That word ***“sentence”*** is not talking about *a group of words that makes a complete thought*

But rather *a judicial punishment imposed by the court for someone’s crime*

David is saying that if there is to be a punishment handed out, let it come from God

David knows that God is Just … that is, God would do what was right

**2.** He says – ***“let Thine eyes behold the things that are equal” (right)***

David is not saying he is without fault, but rather that he is being falsely accused

He says – *“Concerning this matter I am accused of, I’m innocent… I mean Saul no harm”*

David determined not to touch God’s anointed

**Ps. 105:15** - ***“Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm”***

And David went out of his way to show that

In **I Samuel 24 & 26** David could have killed Saul and didn’t

There are times in life when we are falsely accused and the only recourse we have is to say –

*“I give the matter to God; let God judge, let God dole out the sentence”*

**Deuteronomy 1:17 –** ***“Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it”***

**Not only was David Concern about being ‘Vindicated’**

But …

 **B. David Requested to be ‘Examined’ – v.3, 4**

David says –

-- ***“Thou hast visited me in the night;”***

In an unexpected and inopportune time (and in that)

-- ***“Thou hast tried me”***

Brought to light what was true

-- ***“Thou hast proved mine heart;”***

Established what is true, what was really in his heart

-- ***“and shalt find nothing;”*** (for)

-- ***“I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress”***

God honoured David’s request

David is asking …

**Psalm 139:23 –** ***“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:”***

**Psalm 7:8 – *“The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me”***

***“integrity”*** – wholeness, the state of being sound or undamaged

David is asking God to bring out the truth

So that everyone would know he is blameless from that which he was accused

**v.4 – *“Concerning the works of men, by the Word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer”***

David says – *“all this is possible because of Your Word”*

I will be kept from those who seek to destroy me by the Word of God

… And the Faith I have placed in it

**LORD, “HEAR” ME**

Next David says -

**II. LORD, “HOLD” ME – vs. 5-8a**

**v.5 – *“Hold up my goings in Thy paths”***

David says – *“Whatever it takes to keep me in Thy paths, hold me”*

He says – *“I know I will be alright if you will hold unto me”*

Are you willing for God to get a hold of you?

First let’s look at …

**A. David’s Concern for ‘Protection’ – vs. 6, 7**

David affirms his request from **v.1** in **v.6**

***“I have called upon Thee, for Thou wilt hear me, O God: incline Thine ear unto me, and hear my speech”***

*Surely God hears and answers prayer*

**Psalm 65:2 – *“O Thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come”***

**Psalm 3:4 – “*I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and He heard me …”***

**Psalm 6:8, 9 – *“… the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping”  “The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer”***

Then he asks for God’s protection in **v.7**

***“Shew Thy marvellous lovingkindness, O Thou that savest by Thy right hand them which put their trust in Thee from those that rise up against them”***

The enemy had surrounded David

**vs. 9** and **11a**

***“From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about” “They have now compassed us in our steps:”***

David was a great military leader; but he knew that without the Lord's help, he wouldn’t escape

God is not only the Righteous Judge

But He is also the Powerful Defender who could shelter David from his enemy

**II Timothy 3:13 – *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”***

***“wax”*** – means to *increase in size, power, or intensity*

It seems like there are more and more people turning against the LORD and His Anointed today

**Psalm 2 …**

**v.7** is a reference to the Song of Moses in **Exodus 15**

(This is the song Israel sung after the closing of the Red Sea)

If God could deliver His people from Egypt, He could deliver David from the hand of Saul

David has asked for a marvelous demonstration of God's love in protecting him from his enemies

David not only asks for God’s Protection but also…

**B. David’s Request was for God to ‘Keep him’ – v.8a**

***“Keep me as the apple of the eye”***

David is depending on God’s great love for him …

… to ***“keep”*** him

To be *kept* is to be *protected*

Kept by the Power of God

**I Peter 1:5 – *“(We) are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”***

**Jude 24 *– “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,”***

God is Faithful to keep us

**II Thessalonians 3:3 *– “But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil”***

God’s keeping is Essential

**Psalm 127:1 *– “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain”***

**LORD, “HEAR” ME**

**LORD, “HOLD” ME**

Then lastly David says …

**III. LORD, “HIDE” ME – vs. 8b-15**

I don’t know about you, but I feel like hiding sometimes

You can pray - *Lord, hide me somewhere where no one can find me*

But this is not a geographical place of safety …

When David asks the LORD to ***“hide me under the shadow of Thy wings”***

David is asking God to protect him in His presence

We ought to pray David prayer … not for protection

… But that Christ might be seen in our lives

When John the Baptist was approached about Jesus’ popularity … he made this statement in **John 3:30**

***“He must increase, but I must decrease”***

David asked to be *Hide under the shadow of His wings*

That phrase could picture the mother hen protecting her young

As in **Matthew 23:37** where Jesus said **– *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”***

But I think David is really referring to the wings of the cherubim in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle

**Exodus 25:19, 20 –** ***“And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof” “And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be”***

David asked the Lord to make his hiding place in the Holy of Holies, the place of God's throne and God's glory

In other words … *in the very Presence of God*

Because of the heavenly intercession of Jesus Christ,

God's people today can enter into the Holy of Holies and fellowship with God

**Colossians 3:1-3 – *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God”***

**A. David’s Concern was for ‘Salvation’**

David says Keep, Hide, Deliver me …

**v.9 - *“From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies…”***

Not salvation in the sense of being saved from the penalty of our sin

But salvation in the sense of being saved from the enemy

David is saying that there were people who wanted him Dead!

They wanted him dead, and they were not going to be happy until he was

Isn’t that tragic? To think that someone might hate you so much that they would rather see you dead!

David says – *“They want to kill me Lord, therefore Hide me”*

Did you ever try to deal with your enemies?

Don’t you think it would be better if the Lord dealt with them?

David describes these wicked enemies – **vs. 10-14**

**v.10 – *“They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly”***

That means that they are so puffed up, so proud …

… so boastful, that they think they can get away with anything

**v.11b – *“… they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;”***

**v.12 – *“Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places”***

As a hunter would bow down to look at an animal track

Like a lion in pursuit of his prey

David says *“they are hot on my trail”* *“At any moment I will be overtaken”*

**v.13 - *“Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is Thy sword:”***

Look at that little phrase at the end of **v.13**

David is saying that they think they can get me, but they are actually God’s sword

They are in the hand of God and He will do with them has He sees fit

David continues this thought at the beginning of **v.14**

Deliver me from … ***“From men which are thy hand, O LORD”***

David understood that not only was he serving God

But that the wicked were serving the purposes of God as well

The psalm continues – ***“from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure:”***

David says that these wicked are blessed by God and don’t even realize it

They don’t know God; they certainly don’t want to serve Him

They don’t even fear God

**Psalm 36:1-4 *– “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes” “For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful” “The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good” “He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil”***

These are men of this world

They enjoyed breathing God’s air and basking in God’s sunshine

They enjoy the blessings and the health God gives

But they will not Recognize God as the Giver of it all

**B. David’s Request was ‘Rescue Me’**

**1.** Now today

**v.13 – *“Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked”***

**2.** In the future

David closes this psalm with this thought

**v. 15 – *“As for me, I will behold Thy Face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness”***

David says that he realizes that the only time he will really be rid of his enemies is after the Resurrection

**Psalm 16:11** ***– “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore”***

**CONCLUSION**

Have we learned this Truth?

It’s a joy here below to know the Lord

The greatest life lived is the genuine Christian life

But there will be no full and final satisfaction until we see the face of Jesus Christ

Until then, we ought to pray …

***“Lord, keep me as the apple of Thy eye”***

**LORD, “HEAR” ME**

**LORD, “HOLD” ME**

**LORD, “HIDE” ME**

4 thoughts to Close

**1.** To you Desire to be blessed of God that you might be a blessing to others?

**2.** We need to learn to commit every matter to God in prayer and to trust the Lord to do what is right

**3.** Allow God to hold us and Keep us in the paths He has chosen for us

**4.** Lastly see that we have a Refuge in the Lord and that we have safety and protection in Him