GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT

**DATE: 5/10/2015 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 18:30 - 32**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Psalm 18** has 50 verses and is the 4th longest Psalm

There is no way I’m going to be able to cover every aspect of this tremendous psalm

**- vs. 1-3** give us an Introduction

**- vs. 4-18** form the 1st Division

**- vs. 19-27** the 2nd Division

**- vs. 28-45** the 3rd Division, and …

**- vs. 46-50** the Conclusion

If we read the inscription that precedes this Psalm it gives us some insight into the background for these verses

As stated, this Psalm was originally a song that was written to glorify the Lord and to honor Him for delivering David from King Saul and his other enemies

This song can also be found in **II Sam. 22**

This Psalm was written when all David’s foes were vanquished

David has been given an absolute victory …

…and he wanted to express his gratitude to the Lord

You see, during the time David was running from Saul he was in constant danger of death

Now, he has been delivered from that …

And he lifts his voice in praise to the Lord Who has given him the victory – **v.3a**

This is David’s Victory Song

And you and I have a victory song to sing as well

You see …when God saved us …

He gave us victory over our enemies

Victory over Death, Sin and the Devil

**I Corinthians 15:57 – *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”***

**Romans 8:37 – *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us”***

We (who) were hounded by Hell and in danger of dying without Christ

… Now have been eternally saved through His grace

Since we have been saved and delivered from the snare of the enemy,

We also have ample reason to worship and praise the Lord

Note the expression in **v.30 – *“His way is perfect”***

Then in **v.32** the Bible says – ***“It is God that girdeth me with strength, …”***

***… “and maketh ‘my’ way perfect”***

There are 2 Ways delineated here - His Way and My Way

Herein lies the battle … Will it be God’s Way or My Way?

Our text clearly states that God’s Way is Perfect

And I believe when we decide to make God’s Way, our Way

It will be as David declared … He will make my way perfect as well!

As we spend time in these verses this morning,

Let’s allow the Lord’s Word to remind us of Who He is and What He has done for us, and What He continues to want to do for us

Let’s be reminded today why …

***“GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

First, let’s look at how …

**I. GOD “DELIVERS” –vs. 1-18**

…When we Call on Him

**Deliverance** means *to be rescued from something or someone*

David has been running from King Saul for over 10 yrs.

And now … finally is free / as been delivered

David is so thankful that he begins to Praise God

**A. David’s ‘Love’ – vs. 1-3**

At the very beginning, David makes 2 great declarations

He bears his heart and tells us What he has determined to do

He seems to be indicating that he will live his life with these two great themes … always in mind

He is telling us that he finds his greatest delight in the Lord!

**1.** He Declares his Love for the Lord

**v.1a – *“I will love Thee …”***

The word translated “***love***” here is a word that means “***to love deeply***”

It’s not the normal word translated love

The normal word speaks of “***covenant love***”

This word speaks of “***tender intimacy***”

It carries the idea of a mother’s love for her infant

We have all felt this way about someone

This is the emotion felt by Mary Magdalene when she encountered the risen Christ in **John 20:17**

And what the Disciples felt when they saw Jesus in **Matthew 28:9**

We need to consider all that the Lord has done for us

How He loves us and has made a way for us to be saved …

Our hearts should also be filled with that same kind of love for Him

**I John 4:19** – ***“We love Him, because He first loved us”***

Then David …

**2.** Declares his absolute dependence upon the Lord

**v.1b – *“O LORD, my strength”***

He calls God his “***Strength***”

9 times in the first 2 verses, David uses the personal possessive pronoun “***my***”

Declaring all that God is to him

**v.2 – *“The LORD is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my Strength, …***

***… in whom I will Trust; my Buckler, and the Horn of my Salvation, and my High Tower”***

They tell us that the pronoun “***my***” is the first pronoun learned by most children?

Children say things like “***my toys***”, “***my house***”, “***my room***”, etc.

This is just their childish way of stating … that they know what is theirs

What David is doing is expressing simple, childlike faith in his relationship with the Lord

He is telling us that he is totally dependent upon Him for everything

Every ounce of his strength comes from the Lord

**I Cor. 15:10** ***– “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”***

Jesus declares in **John 15:15** that we can’t do anything without Him …

***“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing”***

Then Paul said in **Phil. 4:13** what we can do with Him

***“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

Therefore David proclaims …

**v.3 – *“I will call upon the LORD, Who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies”***

In **vs. 1-3** we see David’s Love, Faith and Hope

David’s plan is to Love the Lord, Live for Lord and to Lean on the Lord

… For everything he Needs, Does and Is in life

I think that’s a worthy goal for every believer!

He deserves nothing less and nothing less will be blessed …

**GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT!**

Next when it comes to God’s Deliverance, we see …

**B. David’s ‘Distress’ – vs. 4-6**

David summarizes all the Distress he’s lived through

In **v.4** David Described his Distress

He pictured himself as a man who had been hemmed in on every side, caught in a trap, bound with cords, and thrown into the water to drown

In **v.5** David says *I was many times … close to dying*

**But then …** David says in **v.6** – ***“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God:***

And guess what?

**… *He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears”***

When David prayed … God Heard

Not only did God hear, but also answers in a Big Way!

**GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT!**

Let’s look at …

**C. David’s ‘Deliverance’ – vs. 7-18 …**

Look at how David Describes God’s response to his call

(Read verses …)

Now I don’t know if this is exactly how God did it for David?

But David sees it that way

I’m thinking this is Prophetic and picturing Jesus 2nd coming to Deliver Israel from the hands of their enemies

God Delivers in a Big Way … when We call upon Him

**GOD “DELIVERS”**

**GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT!**

Next, let’s look at how …

**II. GOD “REWARDS” – vs.19-27**

… When we Obey Him

First, let’s look at …

**A. David’s ‘Clean’ Hands**

The word ***“distress”*** in **v. 6** speaks of *a tight place, being in a corner, or hemmed in*

But when the storm was over, David found himself in ...

**v. 19 - *“a large place”*** (finally free)

A place where he could step out in faith, serving the Lord

**v.36 - *“Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip”***

- But, God first enlarged David's Trials

**Psalm 25:17 – *“The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses”***

- But, God used them to enlarge David!

**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”***

David wasn't perfect, nor are we

But he was ***“a man after God's own heart”***

Therefore …

- God delighted in David

Just like parents delight in the maturing of their children in character, obedience, and service

- David was faithful to the Lord

**vs. 21 – *“For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God”***

- So the Lord faithfully cared for David

Let’s read **vs. 25-29 …**

- David knew God's Law …

**v.22 – *“For all His judgments were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me”***

…And obeyed them, in spite of the difficult circumstances of his exile

- David’s Attitude was one of living Righteously

David’s affirmation of righteousness was evidences of humility and honesty, not pride and deception

Samuel in **I Samuel 12:3 –**

***“Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before His anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken?***

***… or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you”***

Samuel says I have lived righteously before the Lord

Hezekiah in **II Kings 20:3 –**

***“I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before Thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight”***

King Hezekiah declares his righteous living

Note the words David uses …

- ***“my righteousness”*** in **v.20**

- ***“I kept myself from mine inquiry”*** in **vs. 23**

- ***“the cleanness of my hands”*** in **v.24**

These verses are talking about David’s motives

Everything that applies to David here also applies to us

**Acts 10:34 *– “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”***

**David’s ‘Clean’ Hands**

Then look at …

**B. David’s ‘Skillful’ Hands**

- David had *skillful hands* as well as *clean hands*

**v. 34 – *“He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms”***

**Ps. 78:72 – *“So he (David) fed them (Israel) according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands”***

- The way we relate to the Lord determines how the Lord relates to us

Look at **vs. 25-27 …**

David was merciful to Saul, and God was merciful to David

**Matthew 5:9 – *“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God”***

- David was loyal to God

And God was faithful to David and kept His promises to bless him

David wasn't sinless, but he was blameless in his motives

The ***“pure in heart”*** in **Matthew 5:8** are those whose hearts are wholly dedicated to God

- King Saul had been de-v-ious in his dealings

But David was honest and straightforward

I know there were times in David’s life

But he soon learned that faith is living without scheming

God's Character and Covenants never change

But His dealings with us are determined by the Condition of our hearts

**GOD “REWARDS”**

**GOD “DELIVERS”**

**GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT!**

Lastly, let’s look at how …

**III. GOD “EQUIPS” – vs.28-45**

…When we Submit to Him

What was God accomplishing during those difficult years of Saul's reign?

**1.** For one thing, I believe He was disciplining Israel for running ahead and making Saul king

**Hosea 13:10, 11 – *“I will be Thy King: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?” “I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath”***

**2.** In His longsuffering, He was also giving Saul opportunities to repent

**3**. At the same time, He was equipping David for his years of service to come

God has always taken time to prepare His servants -

- 13 years for Joseph

- 40 years for Moses

- 40 years for Joshua

- Over 10 years for David

The lessons David learned about himself and about God

during those years of exile helped to make him the man that he was

The images in these verses reveal God developing a Great Warrior, a Compassionate Leader, and a Godly Man

The things we all need to desire to be

First, let’s look at …

**A. God’s ‘Enabling’ – vs. 28 -34**

Up to this point in this psalm David has declared how his heart is right before God

But now David starts to declare God’s Righteousness

The image of the lamp in **v.28** speaks of God's grace in keeping David alive during those dangerous years

**Proverbs 13:9 –** ***“The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out”***

It also speaks of the perpetuity of his reign

**Ps 132:17 – *“There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed”***

**I Kings 15:4 – *“Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:”***

All Culminating in the coming of Jesus Christ to earth

Simeon’s Prophecy regarding Jesus

**Luke 2:32 – *“A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel”***

Because David trusted God …

**v. 30 - *“As for God, His way is perfect: the Word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him”***

God equipped David to Fight (**vs. 32-34**)andDefeat (**vs. 37-45**)the enemy

He could run through a troop, scale a wall, or leap like a deer

This is not a glorification of war, but God training him to fight His battles …

Again **v.34** says – ***“He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms”***

… And protect Israel so they could accomplish His purposes on earth

His ultimate purpose was for Israel to bring forth the Saviour

David did not invade other countries just to add territory to his kingdom

Whatever land he gained was the result of his defeating armies that first attacked Israel

God Enables us to Fight the enemy as well

And our equipping is to declare what the Saviour has done for mankind

Next, let’s look at …

**B. God’s ‘Gentleness’ - vs. 35 -45**

Though David was a man of war, he recognized that it was God's gentleness that made him what he was

**v. 35 - *“Thou hast also given me the shield of Thy salvation: and Thy right hand hath holden me up, and Thy gentleness hath made me great”***

The word ***“Gentleness”*** means *condescension*

God condescended to …

- Look down and call David in **I Sam. 16**

- Bent down and mold David as in **v.35**

- Reach down and save David

- Then He lifted him up to enthrone David

This reminds us of what Jesus, the Son of David, did when He left Heaven to come to earth as a servant and die for our sins

**Phil. 2: 7, 8 – *“But (Jesus) made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:”
“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”***

Because David was submitted to the Lord,

God could trust Him with the authority and glory of the throne

Only those who are under authority can truly exercise authority

**GOD “DELIVERS”**

**GOD “REWARDS”**

**GOD “EQUIPS”**

**GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT!**

**CONCLUSION – vs. 46-50**

In closing let me say this …

**God is Glorified when we Worship Him**

After David looked back at God's gracious ministry to him,

What else could David do but Praise Him?

**John 3:30 - *“He must increase, but I must decrease”***

David didn't take things into his own hands but allowed the Lord to vindicate him when the time was right

This psalm ends with David exalting the Lord for His covenant to him and to his descendants

**v.50 – *“Great deliverance giveth He to his king; and sheweth mercy to His anointed, to David, and to his seed for ever more”***

David used the words ***“for ever more”***

Realizing that it would be through the promised Messiah that the kingdom promises would be fulfilled

**Rev. 11:15 - *“And He (Jesus) shall reign forever and ever”***

**GOD “DELIVERS”**

**GOD “REWARDS”**

**GOD “EQUIPS”**

**GOD’S WAY IS PERFECT!**