

Wait on the Lord (Psalm 27)

Background

Last week, we considered Jesus' exhortation to "ask... seek... knock..." (Matt 7:7; Luke 11:9). Here is a psalm that puts these words into practice.

Questions

The psalm begins with a series of confident statements (1-3):

- What difficulties had the psalmist faced? Who had delivered him in the past? Who would deliver him in the future? Compare, for example, 1 Samuel 23:26-29.

The psalmist then expresses his desire (4-6):

- What is the psalmist's greatest desire? And why? Compare with 1 Samuel 26:19 and 2 Samuel 6:14-17. Can you relate to this desire?

The psalm continues with a series of petitions (7-12):

- What encouragement had David received from God? How does this encouragement express itself in his prayers?
- What encouragements have we received? See, for example, Matt 11:28-30 and Matt 28:18-20.

Unlike some others, this psalm does not end with an outburst of praise.

- How does this psalm end? Why should we wait on the Lord?

Application

David trusted the Lord and, on the whole, he waited patiently for him to fulfil his promises. This was not easy for David, and it may not be easy for us. We need to encourage each other in this.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh,
My enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
Though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.
- 4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.
- 5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion;
In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me;
He shall set me high upon a rock.
- 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;
Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.
- 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!
Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- 8 When You said, "Seek My face,"
My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."
- 9 Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger;
You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of
my salvation.
- 10 When my father and my mother forsake me,
Then the LORD will take care of me.
- 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD,
And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.
- 12 Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;
For false witnesses have risen against me,
And such as breathe out violence.
- 13 *I would have lost heart*, unless I had believed
That I would see the goodness of the LORD
In the land of the living.
- 14 Wait on the LORD; be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!