

## Supplication of the Saints

Psalms 125 is one of those passages that can give Christians great encouragement, hope and confidence. God cares for us and we can have great stability in our lives even when things all around us can seem, at times, to be out of control. The Psalm begins in the form of a simile—teaching us that “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” This is followed by, “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people from this time forth and forever more.” These two verses lend themselves to giving Christians security and stability in an unstable world. We saw last time that God’s care and protection is such that we’re never put in a place where sinning is our only choice. That’s a promise from God!

In the closing verses of this Psalm, God’s people are encouraged to pray. In verse four we read, “Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!” It’s important to point out that this Psalm is not teaching that God blesses those who are inherently good—because none of us are. Because of the Fall of Adam, we are born into this world as sinners who have no hope, in and of ourselves, of ever being right with God. Like the rest of the Psalm, our author is speaking of those who “are good” because they are already in covenant with God—that is to say that for Christians our only goodness or righteousness is because we are saved in Jesus Christ. We rest in his righteousness and not our own. As imperfect as Christians are, God loves us in Christ.

Going back to the Psalm, verse four may make us think of Paul’s words in Romans 8:28. “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” God certainly promises that, for his people, all things that we go through in life will, ultimately, work together for our good and his glory. In verse four of this Psalm, God is not promising us that he will give us whatever we ask for in prayer but whatever he does in our lives is always what’s best even though we’re not likely to see all that he’s doing in the moment. Christians are those who “are good” only because, in Christ, God has given us new hearts. We’re changed from the inside-out.

Verse five of the Psalm makes a clear statement about two groups of people. Following verse four that speaks of genuine heart change, our author speaks first of “those who turn aside to their crooked ways.” This first group rejects God. Their rejection is openly shown by living lives that are inconsistent with God’s truth. The LORD will lead them away, i.e., judge them along with the second group who are called the—“evildoers.”

The Psalmist concludes this passage with a prayer that could also be a benediction, “Peace be upon Israel!” For Christians who read this Psalm in light of the coming of Jesus Christ, this is really a prayer that the church would continue to mature so as to be healthy in every way. As we seek to fully trust God in our lives and in the church; as we avail ourselves to his ordinary means of grace in word, sacraments and prayer, we are, by grace, moving toward

being healthy and complete no matter what trials come our way. I want to close this Psalm with some points of practical application.

—When you are anxious or fearful, what promises from God in scripture do you look to as a reminder of his faithfulness?

—Psalm 125 ends with a reference to the peace of Israel. For Christians this should remind us to pray for the health of the Church—locally, regionally, nationally and globally (Romans 2:28-29; 4: Galatians 3:15-29; 6:16).

—Do you regularly pray for the leaders in the government; local, state and national?

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

—Have you ever believed that—in any situation that you faced—you had no choice but to sin?

Read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13

In closing, we all sin in many ways including the times that we fail to trust God.

Remember to continue to trust in Jesus Christ who gave us his perfect righteousness and died for our sins, past, present and future. When God looks at his children he sees us clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. There is nothing more secure!

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