

Series: Psalms
Title: Our Perfection
Text: Psalm 18: 1-3
Date: April 17, 2014
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Our text tonight is Psalm 18: 1-3. By way of introduction, we need to understand three things.

FIRST, LET'S UNDERSTAND WHO IS SPEAKING IN THIS PSALM?—Psalm 18: 1: «To the chief Musician, A *Psalm* of David, the servant of the LORD,

The Holy Spirit moved king David to write this song. Much of what is said here applies to David. But this is a prophetic Psalm, meaning, the Holy Spirit gave David the words that Christ Jesus would speak. Several verses are quoted in NT as spoken by Christ.

Indeed, David was a servant of the LORD—God made David to serve as a king over political Israel. But Christ Jesus is THE Preeminent, Faithful servant of the LORD God. Christ is King over his spiritual Israel. Christ is David's king. Peter said,

Acts 2:34: For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35: Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

The Son of God took flesh and became both the Son of God and the Son of Man, to serve God, representing the elect given him by God the Father in eternity: to fulfill the covenant Christ made with God in eternity; To magnify the law and make it honorable for God and for God's elect. He completed the work by finishing the transgression, by making an end of sins, by making reconciliation for iniquity, by bringing in everlasting righteousness, by sealing up—fulfilling—the vision and prophecy—the old testament scriptures.

Christ and him crucified—his successful redemption of his people—is the sum and substance of all the Old Testament visions and prophecies. Just as he is the sum and substance of this 18th Psalm.

John 5: 39: Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Luke 24:27: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

John 1:45: Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Time and again we read, Christ did this “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken in the prophets,” “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet,” “that the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Christ fulfilled the vision and the prophecy.

And Christ anointed the most Holy—Christ is himself the anointed Holy One; He has entered heaven, and anointed the most holy—the holy of holies—for his people by his presence there for us; and by his Spirit abiding in us, every believer is holy, sanctified by his Spirit, washed in his blood, clothed in his righteousness.

So first, we see that Christ Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Son of David, the preeminent servant of God, the only Mediator between God and men, is the one singing this song.

SECONDLY, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND TO WHOM THESE WORDS ARE SPOKEN—Psalm 18: 1:...who spake unto the LORD...

When you see capital LORD it means our triune God: Jehovah the Father, Jehovah the Son and Jehovah the Holy Spirit. Christ is God the Son. But Christ is speaking here as the Mediator, serving Jehovah, representing his people. Christ is in a sense speaking of himself here, because he is the second person in the Godhead and the fullness of the Godhead bodily and all these things are true of Christ for the believer. So these words are spoken by Christ unto the LORD.

THREE, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE OCCASION THESE WORDS WERE SPOKEN—Psalm 18: 1:...who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul:

David indeed had reason to sing to the LORD because God delivered David from Saul, and from the greater part of his enemies. But remember, David is speaking prophetically of Christ. None but the Lord Jesus can sing of victory over ALL his enemies. Christ overcame the world, bruised Satan's head, spoiled principalities and powers, put away sin for his people and the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death; none but Christ conquered even that enemy. Christ conquered ALL enemies.

So have we got these three things? The words of this song are spoken by Christ Jesus. He is speaking unto the LORD—Jehovah God. The occasion is in the day Christ cried it is finished and God delivered him, victorious over all his enemies.

Proposition: In this song of Christ toward Jehovah we see that Christ is the believer's perfection of love, reverence and faith.

I. FIRST, WE SEE CHRIST JESUS IS THE PERFECTION OF LOVE—THE VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HIS PEOPLE—THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW FOR HIS PEOPLE—Christ says to Jehovah--Psalm 18: I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

Perfect Heart of Love

This is the perfect heart of Christ toward God as the Head and Representative of his people—"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength." God the Son came down and took flesh like unto his fallen, sinful, depraved brethren. As the Head and Representative of his people, Christ stood as the one Man serving God the Father; the last Adam to whom God looks, the Surety of his people. Christ Jesus represented each elect child that the Father gave to him before the foundation of the world. Everything Christ did his people did in him.

Fulfillment of the Law

What does that have to do with Christ saying, "I will love thee, O LORD, my strength?" The whole law of God is summed up this way: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." (Lu 10: 27) There can be no mixture of sin only perfect love with all your heart, soul, strength and mind; and the same toward your neighbor. Not one sinner has ever done this. When God brought you into some painful trial, did you love God perfectly? When your neighbor's child died, did you wish it could have been your child instead?

But Christ Jesus established the whole law—loving God and his people perfectly. This was his holy heart. He said, "**I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.**" With perfect love to Jehovah God, on behalf of his people, Christ faithfully served God in holiness of heart and righteousness of deed, from the cradle to the

cross. Especially when—loving God and his brethren as himself—meant going to the cross and being made sin for us, that God might pour out justice on him in our place.

John 14: 30: Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. 31: But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

Therefore, Christ is the perfection of love—the fulfillment of the law in righteousness—the holiness and righteousness of every sinner—in whom Christ abides in Spirit through faith. We, who are born of his Spirit, do love God our Father and Christ Jesus his Son. “We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 Jn 4: 19) But Christ loved God and his brethren as you and I never can! It is in and by Christ, that God reckons us to have loved God and our brethren in perfect, holy and righteous love, because Christ said, “I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.”

II. SECONDLY, WE SEE HOW CHRIST IS THE PERFECTION OF REVERENCE TOWARD GOD FOR EVERY BELIEVER—Christ said, Psalm 18: 2: The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength,...my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

The duty of every man is not only to keep God’s commandments, as we just saw Christ did for his people by his perfect love, but to do so in perfect reverence for God—to fear God, to glorify God as God, perfectly.

Ecclesiastes 12:13: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Perfect Reverence for God

"The fear of God" is reverence for God. It is true internal religion, true internal godliness in power. It includes all the graces given by the Holy Spirit and the exercise of those graces. It includes: reverence of God, love to God, faith in God, hope of eternal life from God, humility of soul, patience, and submission to his will and in all of this it includes giving God all the glory due to him. That is what Christ our Surety did his entire life, by his work at Calvary and what he is doing here looking back on his days on this earth. He revered God, glorifying God in perfection. God said of Christ,

Isaiah 42:1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Application: Here, Christ brings forth judgment to you and I who believe. Here is Christ, the GodMan Mediator, standing between God and his people, between God and us who believe. On one hand, Christ is turned toward God, representing us, reverencing and glorifying God perfectly for us. On the other hand, Christ is turned toward us, teaching us to fear and reverence him for he is God our Savior and all these things to us.

As the Representative of his people, as the servant of the LORD, Christ Jesus revered and glorified God as very God and he did so in perfection for his people—he said of Jehovah—Psalm 18: 2: The LORD is my rock and my fortress...

Deuteronomy 32: 3: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. 4: He is the Rock, [here is what that means] his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

God is the Rock—the solid, immovable, immutable foundation—so he sent forth his Son to glorify his name. God’s work is perfect, so he sent forth Christ Jesus to work the works of God in this earth in perfection for his people who were dead in sins. God’s ways are judgment, so in judgment, God sent forth the Just One, Christ Jesus, to declare God just and the Justifier of his people. God is a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he—so God sent forth Christ the Truth, to manifest and establish the Truth—that is, the Righteousness of God. And by the faith of Christ, by his finishing the work on the cross, “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” (Ps 85: 10) That means Christ bore justice in place of his people declaring God just and right and true. And God is merciful, the justifier, and peace of his people because Christ is God who justified his people from all things from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses.

God Our Rock in Christ our Rock

When God would show Moses his glory he put Moses in the clift of the rock (Ex 33: 22) God put all his people in Christ the Rock before the foundation of the world. In time, God puts all his people in the Rock in our experience of his grace when he regenerates us and makes us to see the glory of God our Rock in the face of Christ our Rock (2 Co 4:6) That is when we begin to sing, “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.”

Application: Please get this: everything—except our triune LORD Jehovah in Christ Jesus—is sinking sand. The wisdom, will and works of our fleshly man is slippery, gumbo, mud!

Illustration: Sinking Dad’s truck—the foundation under the tires.

The triune Jehovah, God our Rock, dwells in Christ our Rock bodily therefore Jehovah Jesus is God our Rock. Through faith in Christ, we stand on justified ground—that is solid ground! How firm a foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord!

III. THIRDLY, WE SEE CHRIST IS THE PERFECTION OF FAITH FOR EVERY BELIEVER—
Christ said of Jehovah **Psalm 18: 2: God is my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust;...the horn of my salvation,...**

In order for you to see that this is Christ speaking, notice he says, “**in whom I will trust.**” Turn to Hebrews 2. We are told this is Christ speaking. Verse 49 is also quoted in Rom 15 as Christ speaking.

Hebrews 2: 10: For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12: Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. [that is quoted from Ps 22: 22. The next verse is from our text, Ps 18: 2] 13: And again, I will put my trust in him.

God the Son made himself one with his brethren by becoming a Man. The GodMan is the one Man to whom God looks instead of to his people. As he served God, in perfect faith, Christ said, “**God is MY Deliverer.**”

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me?

Now from Faith to faith, from Christ the Faithful to you who believe, Christ is the strength of our faith saying almost the same words as he said by Isaiah,

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

In perfect faith our Representative, glorified God for us, saying, God is **“my God.”** After his resurrection,...

John 20:17: Jesus said,...go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

In perfect faith our Representative, glorified God for us, saying, God is **“MY strength.”** As God the Son, Christ is himself all Strength! But as the one Man serving God for his people, God made Christ strong for himself, to accomplish God's work for God's glory:

Psalm 80: 17: Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.

God made an eternal covenant promise to Christ, and representing his people, Christ faithfully, perfectly, believed God—**Psalm 18: 2:...in whom I will trust;...the horn of my salvation,...3: I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.**

And when Christ had completed the work of declaring God's righteousness, of justifying his people, of purging us of our sins, God did just that, he raised Christ victorious over all his enemies.

Isaiah 49: 8: Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; 9: That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves.

IV. NOW, LET ME TRY TO SUM UP WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU WHO BELIEVE.

Christ Jesus is the love of the law—our Righteousness, the Perfection of Reverence, and the Author and Finisher of every believer's faith.

Brethren, you and I have been given a new heart: of love in righteousness, of fear and of faith. Yet, our love, reverence and faith is not even close to perfect. Do not look to the love or reverence or faith that has been given to you. Look only to Christ!

Christ made himself one with us: his perfect love for God is our perfect love for God; Christ is our Righteousness; his perfect fear and reverence of God is our perfect fear and reverence of God; his perfect faith in God is the perfection of our faith in God; Christ's Faithfulness is the reason our little, mustard seed faith is enough to save.

Be sure you get this. Carry it home with you. Think upon it and rejoice with praise and thanksgiving. When Christ called God, “My God” When he said, “I go to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” he is telling us that **All that is Christ's is ours in Him!** His Father is our Father; his God our God; his obedience is perfection of our obedience; his righteous love is the perfection of our righteousness and love; his reverence is perfection of our reverence; his faith is the perfection of our faith. Just as his death is our

death; his eternal life is our eternal life; his reward is our reward; his inheritance is our inheritance; his glory is our glory and his safety is our safety.

We are one with him as he is one with the Father! So you who believe, can read this Psalm again, putting your name in David's place. And you can be assured that in and by our perfect Representative, we have loved, revered and believed God in perfection. Christ our God is all these things to us.

Psalm 18: 1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of ALL his enemies,...And he said,» I will love thee, O LORD, MY strength. 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. 3: I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Amen!