

Sermon 7-5-17 Psalm 62 Confidence to live each day!

Dear Confident in the Lord:

What have you to live for?

A psychologist once asked 3000 people this question: "What have you to live for?" 94% of the people who answered this question said they were simply enduring the present while they waited for the future. They said they were...

- waiting for something better to happen
- waiting for next year
- waiting for tomorrow
- waiting for a better time

What are our hopes for the future? Are we confident that things will get better? Are we hopeful or hopeless?

Some years ago a teacher was assigned to visit a boy who was in the hospital. The teacher was asked to visit this boy to help him study nouns and adverbs so he would not get behind in school. The teacher saw a badly burned boy in great pain. She hesitated for a moment and thought about walking out. She decided to stay and told the boy "I am the hospital teacher and your school teacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs."

The next morning a nurse on the burn unit asked the teacher: What did you do to that boy? We have been very worried about him, but ever since you were here yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment...it's as though he has decided to live.

The boy later explained that he had completely given up hope until he saw that teacher. With joyful tears he said: "They would not send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

We may feel like that boy in the hospital sometimes...

- Maybe we are low on hope

- Maybe we are not positive about the future
- Maybe we lack confidence that things will get better

King David wrote Psalm 62 at a time was looking to the Lord for hope and confidence in the future.

King David came to the realization that hope and confidence in the Lord comes to us through faith in God as our fortress.

God is my fortress David says who will protect me from forces that are out to destroy me.

During WW II the Army Air Force's B-17 bomber was known as the Flying Fortress. It was given this name because it kept flying even after being hit and damaged. The men who flew the B-17 referred to it as their Flying Fortress because it would keep them safe until they landed.

God is our fortress because...v1

- He alone gives us "rest and security"
- In the Hebrew of this verse it literally reads "Only unto God silence my soul"
- This rest or security we have in the Lord is confidence or absolute composure.

When King David wrote Psalm 62 he was running for his life. His son, Absalom, had rebelled against him and tried to take over the King's throne. It was a time of great distress in David's life.

Absalom was endowed with good looks. He was self-willed and given to violence. He had long flowing and heavy hair. He would stand at the city gate and tell the people that he could do a better job as King than his father, David.

200 of David's advisors defected to Absalom's side.

- David fled from his palace and hid in exile
- While in exile, David wrote Psalm 62

Cruel and wicked men had embittered David's life and they were led by his very own son. How did David respond to all of this?

- He turned wholeheartedly to God in total submission
- He found peace and quietness in his soul
- verse 1 **"Truly my heart waits silently for God"**

The issue rests with God, whatever it is that you are dealing with right now. He will fight my battle. He will stand beside me. He gets involved with the details of my life.

- "In quietness and trust is your strength" Isaiah 30:15
- "The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

Be Still = find rest in God Be still = wait silently for God Be still = silent, trusting, submissive to the Lord

This is not self-confidence but God-confidence.

God alone is my rock v2

- Rest on the firm promises of God. Romans 8:31ff
- God is yours - He possesses you
- Stand firm – God is our fortress an ever present help in time of trouble
- Stand behind His wall of fortress

God alone brings me through trials vv3-4

David is speaking about the men who would destroy him He is describing their actions and attitudes.

- These men storm in upon him coming with cries and raised fists
- These men thrust at him hoping to overthrow him
- David likens himself to a "leaning wall, a tottering fence."

David's enemies say "It won't take much to push him over." He's on the edge.

Maybe we feel on the edge sometime.

- It won't take much to push us over
- It won't take much to shove us over

As King David did may we direct our soul to God who is our confidence and our rock and fortress.

For God is my hope vv5-7

Upon him my own strength rests. Faith's battles are never finished. The struggles in this life will always be around until we get to heaven. Confidence and peace will grow with God-confidence as we rely upon His Word and promises.

David says in the midst of his crisis: "Be still, silent, trusting, waiting on the Lord."

There is only one thing for the believer to do under stress and trial: Wait upon the Lord.

Isaiah 26:3 **"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you."**

David knew that he was "safe" in the keeping of the Lord. Romans 8:28ff

Part of David's stress came from being misunderstood by the people who once stood with him but went over to his son's Absalom's side.

Have you ever been misunderstood by someone? The more you try to explain yourself or defend yourself the worse it gets. David knew this. In verse 7 he renounces all personal avenging of his own honor. His honor, his salvation, his defense, his refuge is where God is. David knew that God understood him. God defended him. God will be David's avenger.

My security doesn't rest with what people think of me but it rests with what God thinks of me. Who am I? I am sinner and saint.

- I struggle with my sinful flesh, but I am a new person in Christ who lives in the state of God's grace and forgiveness.
- I now possess the salvation won for me by Christ.

David knew God had accepted him. God's acceptance is greater than all the praise of men. In God's presence David finds "favor and protection" from every chapter in life. The Captain of our souls is our God Almighty.

David calls us to trust in God at all times. v8

In God we trust. That is the motto on the back of our coins. In 1861 the Secretary of the Treasury said: "No nation can be safe except in God's defense. I recommend that the trust of our people in God be declared on our coins."

"Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for you." I Peter 5:7

- This is most certainly true
- This is God's promise
- Voice your needs before him
- "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you" our God says
- Bring all your anxieties and troubles to God's attention in prayer
- Philippians 4:5ff

Pour out what lies in your heart.

In verses 9-10 David warns us of putting our confidence in the things of this world. We all want a better future. We all want a good and happy New Year. But we can't count on earthly things to bring us real satisfaction and happiness. David says in these verses that...

- the rich and the poor are but a breath
- we are here today and gone tomorrow
- when we put earthly things on the scales they are lighter than the wind
- We just can't count on them, the things of this world are perishable

Rather than fix our eyes on the objects of this world that will not last may we focus our attention on God's Word and will for us.

Colossians 3:1-4 "...Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things...When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

It is well with my soul

May we say "It is well with my soul" throughout this year.

"Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. My sin is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul even so it is well with my soul."