

Lifting Up Our Soul to the Lord

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Psalm 25

This psalm is about our dependence upon God. We will notice three areas in which we are dependent upon Him. The psalmist explained this by describing himself as lifting up his soul to the Lord. This is a surrender to God – a complete trust in Him and confidence that he would not be ashamed. We need to have the same attitude toward God as the psalmist expressed.

The Lord Provides Forgiveness

- The psalmist recognized that God’s word is the standard – he desired to know God’s ways (v. 4-5); this is the only way to salvation (v. 5); [more on God providing instruction in this regard in the next point]
- Even though he recognized God’s word as the standard, he also recognized his need for God’s mercy – God had continually showed His grace and mercy (v. 6); the psalmist appealed to God to not remember his sins (v. 7), which implied his own repentance
- God offers us forgiveness through His Son (Ephesians 1:7) – we are saved by His grace and mercy (Ephesians 2:4-5); yet to receive this forgiveness, we need to repent and turn from our sins (Ephesians 2:1-2)

The Lord Provides Instruction

- God provides instruction for sinners (v. 8) – shows how to reform their lives and be forgiven [previous point]
- He teaches the humble His way (v. 9) – humility is necessary to receive God’s word (James 1:21); this is connected with the fear of God (v. 12, 14), which is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10)
- His paths are lovingkindness and truth (v. 10) – God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), so His word is truth (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17); His word is for our good (v. 13, 15), as it gives us life (John 6:68) and helps us to avoid destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

The Lord Provides Protection

- The psalmist ended with an appeal to God to turn to him (v. 16) – we may be “lonely and afflicted” (v. 16), but the Lord will be with us (Hebrews 13:5); we may have “troubles” and “distresses” (v. 17), but the Lord promises rest (Matthew 11:28); we may be afflicted by sin (v. 18), but the Lord provides forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7); we may face persecution (v. 19), but the Lord will save us (Revelation 2:10)
- We must take refuge in the Lord (v. 20) – use His word as a shield (Proverbs 30:5); follow His word to maintain integrity and uprightness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Conclusion

- Without the Lord, we would be lost, confused, and vulnerable – with Him we have forgiveness, instruction, and protection
- Let us put our trust in Him and surrender our lives to Him in order to do His will in all things