

Prayer Works

Psalm 34:15-19

Sermon Outline

A. Because God Cares (vs. 15-16):

1. The eyes – God demonstrates His inner intentions to lovingly care for us when He intentionally gives to us His undivided attention by looking at us.
2. Lord – The Lord who on His own initiative provides us His attention is the One who desires to have a relationship with us and has all authority and power.
3. Righteous– The righteous are those who sincerely believe in God’s Word. They are faithful to respectfully execute His righteous standards while with integrity they relate to those around them.
4. And His ears – God attentively listens to those who willingly seek to obey the righteous standards of His Word.
5. Open to their cries – The righteous may feel that justice is being withheld so they distressfully, loudly call on God who hears them with a heart willing to fight for them.
6. The face of the Lord – The Lord who has all authority and power provides His complete attention to those who reference Him.
7. Against, working; Has done, act– The Lord faithfully and creatively labors with a sense of obligation for those who sincerely commits to walk in His ways (John 15:7-10).
8. Evildoers; Distress – God actively apposes those whose inner desire is to willfully live unethical and immoral lives. They demonstrate no inner ability to apply themselves to the standards of God.
9. Cut off the memory – God actively seeks to illuminate anything that permanently commemorates the lives or legacy of those who willfully do evil.
10. From the earth – The memory and legacy will be removed not just from where the person lived but also from all the earth. Many of these evil people did their best to build statutes and memorabilia to commemorate their achievements.

B. Because He Listens (vs. 17-18):

1. Righteous - The righteous are those who sincerely believe in God’s Word and are faithful to respectfully execute His righteous standards; while with integrity they relate to those around them.
 - a) God does several things for the righteous:
 - Hears their cry (vs. 15, 17).
 - He delivers them from troubles (vs. 17, 19).

- He saves the crushed in spirit (vs. 18).
- He protects the righteous (vs. 20).
- The foes of the righteous will be condemned (vs. 21).
- God redeems His servants (vs. 22).
- Those who take refuge will not be condemned (vs. 22).

2. Cry out – The righteous may feel that justice is being withheld so they completely surrender to distressfully and loudly calling on God, who hears them with a heart willing to fight for them.

3. Yehovah hears – The Lord Jehovah is so intent on providing His undivided attention to the distressful cries of the righteous; He intelligently comes to a full knowledge of all their concerns with an understanding heart.

4. Delivers – God works to physically (which could include psychologically) and spiritually snatch the righteous from all that distresses them.

5. Troubles; Distress – Troubles can be any unfavorable circumstance whether it is psychological, physical, spiritual or emotional pain.

6. Yehovah is near the broken hearted – The Lord Jehovah always moves toward those who being torn to pieces even when it means that they are being violently attacked. An example of ‘broken heart’ is a ‘ship that is being broken to pieces by violent winds and waves.’

7. Save; Deliver – The Lord Jehovah endlessly seeks to remove the righteous from being oppressed, defeated or from major catastrophes.

8. Crushed in spirit – The deliverance of the righteous includes moments when they are discouraged so that the work of the Holy Spirit is being suppressed because of their anguish.

C. Because He is the True Deliverer (vs. 19):

1. Afflictions; Distress; evil – Afflictions mean the ill effects of those who intentionally violate the standards of God towards those who are seeking to honestly hold to the standards of God.

2. Righteous; Just - The righteous are those who sincerely believe in God’s Word and are faithful to respectfully execute His righteous standards; while with integrity they relate to those around them.

3. Yehovah delivers – The Lord Jehovah endlessly seeks to remove the righteous from being oppressed, defeated or from major catastrophes.

4. Than all – All here is comprehensively everything; ‘the whole of everything.’

5. Than all – When God fights, we must remember He is the only One that can truly deliver us.

6. Than all – When God delivers us nothing can stand against us (Romans 8:26-39).

7. Than all - Because He is the only One who truly delivers we must always pray and obey.