

Psalm 34:8–14

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8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
9 Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!
There is no want to those who fear Him.
10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any
good thing.

11 Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
12 Who is the man who desires life,
And loves many days, that he may see good?
13 Keep your tongue from evil,
And your lips from speaking deceit.
14 Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.

In vv1–7, David enlists help praising the Lord, recounting what the Lord has done for him.

In vv8–14, David urges other saints to trust in the Lord as he has.

In vv15–22, David assures them that his own experience has been according to the Lord's enduring character.

This week, we're considering how in addition to urging us to praise the Lord *with him*, David urges us to trust the Lord *like he did*.

Taste the goodness of Yahweh by seeking Him, v8–10.

Trust in Him! Rest upon Him (v8b), and prove out His goodness to bring you His blessedness.

Fear Yahweh (v9)! Live in wonder at Him and as an act of worship unto Him, and find that He satisfies this desire.

Seek Yahweh (v10)! Young lions seek meat, for currently their design is to find meat good, but they will sometimes lack this (v10a). But we were created to find Yahweh good. Those who seek Yahweh shall not lack any good (v10b). If we seek Him, every created thing or providence that makes us to taste His goodness will be ours. We will not lack any good or perfect gift (cf. Ja 1:17). When we think that we lack, because we crave some created thing, we act like beasts and forget that we were made to enjoy the Creator (cf. Ps 73:22–26). Indeed, we must define "good" as drawing near to God (cf. Ps 73:28).

Taste the goodness of Yahweh by walking in the fear of Him, v11–14.

We must not be those who make the mistake of seeing a competition between delighting in God and pleasing God. The life that pleases God is the life that is delighted in Him. His commandments are such that they proceed from love for Him, and they describe what a life looks like when it is lived in enjoyment of Him.

In vv11–14, the Psalmist anticipates and answers the question, "but what does fearing Him look like in the details of life?" (v11). By the time we get to v12, we already know from v8–10 that fearing the LORD (and trusting Him and seeking Him) is the way to obtain every true good.

The Psalm gives us one specific example of walking according to His commandments: how we use the tongue. Perhaps this is due to the purpose of our mouths highlighted in v1, which requires us always to use our mouth in a manner consistent with that purpose (cf. Ja 3:9–10). Or maybe it is because this is the most difficult aspect of walking in the fear of the Lord (cf. Ja 3:2).

But v14 tells us to extrapolate the general from the specific. If God is good, seeking Him necessarily means also departing from evil. To whatever extent we are tolerating evil, we are not seeking the LORD. Indeed, we are to seek peace, shalom—the whole of everything good, the state of complete and contented blessedness. Therefore, we must depart from every and all evil.

So, on the one hand, we taste the goodness of the LORD by seeking Him, but on the other hand, we taste the goodness of the LORD by walking in the fear of Him. This means that all of our obedience is personal, proceeding from a delighting in Him. If it doesn't proceed from delight, then it is not at all Him that we seek in it.

But it means that all of our delighting in Him is practical, expressing itself in obeying Him. If it does not produce obedience, then Him we do not really seek at all.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

So Psalm 34 last week in verses 1 through 7 hopefully you will remember as I remind you that David was enlisting us and joining us, urging us to join him in the praise of God, that we would magnify Yahweh with him.

And of course in this, he was as he often is a type of our Lord. Jesus Christ, the great king of whom David was this foreshadowing picture that in saving us and in gathering us to the Father. The Lord Jesus is bringing us into the worship of his Father and he declares the Father's name to us his brethren.

And he, when the midst of the assembly, he sings his father's praise. Well, the first seven verses were David, enlisting help in praising the Lord. And now, in the next seven verses, which will be looking at tonight versus 8 through 14, he's urging us to try out the Lord to trust the Lord and walk with the Lord, as He has.

So David trusted, trusted the Lord, the Lord saved him, the Lord delivered him and he wants us to praise the Lord for what he has done for David. But he doesn't just want us to praise the Lord for what he has done for David. He wants us to trust the Lord and walk with the Lord, so that the Lord might do for us as He has done for David and then Lord willing.

Hmm, not next week, we, I might not be here next week, but if we are, we'll just, we'll just pray next week. But the week after that, versus 15 through 22. David assures us that his own experience has been according to the Lord's enduring character, which is what guarantees that our experience of God will be according to the same character, We will find the Lord.

The same as David found. Him Faithful and good. So that brings us to verses 8 through 14 tonight. As the Psalm urges us to trust in the Lord, as David has Psalm 34 verses 8 through 14. These are God's words. Oh taste and see that. Yahweh is good. Blessed is the man who trusts in him.

Oh fear Yahweh you his saints. There is no want to those who fear him young lions, lack and suffer hunger, But those who seek, Yahweh shall not lack. Any good? Come your children. Listen to me. I will teach you the fear of Yahweh who is the man who desires life and loves many days that he may see.

Good. Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do. Good seek peace and pursue it so far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. So, in the first three verses versus eight through 10, David is urging us to taste. The goodness of Yahweh by seeking Him verse 8, I think at least the first half is fairly well known no taste and see that Yahweh is good and then he gives us three things that it means to taste the Lord, excuse me to taste the Lord.

And to taste is goodness and that is trusting. Him fearing him and seeking Him. So tasting the goodness of Yahweh by seeking Him and then in the second portion in verses 11 through 14 to taste the goodness of Yahweh by walking in the fear of him. So the first part taste the goodness of Yahweh by seeking Him, He says oh taste and see that Yahweh is good And you say well how can I taste the Lord?

He doesn't mean the Lord's Supper. Which if you were in the satanic error of Roman Catholicism, you might think that you could taste the Lord Jesus with your tongue and they actually believe that that happens. It's a horrible blasphemous doctrine. So how do we taste the Lord Jesus? If not with our tongue, We taste him with our faith.

First of all, blessed is the man who trusts in him who arrests upon him who believes that blessedness happiness comes not from the created thing which is what we're always tempted to think, if I could just enjoy that experience, if I could just have this position, If I could have, if I could just have this possession Then I will be blessed.

I will be happy and yet God as the ever blessed, God has all happiness in himself. Our creaturely happiness as patterned after His. And so when it talks about blessed as the man who trusts in him, it's not just that we trust in him, it's that we trust in him to have him and we'll see that a little bit more, especially when we get to comparing the one who trusts and fear trusts in the Lord and fears the Lord to young lions, in a moment in verse 10.

So the first part of how to taste the Lord is by trusting him resting upon him to find that he is good and that he himself is our goodness and our happiness. So verse 8 gives us to trust in him verse 9 says oh fear Yahweh you his saints.

There is no want. There is no lack for those who fear Him, Malta fear. The Lord is not to live in servile terror, to fear. The Lord is to live in, wonder at him and as an act of worship unto him to live in wonder at him and as an act of worship unto him.

Now, maybe the word wonder isn't as helpful here as it used to be because we don't really wonder or live in wonder or respond to things with wonder, very well in our culture. We use the word wonder to mean. I'm curious to know if That's what we mean. We say wonder, we don't mean to be in awe to have the our smallness and the objects bigness brought into sharp contrast to stand on the precipice of the Grand Canyon or to to come.

And you know, this is even a creation of man but you can see a skyscraper from far away and then walk all the way up to it. And you tilt your head to the full, almost 90 degrees, that it takes to approximate the top, which you can't even really see.

And you know those those two things pale in comparison to living in wonder at the Living God. And if you live in wonder of him in awe of him, then you ought to live as an act of worship unto him, the whole of trusting in the Lord and walking with him and loving him.

And obeying him many, many times in the Scripture, the whole of godliness is summed up as fearing. The Lord. So trust in him. First is the way of tasting his goodness. We prove out His goodness by resting upon him for blessing and finding that it is blessed just to rest upon him and then the second place to fear him.

Oh, fear Yahweh you his saints. There is no lack to those who fear Him, anything else that you look for or desire or depend upon or delight in, you may run out of because it's all created. It's all creaturely. It's all finite. If the Lord is your desire, if you're, if the Lord is your delight, if devotion to him, is, is your purpose?

Then you will never run out of that because he is infinite. He is the creator. But really, the emphasis I think, is in this final comparison and verse 10, young lions, lack and suffer hunger. But those who seek? Yahweh shall not lack. Any good thing? Well, postfall. We know what?

Young lions seek In fact, one of the ways we know what young lions seek, even if you've never seen a nature special and hopefully have not had the displeasure of being out in the open with a young lion that is seeking, You can know just from the Bible, right?

The devil prowls about like, a roaring lion. One of the reasons why we don't want to be cut off from the church by our own difficulties. We are sinners. The other people in the church are sinners. And first, Peter 5 starts to talk about how the elders in the church should conduct themselves and how the others in the church, submit to the elders, and that we should do it, casting all our cares upon Christ because he cares for us and that that's what enables us to humble ourselves.

And it takes humility to forgive and to ask for forgiveness and and so forth, all these things that are necessary for the relationships in the church and then he gives us as a following incentive after discussing all those things He says your enemy. The devil, prowls them out, like a roaring, lion seeking whom he may devour.

Now, if you have watched a nature special, you might have seen that lions, get hungry, because there's not always plentiful prey because the lions are seeking prey. They suffer hunger, but those who seek Yahweh do not lack, any good? Which is to say, if we seek the Lord, if we count him himself goodness, then we cannot lack any good or perfect gift.

Those who those who seek him for us? Every created thing makes us taste as goodness. Every Providence makes us taste as goodness. It's it it's the goodness of the Lord that you see in the things that he has made. And even when evil people are doing evil things, yet the fact that your good Lord is doing good things.

Even through that enables you to taste. The goodness of the Lord and you're not lacking some good to enjoy, and nothing can separate you for the love of Christ. This frustrates those who have tried to persecute Christians, over the centuries and over the millennia, they try and take everything good away from you, but they cannot take God away and they cannot take the gospel away that cannot take Christ away.

They cannot take the knowledge of the love of God in Christ away. In fact when you are killed all day long, you can still say for your sake. We are as sheep to the slaughter and you still have him for whom. You are being slaughtered and to whom you will go when you have been slaughtered.

So if the if you seek Yahweh but those who seek you always shall not lack any good if he is what we count as good like the psalmist and Psalm 73:28. He says for me, good is to draw near to God. That's what he says. At the end of the Psalm, In the middle of the Psalm, he was acting a little more, like the young lions, he wanted created things, and he felt like he lacked because there were created things that he was missing and he said the same Asap says the same thing in Psalm 73.

As David says here, he says, when missing created things made me feel like I lacked. I was acting like a beast towards God. I was not acting like someone who was made with the capacity for and the enjoyment of. And for the purpose of enjoying the Living God, I was not acting like someone created with the capacity for and the purpose of enjoying the living God.

And we don't want to be beasts towards God, not least of, which because we would suffer hunger. But even more than that because how we would blaspheme God's name, how we would sell cheaply as we just prayed together, the enjoyment of God for the enjoyment of the created thing and realizing that that was literally beastly of him to do that.

That's when Asap turns around. He says, whom have I in heaven, but you and there's nothing else. I desire on earth beside you. Now, one of the things that, as we learn and grow with the Lord, we realize, as when we are jealous, or when we are greedy, or when we are frustrated, and and we realize that we desire and do not have, you know, the, the apostle says, this is why you guys quarrel, that's because you desire and do not have.

Maybe You're a child who gets into quarrels at home, maybe you're a parent to find yourself too. Easily frustrated with the children who quarrel And we have that rising in our heart that shows exposes this beastliness toward God, that we're not satisfied with him. We're not content with him.

We think? Well, if only my children could be a little bit better behaved, or if only, I could have that. I hate to say toy. It's so beneath most of you, I'm sure. But in order, if only, I could have that thing or that experience or do this well in school today or whatever it is, And we see that and we want to kill that sin.

Well, the desire for whatever that created or creaturely thing is is not going to die all by itself. It has to be displaced by the desire for the Lord. If you seek the Lord, If you treasure the Lord, then you will not have any lack desire him seek him and he will give you the desires of your heart, because he will be the desire of your heart.

So that's taste. The goodness of you all way by seeking Him. Well what does it actually mean to fear him? That's the question that is being answered. Now in verses 11 through 14, He says, come you, excuse me? Come you children. Listen to me and I will teach you the fear of Yahweh who is the man who desires life and loves many days that he may see good.

So in verses 11 through 14, the psalmist is anticipating and answering the question what does fearing the Lord look like in the details of life? If I desire him himself in everything else that I desire and I don't desire anything apart from him. Then what is that going to look like?

And interestingly, he turns to the commandments, He turns to the ninth commandments specifically in verse 13 and summary of of all obedience, and verse 14, depart from evil and do good. In other words, delighting in God is not in competition with pleasing. God delighting in God is personal. We delight in him because he is himself.

But it's also practical walking in a godly manner walking in a righteous manner walking in an obedient manner, is walking in a way that says God is my pleasure in what? I'm going to do now And so fearing the Lord or delighting in him isn't just personal. It's practical.

It is displayed in obedience to commandments like that in verse 13. Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking to seat. Why does he pick this specific example of walking according to his commandments? Well, at least two good reasons. One is, we know from the Apostle James that.

Well, James the brother of the Lord Jesus, the spirit inspired writer of that New Testament book that if you can keep this one, if you can tame your tongue, then you're a perfect man. You've mastered it all. This is the one we're going to be working on, and that, that no Christian in, this life gets to the point where he says.

Yep. Finished that one And maybe that's encouraging to us. Who, after all these years of walking with the Lord, we're still sinning with our tongues. Maybe it's because it's the most difficult aspect of walking in the fear of the Lord or maybe it's related to what we saw last week.

In the first verse, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Well, a little further on in James chapter 3 after he said, no man can tame the tongue if you could do that, you're perfect. He goes on to say and we referred to this last week that you, you cannot bless God and curse your brother that out of the same mouth, must not come blessing and cursing.

So if his praise shall continually be on my mat in my mouth, then you can't have lies in your mouth either. You can have deceit in your mouth at the same time. As the praise of God, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Now that's a specific example.

So it's not like you can ignore all the rest of God's commandments if you desire life and love days that you may see. Good. Just do the ninth commandment. No, verse 14 reasons. Then from the specific to the general depart from evil and do good. If God is good, then seeking Him necessarily means departing from evil to whatever extent.

You tolerate sin, you are not actually seeking the Lord. Indeed. We are to seek, not just good, but peace, shalom. Perhaps, you've heard some teaching on this word, but it means basically the whole of everything good. When we talk about God, lift up His face upon you and give you peace.

It means may God, exert. All of who he is for every possible. Good for you and especially recognizing that he himself, is the great and the infinite good, The whole of everything good, the state of complete and contented, blessedness, we are to seek and pursue it And you cannot seek and pursue the enjoyment of God.

While also tolerating sin that is not something that you can have with one hand. Love the world. And with the other hand, love the Lord. The Lord says that loving the world desiring. The world in that way is enmity with him. So taste the goodness of Yahweh by seeking Him versus 8 through 10 and then taste the goodness of Yahweh by walking in the fear of him versus 11 through 14.

This means that all of our obedience is personal that proceeds from joy. It proceeds from a relationship in which we enjoy him. If you're obeying God doesn't proceed from delight in him, then you're not seeking Him in your obedience and you're not walking by the fear of him. There is an outward form of obedience that does not proceed from the enjoyment of God.

And this is not the seeking of the Lord, but It's also means that if our that all of our delighting in him, must be practical. That if you really are, if it really is the Lord, whom you are seeking, then you will obey Him, You will enjoy him. You'll want to live.

According to principles that have the enjoyment of God himself at their core. And so if you think you are delighting in him but that delight isn't producing obedience then it's not him than him. You are delighting And so we have those two things held together here in the tasting and seeing that Yahweh is good.

The personal aspect of it resting in him and enjoying him. And then the practical aspect of it that if it is him, if it is he If it is in him that we are delighting, then we will also be obeying him and walking according to his commandments departing from evil and doing good.

It's it's all or nothing. They're not in competition with one another. In fact, you can't really have one of those without the other. So let us come before him together in prayer, in which also We delight in him and to address him enjoy the the fact that we belong to him and have his ear.

Let's again it's not praying. If it's just speaking a wishlist into the air prayers and active worship in which we honor a door and enjoy him.