



Psalm 13

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart daily?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God;
Enlighten my eyes,
Lest I sleep the sleep of death;
4 Lest my enemy say,
"I have prevailed against him";
Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
5 But I have trusted in Your mercy;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
6 I will sing to the LORD,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

From Despair, v1–2

There are four things deeply troubling David here, and he begins with the most difficult for him: the idea that Yahweh might not be thinking of him as He acts. For someone like David, the fact that the Lord is always acting in his behalf, and always turning His face upon him in grace, is an infinite source of strength and gladness. Some who profess Christianity have little thought of the Lord; it would not distress them to think that the Lord is unmindful of them. But such cannot enjoy the comfort that this Psalm has to offer; indeed, they should be greatly distressed to consider that a work of grace may not have been done in them.

David's second problem is his own internal turmoil. Faith is more troubled by its own internal sin and weakness than it is about the fact that it is sinned against.

His third and fourth problems are both found in the line, "how long will my enemy be exalted over me?" Yes, there is the issue of personal humiliation. But the greater issue for the king (or for us as a royal priesthood) is that the Lord Himself is being despised in whatever is done to His anointed. To David, the kingdom was more important than himself. And for us also, the honor of Christ in the treatment of Christians should be more important than personal offense against ourselves. If it is, this will help us be mindful of how we treat other believers too.

To Delight, v5–6

By the end of the Psalm, David is certain that the Lord is dealing with him according to steadfast love. The inner turmoil has been replaced by rejoicing and singing. How does he get there?

Through Prayer, v3–4.

Prayer. The Lord has not changed David's circumstances, but the very fact that he has the ear of heaven has changed his entire outlook. He is not forgotten; he is considered and heard (v3a). Even if he is on the verge of death, and the enemy is on the verge of victory... what can that do to him, if he has the ear of heaven? A sinner has the ear of the Holy One of Israel!

This is Romans 8:31–39 in raw experience. Nothing can separate him from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. In all these things, he is a super-conqueror. How does he know? He has the ear of heaven. The Lord may not yet have acted to eliminate or humiliate the enemy. But He has encouraged His saint by granting him assurance that he is heard as he cries out.

It is an immeasurable privilege to have access to the throne and the ear of Him Who sits on it. But we subject ourselves to much unnecessary distress and anxiety by not availing ourselves of our privilege. Not only because the Lord has ordained prayer as something through which He acts, but because His Spirit blesses to us the praying itself, assuring us in our own spirit that we have the ear and heart, as it were, of the King of kings.

(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 welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Psalm 13.

To the chief musician the psalm of David. How long oh yeah. Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long shall I take counsel my soul? Having sorrow in my heart daily. How long will my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me oh yeah my god.

Enlightened my eyes lest. I sleep the sleep of death. Plus my enemy say I have prevailed against him. Plus those who troubled me rejoice when I am moved. But I have trusted in your mercy. My heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to you because he has dealt bountifully with me.

So for the, Word of God the reading of God's Word.

So again, it's to the chief musician. Reminder that the Psalms for inspired by the Holy Spirit for use in corporate worship.

And. It's very interesting because the first two verses in the last two verses it's like it's three two verse couplets, basically. But the first two verses in the last two verses are almost exactly opposite in their emotion in their tone. The first two verses are very distressed. He cries out four different times how long.

And then the last two verses are rejoicing delighted singing confident of salvation thankful. And so how does he get from the delight or the despair in verses one and two to the delight versus five and six by means of the prayer? In verse three and four. So verses one and two and they're despair.

He starts with that, which is most distressing obviously it's the circumstances that he can perceive he was unable to see with his eyes or. With unable to access the Lord himself directly.

So the circumstances this enemy that is being exalted over him. Perhaps Saul, maybe more appropriate to the time of Absalom. But the enemy seems to have the upper hand and David seems to be humiliated. This is often the experience of believers the Lord permits and his wisdom his Providence that the enemies of the church enemies of believers would for time seem to have the upper hand not only has this been the experience of most of the church and most places throughout history.

It was also the experience of course of Christ on the cross. And we identify with him and with all of our brethren when we go through such situations. But the enemy being exalted is not the biggest problem. The biggest problem is that it seems like this means that the Lord isn't acting with David in mind.

When he says will you forget me forever the Lord's remembering and forgetting is not a state of consciousness or thought it's the Lord acting in behalf of or in response to something or someone. We ask him not to remember our iniquities, we're not asking God to develop divine amnesia we're asking that he would respond to us or act not in response to our iniquities, but in response to his grace and particularly the grace that has covered that sin and atoned for it in Christ.

Has so the first great problem is that the Lord might not be thinking of David as he acts how long ago will you forget me forever for someone like David the fact that the Lord is always mindful of him always acting in his behalf always turning his face upon him in grace how long will you hide your face for me he says in the second half of the verse that's an infinite source of strength and gladness.

Now there are some who profess Christianity, but they think little of the Lord and they think little of the Lord thinking of them. If it occurred to them that the Lord wasn't being mindful of them and everything he did it does and every place yeah that. That wouldn't distress them because they do not have much they do not have their hope in the Lord they do not see him as the king of the universe who is always always always acting for them and if you don't have this faith in the creator who became a man to be your savior and who works who works all things according to the Council of his will and in everything that he does is acting for your good and the same love that gave you Christ.

You know, that's Christian faith but a lot of people don't have Christian faith so for them it would not be a big deal to think oh well God isn't being mindful of me right now, in fact sometimes something out of the ordinary happens and they think you know their way of thinking is that those are the rare moments in which God is thinking of them?

But for someone like David for biblical faith. They're the knowledge that the Lord is always remembering us in everything that he does is a continual sort of source of strength and gladness and when things seem to go badly if our faith stumbles and we wonder if the Lord is remembering us or if we simply cry out that to us it feels like he is not remembering us that's a real distress for us.

And if you have that distress then Psalm 13 has come for you but if it doesn't bother you to think that the the Lord would not is not mindful of you just now then there isn't comfort for you from Psalm 13. Well that's the biggest problem that's the main thing for him the idea that the Lord is hiding his face the idea that the Lord might be forgetting him or at least putting him through the experience of seeming to be forgotten.

The second problem that David has is his own inner turmoil. How long shall I take counsel? In my soul having sorrow in my heart daily. Faith is more troubled by its own internal sin and weakness than it is about the fact that it is sinned against so if if Biden or somebody else does something crazy which of course happens continually now and I find myself anxious or worried or dismayed or as a result.

I'm more troubled by the fact of my heart's. Wrong response and discouragement and fear and anxiety than I am that the wicked was wicked we could being wicked is to be expected. God having been merciful and given us knowledge of himself in Christ, we're more troubled by our inner turmoil.

And then the third and fourth problems that David has are found in the line how long will my enemy be exalted over me for David this isn't just personal offense he's the Lord's anointed king and he is and in him the Lord has invested his kingship in his kingdom and the same for us who are a royal priesthood and the kingdom of priests those to whom those whom the Lord has united to Christ through faith.

The kingdom is more important than us and the honor of Christ in how we are treated is more important to us than our personal comfort or personal honor or or offense instead of the honor of Christ in the treatment of Christians is more important to us this not only helps us put ourselves in the right perspective, but we'll remember that Christ has invested himself and his honor in other believers and we will be.

As resistant to or troubled by our own mistreating of them and. As anyone else has mistreating of us. And so, these are the things. That are distressing and probably should have put distress not despair in the title there for the section on versus one and two from distress to delight the delight is exactly the opposite.

I have trusted in your mercy that's mercy there is Cassidy steadfast love my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to Yahweh because he has dealt bountifully with me. Our beautifully with me, maybe a better translation there. By the end of this song David is certain that the Lord is dealing with him according to steadfast love according to his covenant of love.

The inner turmoil of verses woman and two have been replaced by rejoicing and singing. How does he get there versus three and four? The whole thing is a prayer but in verse three he especially highlights the praying itself consider and hear me. Oh Yahweh my God. So, He's not just addressing Yahweh as the Creator God over all the earth.

He always has end personal God Learn to use that first-person singular possessive my God, not just our Father we are taught to pray corporately with the rest of the church to God as our Father but the Bible teaches us to use the singular as well. My own God, the one who has bound me personally individually to himself and who is bound himself.

To me in Christ. And so when he says consider and hear me he's letting claim to something that is is privilege as one whom God has brought into covenant with himself. Notice that he goes from distress to delight without a change in circumstances. But the very fact that he has the ear of heaven consider and hear me.

Oh y'all am I God has changed his entire outlook. He's not forgotten. He is considered by Yahweh his God. He is heard by Yahweh is God. Even if he's on the verge of death, so he says give light to my eyes lest I sleep to sleep of death.

When you know that may indicate that he's also ill or perhaps the distress and verses 1 and 2 are making him ill many are many do make themselves ill with anxiety as even worse if. If your anxiety is over thinking that you're ill so you think that you're ill you make yourself anxious the anxiety makes you feel and then you know that you're ill and you get more anxious and.

But he cries out to God enlighten my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death and the circumstance doesn't change but he has the ear of God the enemy still seems to be on the verge of victory verse 4 less my enemy say I have prevailed against him unless those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved again, the circumstance is still there in verse 4 the inner turmoil the the, Side effects of the inner terminal turmoil are there the enemy and the enemy being exalted is still there but he has the ear of God consider and hear me oh yah by my god that first line of verse 3 is the explanation for how he goes from the distress of verses 1 and 2 to the trusting instability and rejoicing and thanksgiving of verses 5 and 6.

What can the enemy do to him if he has the ear of heaven here is a sinner who has the ear of the holy one of Israel so Psalm 13 is an example of what Romans 8:31 to 39 look like in raw experience here's someone who's in the middle of terrible circumstances, but he knows even those circumstances cannot separate him from the love of God that is in Christ.

Jesus God has covenanted himself to him. God has made him God has made him. Self to be his God and so he has access to the throne of grace and he can say consider me and hear me oh Yahweh my God that's the ability that's what in real life, it looks like to say nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus and even in all these things.

I am more than a conqueror we are more than conquerors how does he know that he's a super conqueror because he has the ear of heaven? The Lord has not yet acted to eliminate or humiliate the enemy. But the Lord has encouraged to saint by granting him assurance that he is heard even as he cries out so one of the things you see earlier in Romans chapter 8 is not only that the spirit enables your heart to call God a father but the he also testifies a long with your spirit that God is your Abba that God is your father, so you have this access to God in hard circumstances and when you make, Use.

Of the access one of the things that God the Holy Spirit does is he testifies with you that you have a right to the throne that you are being heard that God is your Father and you are His child. So you've got this theology, but one of the ways that God drives that theology home to your heart is by making use of prayer as a means of grace.

You can see it at work in David here in Psalm 13. The circumstance has not changed. The great thing that the that triggers the difference from the distress and verses 1 and 2 to the delight and the stability and verses 5 and 6 is this consider and hear me.

You all weigh my God in verse 3 and his repeating to to the Lord the situation or his concern in the situation and the rest of verse 3 and verse 4. It is an immeasurable privilege to have access to the throne and to the ear of him who sits on it.

But we subject ourselves to much unnecessary distress and anxiety by not availing ourselves of our privilege. Not only because the Lord has ordained prayer as something through which he acts. But because his Spirit blesses to us the praying itself assuring us in our own spirits that we have the ear and the heart as it were of the king of kings.

So let us all ourselves of our privilege tonight. Calling upon the ear asking God to consider us and hear us.