

Series: Psalms

Title: They That Trust in the Lord

Text: Psalm 125: 1-5

Date: June 6, 2024

Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 125: 1: «A Song of degrees.» **They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. 2:** *As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. 3:* **For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity. 4:** **Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts. 5:** **As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.**

Title: They That Trust in the LORD

Proposition: Simply by trusting in the Lord, Christ saves his people--our confidence is Christ alone.

THE LORD IS SALVATION

Psalm 125:1: **They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.**

Sinners are saved only through faith in the Lord. When God teaches us what sinners we are in our flesh then our confidence is no longer in ourselves or any fleshly sinner--*They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion.* Not they that trust in their will. Not they that trust in their knowledge of doctrine. Not they that trust in their understanding in providence. Not they that trust in their works or in other sinners. But *they that trust in the LORD.*

Philippians 3: 3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

The Spirit of God taught us from the beginning "in my flesh dwells no good thing." We have learned it time and again. We are learning it more and more about ourselves. "In my flesh dwells no good thing." Through many afflictions, through many distresses, the Spirit of God convinces his child I am the sinner. The only thing that comes from my sin-nature is sin. He teaches us it is true of all men lowest to highest.

Psalm 62:9: Surely men of low degree *are* vanity, *and* men of high degree *are* a lie: to be laid in the balance, they *are* altogether *lighter* than vanity.

Isaiah 2: 22: Cease ye from man, whose breath *is* in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Repentance is the Spirit of God convincing us we such wretched sinners that we can have no confidence in our own selves nor any other sinner: not for eternal salvation and not for salvation in providence. But he gives faith so that we trust in the Lord alone. And the Lord honors the faith he gives. He saves his people because we trust him to save us.

Psalm 37:40: And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Jeremiah 39: 18: I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword,...because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.

To you who believe in the Lord alone, he promises we shall never be ashamed or confounded for trusting in him.

Isaiah 45:17: *But* Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

Jeremiah 17: 5: Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. 6: For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited. 7: Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

But be sure to see, the emphasis in our text is the LORD, not our faith. Christ is the Strength and Salvation of each sinner who he gives faith to trust in him. That is the message in our text.

Psalm 125:1: They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. 2: As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

The earthly mount could not be removed. His heavenly Zion cannot be removed but abideth forever! The LORD's church is Mt Zion. You have not come to the mount that might be touched, that burned with fire and tempest. But you are come to Mt Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to God, to Christ the Mediator of the new covenant (Heb 12: 18-25).

The Lord's Mt Zion cannot be removed because God our Father elected to save us by grace. God our Father first trusted Christ. He trusted his elect to him! That is why we shall never be moved. We cannot be moved because Christ redeemed us by his precious blood. His righteousness is round about us like the mountains. Christ's intercession with the Father on our behalf is like a mountain surrounding us. His glory is the defense upon us. The Lord is the mountain surrounding us. We cannot be moved because the Spirit of God regenerated us to trust Christ alone and keeps us trusting Christ alone.

Earthly Jerusalem is surrounded by earthly mountains. But it is better for his people. *As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.*

In Psalm 62 we hear Christ believing in God his Father when the rod of the wicked fell on him. That is how he saved us on the cross. It was by trusting in the LORD his Father. It is also the way we are saved, by trusting in Christ. So hear Christ trust in the Father then hear our own trust in Christ.

Psalm 62: 1: Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him *cometh* my salvation. 2: He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *he is* my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. 3: How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall *shall ye be, and as* a tottering fence. 4: They only consult to cast *him* down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah. 5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation *is* from him. 6 He only *is* my rock and my salvation: *he is* my defence; I shall not be moved. 7: In God *is* my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, *and* my refuge, *is* in God.

Do you trust in the Lord alone? Is Christ your only confidence and salvation? Do you trust in the Lord as a little child? Whatever he sends in providence, do you trust him to save you? *They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever....the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.*

THE ROD OF THE WICKED

Psalm 124: 3: For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.

It is only the Lord--trusting in the Lord--that the Lord saves us from the rod of the wicked.

The Lord does not say "the rod of the wicked" shall never touch his saints. Ishmael mocked Isaac.

Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

You never find this the other way around. Those born after the Spirit lay no rod on brethren, not even on the wicked. It is always the wicked who lay the rod on those born after the Spirit.

The king of Assyria laid a heavy rod upon the Lord's elect in Judah. But God said Sennacherib was a rod in God's hand to work good for his elect to keep them trusting Christ alone. The rod of the devil fell heavy upon Job for a season. But the devil had to have permission from the Lord to afflict Job. That gives me great comfort! The Lord overruled it for Job's good. So the Lord does not say we shall not be touched with the rod of the wicked.

But our Lord promises, *the rod of the wicked shall not REST upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.*

The righteous are made righteous only in and by Christ our Righteousness! The Lord gave us faith to know Christ is our only Righteousness. So the Lord will not permit the rod of the wicked to rest on us, lest the pressure make us turn from the Lord and *put forth our hands unto iniquity*. Lest we be turned away from trusting Christ alone and try to save ourselves from the wicked. Lest the pressure make us submit to their will-works religion and look to the works of our own hands to make us righteous or holy. Lest their rod makes us go after the world's riches. The end motive of the oppressor is to pressure others into submission "that they may glory in your flesh." So the Lord will not permit the rod of the wicked to rest upon us.

TURNED TO CHRIST

Psalm 125: 4: Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.

The way is Christ. He shall turn us to cry unto him to do the saving. This is the prayer Christ puts in our hearts.

Those that be good are those in whom the Spirit has created an upright heart whose goodness is Christ alone. God made Christ Wisdom unto us. So when the rod of the wicked would pressure us to look to our own wisdom, the Holy Spirit keeps us from leaning to our own understanding and makes us cast all our care upon the Lord. We trust in the Lord so we cry, "Do good, O LORD. Save your people, O LORD."

Those good have a new heart to know there is none good but God, God has made Christ Righteousness unto us. So when the rod of the wicked would pressure us to trust in the iniquity of our own hands, we cry to Christ our Righteousness. We trust him to be our Judge and to work righteousness on our behalf. We cry, "Do good, O LORD, save Lord."

God made Christ Sanctification to us. So when the rod of the wicked would make us look to ourselves for sanctification, we cry out to Christ to keep his people separated unto him, partaking of his holiness. We ask Christ, "Be the mountain round about your people, make us immovable, O LORD, keep us separated in your holiness."

God has made Christ Redemption to us. Knowing he alone redeemed us from the curse and condemnation of the law, we trust in him to deliver us from the rod of the wicked. We cry out to our sovereign Savior, "*Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good and are upright in their hearts.*" The upright in heart have been given a new heart by the Holy Spirit to admit that in our flesh dwells no good thing. We have been made upright in heart to confess that we cannot save ourselves. He made us upright in heart so that we call on Christ alone to be our Salvation!

Christ sends the trial and he rules the rod of the wicked to manifest those in whom he dwells, those he preserves, those he approved by his righteousness and holiness and Spirit.

1 Corinthians 11: 19: For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

If Christ be not the Root within then the rod of the wicked will turn men aside to the crooked ways of the workers of iniquity. Yet it is the Lord leading them.

Psalm 125: 5: As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity:

The Lord illustrated this in his parable. Our Savior declared that three out of the four hearers go this way. They are turned by the rod of the wicked.

Mark 4: 14 The sower soweth the word. 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16: And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Psalm 125: 5...but peace shall be upon Israel

Christ is the Peace of his people. When God our Father sent the rod of the wicked upon our Substitute there is but one thing the Lord Jesus did. He trusted in the Father and the Father heard him.

Psalm 22: 13 They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion....15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death...19: But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me...22: I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. 23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. 24 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

Mark it down: there is only one thing his people do by which we are saved.

Psalm 125: 1: They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. 2: As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

John 14: 1: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me...27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Trust in the Lord.

Amen!