



Psalm 31:19–24

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- ¹⁹ Oh, how great is Your goodness,
Which You have laid up for those who fear You,
Which You have prepared for those who trust in You
In the presence of the sons of men!
- ²⁰ You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence
From the plots of man;
You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion
From the strife of tongues.
- ²¹ Blessed be the LORD,
For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!
- ²² For I said in my haste,
“I am cut off from before Your eyes”;
Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications
When I cried out to You.
- ²³ Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints!
For the LORD preserves the faithful,
And fully repays the proud person.
- ²⁴ Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart,
All you who hope in the LORD.
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This Psalm begins with crying out to God from the memory of past mercies and deliverance (vv1–8), then proceeds to escalate the urgency of the crying out in the present distress (vv9–18), before coming back to praise God for past (and future!) mercies and deliverance (v19–24). This week, we come to the final section.

God’s Protection of His People, v19–20.

The greatness of the goodness in vv19–20 sets up the greatness of the praise in vv21–22 and the greatness of the love in vv23–24.

God’s goodness itself here is described as a treasure that He has heaped up and reserved for those who trust in Him. It’s not so much that He has stored up good things for us, though that must be true by secondary implication. Rather, He has stored up Himself for us. He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also together with Him freely give us all things?!

“Your presence” is literally “Your face.” His face is the secret place, the shelter, that the plots and conspiracies of men can never penetrate. Your life is hidden with Christ in God, and when Christ Who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Praise for His Protection of One of Them, v21–22.

As often in the Psalms, we find the Psalmist summoning corporate praise for personal mercy. Not only is this the right desire of every believer, but on the largest possible scale, this is what Christ does as He employs us, His body, in the praise of God.

Again, the miracle is greater than the mere deliverance. The miracle (“marvelous,” v21b) is the kessed of God itself. This is the “fortified city”: the covenanted love of God.

When we operate out of haste or fear, we jump to false conclusions. Nothing can separate us from the ear of God (v22b–c), and this shows us that we are greatly mistaken if we think that anything has ever separated us from the eyes of God (v22a–b).

Just one deliverance of one saint reminds us that Yahweh looks upon us with infinite, everlasting love.

Love for His Protection of All of Them, v23–24.

Finally, the first great commandment in general is still the first great commandment in trouble: love Yahweh with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love Him! That is our greatest duty. Let not the cares of this world (or the pleasures of this world) distract you. Only with loving Him as our great focus will the duty of the moment be offered in the right spirit.

He keeps (His) faithfulness (v23b). His repayment to the proud is full—there is no need for us to be figuring out how to repay them; there is no inadequacy in the sure, imminent vengeance of God.

When we are loving Him, and seeking to be strong, we find that He is the One Who strengthens our heart. Both love for Him and courage for our duty come not from our power but from His!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription Hopewell @

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All right, we've got the end of Psalm 31 tonight versus 19 to 24. Let's ask God for his help our father in heaven. We thank you for your great mercy and giving us situations that throw ourselves upon that.

Mercy, make us cry out to you. We thank you for your patience with us. We know that that comes in your everlasting love and the righteousness and sacrifice of Christ to you gave in that love so that your justice is satisfied. And you can deal with us in mercy, according to him.

So that even when we lose sight of you and even unbelievably, suppose in our hearts that you have lost sight of us. Yeah, your word. Draws us back to call on your name to see that. You are always there to know that you have heard us to praise you and love you.

We thank you for doing that. For David we thank you for doing that for David as we have in this psalm we thank you for giving it to us to pray and to sing the confidence that we may have that. This is part of what you are doing in us to conform us to Christ and that your spirit is stirring us up.

Also to praise and to love. So we pray for your spirits help. Now, as we consider your word that not only might we be well, prepared to come to you in prayer, but that you might bless to us, the specific teaching of this portion of your word and make it bear fruit.

In us these things we ask in Christ's name. Amen. Psalm 31 verses 19 through 24. These are God's words. Oh, how great is your goodness? Which you have laid up for those who fear you, which you have prepared for those who trust in you in the presence of the sons of men.

You shall hide them in the secret place of your presence from the plots of man. You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues blessed be Yahweh for. He has shown me His marvelous kindness and a strong city. For I said, in my haste, I am cut off from before your eyes, never the less you heard the voice of my supplications when I cried out to you.

Oh, love y'all way. All you his saints for y'all, who preserves the faithful and fully repays. The proud person be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart. All you who hope in Yahweh so far, the reading of God's inspired and inerrant word. The first eight verses of this, psalm the the Psalmist David was crying out to God, having remembered that God has delivered him before and so he ends up in a situation where God has done this before and then the Holy Spirit records it for us.

So that if we are in a situation that we have never been in before yet his people have been and he has delivered them in that. There is nothing that ever comes into our life where we can't look to the Lord and say, well, he's done harder things before and so versus one through eight, apply both in our own experience and through the experience of his people in whom he has shown himself over and over again.

Last week as the praying got going, it got extremely urgent in the crying out and then at the end of last week's portion he said let the lying lips be put to silence which speak insulant things proudly in contemptuously against the righteous and even as he is praying that he realizes that that's exactly what's going to happen.

There's twin truths here that are the same twin truths that we have in Psalm 73 where he goes to worship this happen in that case goes to worship. Realizes the end of the wicked remembers. The justice of God remembers the vengeance of God and how quickly the wicked will fall, but that's just one of the twins.

The other one, of course, is that he already has heaven. Even on her because he has the face, the eye, the ear, in case of Psalm 73, the hand of and the council of his God. And that's the same thing that's happening here. Verse 18 is a trigger on the one hand, he remembers the, what the wicked are coming into, and then he launches into God himself and the goodness of God itself as the treasure that is stored up for his people.

And so, the six verses that we have before us tonight, really climax in, praise to God and love to God. And the first two verses are God's protection of his people, which is he himself is the protection. The next two verses 21 and 22 are his praise for God's protection.

Of one of them namely himself. That is David in this particular case, and then versus 23 and 24. Urging all of God's saints to love him. Because what he has done for David versus 21 and 22 is not an isolated incident, but something that the Lord does for all of his people.

And so it's the greatness of the goodness that is described in versus 19 and 20 that sets up the greatness of the praise and verses 21 and 22, and the greatness of the love in verses 23 to 24. So verse 19. Oh, how great is your goodness? And then verse 21 blessed, be your way and then verse 23.

Oh love yahweh. All you has saints, the praise and the love respond to the goodness. In verse 19, God's goodness itself here is described as the treasure. Oh, how great is your goodness? Which you have laid up for those who fear you. The language that's used there of laying up is not that I would encourage you to necessarily watch any particular films that happen in middle earth, but if you can imagine even without such a film, a dragon laying upon hoards and hoards of treasure that, I'm not sure if hoard is a word that you use with treasure mountains of treasure that he has laid up for himself, that's what that language is used.

Or maybe a miserly king. God is not a miserly king, he's laying it up for us, but collecting is much as possible. And yet there is no created thing. That is good enough to be the treasure that God lays up for his people. And so it's himself. It's his own goodness.

That is the treasure that is laid up for us. So there's no such thing as 90 minutes in heaven, because in order for it to be what Jesus has earned, it has to be forever and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and heaven. And if there was 90 minutes and having it would not be 89 minutes and 59 seconds of created things.

And a second of Jesus, it would be 90 minutes of Jesus. And that's the goodness here. Oh, how great is your goodness? Which you have laid up for those who fear you so not so much that he stored up good things for us. Although that is true by secondary implication but he has stored up himself for us and then those other things come in the way they do.

In Romans 8 verse 32, he who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for a soul. I will be not also together with him freely. Give us all things. And so, there's this secret place, where, where his people are hidden from the plots of men and there's, this secret shelter, where his people are hidden from the strife of tongues.

So, plots of man strife of tongues those conspiring against him. The lion lips from verse 18, but they have no idea. The kind of shelter that David has why? Because his shelter is not a what or aware, but a whom his shelter is the Lord himself. In fact, the word that's translated presence.

There and verse 20 is face the secret place of your face. The wicked. No, not the face of God. They do not know what the righteous have. If they knew how completely impenetrable our fortress was, well they're wicked enough to try anyway, but they would know that they were going to fail.

And the Lord has made his face the the place of our shelter and our defense pavilion there. I guess if you go to a park, there's a pavilion. It's where everyone runs when there's rain or sun. Well, the Lord is the shelter of his people. Had a very ironic experience this week.

Walked into an establishment. And on the front door of the establishment is a big masks required sign and then stenciled beautifully above the front desk. After you went in was a quote from other Teresa about how we cannot appreciate enough for something to that effect. The world of difference that one smile can make.

Well, I appreciate human smiles, but the smile of God, the face of God, that's what the believer has the Lord bless you. And keep you make us face to shine upon you lift up his countenance upon you. It's actually the same word. He says, faced twice and the ironic blessing for his people and his face here.

Psalms 31 verse 20, that's that's our shelter and no one, no one can take it from us. If your life is hidden with Christ in God as Colossians, 3 says, then when Christ, who is our life appears, you also will appear with him in glory. There's nothing that can penetrate the shelter that guarantees that when your life is hidden with Christ in God, so that's the goodness and already.

I hope we can hear why we would respond with prays verse 21 and 22, and with love versus 23, 24 verse 21, blessed to be Yahweh. For he has sent me his marvelous kindness and a strong city. You remember all the way back at the beginning of the psalm, this was addressed to the chief musician and the chief musician, let leads the singing or was to lead the singing, and the public worship, and probably in the public worship of the temple.

Remember, that was one of David's, great endeavors efforts for the last great part of his life. After he was promised that his son would build the temple, he started collecting gold and precious stones. And, and the large stones to build with, and timber and silver. And Levites because Levites were provided for the public worship.

And so this isn't just blessed to be all way for. He has shown me his marvelous, kindness and a strong city. Yeah. David on his harp somewhere in the in the palace, you know just having alone time with God this is David. Have it received personal deliverance? He has shown me, his marvelous kindness verse 21.

I said, in my haste, I am not cut off, from before her eyes. Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my supplications when I see it was personal, deliverance, but praise by himself isn't enough for him. He wants all of God's people to praise God for what he has done.

And of course, the biggest example of this is our Lord Jesus himself Psalm 22, perhaps. Well, maybe not for you anymore. We've been there so many times and done this many times, but it is most famous for the way it starts. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

And yet that last third of the Psalm coming out of Christ's suffering and his eagerness to declare God's name to his brother and his eagerness to sing God's. Praise not only by himself, but in the midst of the assembly. And so it is very Christ. Like in us and here by the Holy Spirit in David that when you receive a deliverance, you can't wait for public worship.

When you will pray is with his people and his people will praise with you, the God who has done it. Now, the miracle, of course, is greater than the mirror deliverance, There is a deliverance here. The the lying lips apparently either have been in the past and so he's sure they will be in the future, or maybe, excuse me.

Maybe the psalm is written in stages, We don't know exactly. So, there is an earthly deliverance, either past present or future, that is being referred to here. But when he says blessed to be always, he says for he has sent me his marvelous, kindness and the word kindness is God said, steadfast love, covenanted.

Love the word, marvelous means marvelous, we may be overuse it refers to a wonder something that is utterly miraculous and here. It's the love of God. That is the great miracle. The fact that God has bound himself to this creature and probably you want the word as there as in a strong city.

The the love of God itself is the strong city again and the verse 22. Tells you in part. Why. It's a miracle, not only because God is God, and David is a creature, but because God is holy and David is a sinner and God listened to him in mercy.

Anyway, How many times have you? Or I been praying to God and realized we're not really praying in faith. We're not really praying out of wholehearted. Love for his glory or even asking him in the middle of the prayer that we might have a little more love for his glory so that we could feel better about this praying and then we realized that we're asking it because we want to feel better about the praying.

There's a make me want to love your glory more out of love for your glory and we we have the the sinfulness so deeply in grained in us still that he will praise. God have gotten rid of in the day of Christ Jesus. But look at first verse 22 after he talks about the miracle of God steadfast love, God's covenant love in verse 21.

He says four, I said, in my haste, I am cut off from before your eyes. That's unbelief. He should have believed, nothing shall separate us from the eyes of God. And yet what he discovered when he cried out, I am cut off from before your eyes, even as we heard earlier, in the psalm couple weeks ago, is lesson, nothing does separate us from the ears of God that are in Christ.

Jesus, never the last. You heard the voice of my supplication, when I cried out to you, behold the mercy of God to sinners, even when they're doubting him now for sinners, like we are who are often doubting him and not loving him. Like we ought to the miracle of his steadfast love towards us is good cause for praise.

And so we have verse 19 of. How great is your goodness. First 21 blessed. Be always the praise. And finally the instruction to love the command to love. Oh love. Y'all way all you has saints and there's a play on words there in the first line. Not sure. You know you can have the word for saints.

If you see Saints in your English it's usually kind of shame from Kadosh the the word for holy. So all you his holy ones this one is and you can hear the word that that comes from. Can't you? And so you have you have the first one. Oh love.

Y'all way. That one's from a Java which if you've been to Israel you know, is a dead sea mineral mud cream, that is supposed to do wonders for your skin or whatever and it's a very touristy thing to put to make the name brand love in Hebrew but that's human love.

And so it's not exactly like, but if you're accustomed to Greek type words, you remember, Peter and Jesus and do you agape me, I feel owe. You not sure. There's as strong as the distinction. There is a difference, and that's helpful in that case, but there's something similar here.

Oh, love Yahweh, all you is casadim, oh, you his objects of his covenanted steadfast, love this love that he set upon you in Christ from before the world began. That is so determined that you know, the covenanted aspect of the steadfast aspect, you can hear English translators actually King James made up loving kindness because they're just wasn't an English word.

That was good enough. Not the king himself but the translators of the translation that goes by his name and that's this. Love that is so determined that it will be on. It will refuse to be thwarted even by our sin, even though it cost at last the incarnation and the crucifixion of our Lord.

So maybe unfoldable love. What do you do with it? I don't know. But oh, love Yahweh. All you has saints. We love him verse 23 because he first loved us and the love with which he has loved us is as one that a wrist and appropriate response to can only be produced in us by him himself.

And so the first great commandment in general, is still the first great commandment when you're in trouble, love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength for y'all. We preserves the faithful. Now that's an okay translation. And yet the word faithful, also just means faithfulness or steady ones, reliable ones or it might just mean y'all way keeps faith or keeps faithfulness.

Which in parallel with either, it's still like the object where it's love yahweh. All you object of his love for y'all way preserves the ones whom he's making faithful or perhaps, it's just his faithfulness. Either way the Lord is faithful in the midst of your troubles. And one of the things he gives you troubles for is to remember that his faithfulness doesn't depend on your circumstances and his faithfulness doesn't depend on whether it seems to you, like things are going.

Well in those circumstances to remember that, his faithfulness depends on him because he is faithful, then he is loving and sometimes he hides his work from us so that will remember that his character is true in and of itself. He always proves his character in his work, but he doesn't always let us see how that's coming about in order to stir up.

Love that is for him himself and then he says, and he fully repays, the proud person. What is that do? Well, it gives us more personal resources to spend on loving the Lord on serving the Lord. Remember. Lord say morning is we considered Christ and the way he suffered and how the apostles applied that, and they had, they had suffered for being bold in speaking about Christ.

And the very first thing they pray for where they say, look on their threats and then they ask and grant that, we would speak boldly and then they went out and spoke boldly. Well, how how is it that you have all those resources for loving the Lord for persisting and loving him?

It's because he's gonna take care of the vengeance. He fully repays. The proud person, that means there's no repayment. Left the word fully there means God is going to take care of all of the repaying. It's not our job to try to get them back. Now if we're in authority over them, it's our job to exercise justice in, whatever authority sphere that he is placed under us.

But how often are we in a situation like that? Isn't it more often that we are are being treated wickedly by those with over whom we are not actually in authority but we don't need to worry about taking vengeance or repaying them or or setting things right in our behalf.

The Lord has got that verse 23 says fully covered. So be strong and he shall strengthen your heart, and glad New King James did well with that. A lot of the other English translations, let your heart be strong, the the verb is better with God as it's subject, be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart, all you, who hope in your way because he is taking care of making sure that everything works out together for your good.

You are free to throw yourself entirely into loving and serving him. Now, serving him will sometimes mean loving your neighbor and standing with your neighbor defending your neighbor, but you'll be doing so out of love for God. So God's the greatness of God's goodness. Oh how great is your goodness?

Our response of praise verse 21 blessed beyahweh and our responses of love verse 23. Oh, love y'all way. All you his saints but let us call upon his name and part of love to him. Praying is an act of worship and an expression of love unto God. But it also gives us that opportunity to discover what David discovered, never the last.

You heard the voice of my supplications. When I cried out to you.