

Series: Psalm

Title: Our Defender, Advocate, Judge

Text: Psalm 58:1-11

Date: March 12, 2020

Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 58: 1: « To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David

This is another “destroy thou not” Psalm, as well as another “golden psalm” of David.

Believer, have you ever been charged unjustly? Have men ever spoken unrighteous things about you? King David experienced that. He wrote this Psalm to the unjust judges that Saul bribed to charge him with treason.

But even better, Christ experienced this. Unjust judges spoke unrighteousness against Christ and unjustly accused God in human flesh of sin. They unjustly sentenced the Prince of Life to die the cruel, cursed death of the cross.

This Psalm speaks of two people—the wicked and the righteous. The wicked are all who reject Christ and would harm his people. The righteous is Christ and those who Christ made righteous by his person and works. This Psalm is Christ speaking.

For our divisions we will see the good news for every believer that 1) Christ is our Defender who convicts the wicked that unjustly judge us 2) Christ is our Advocate with the Father for our good who calls for the destruction of the wicked 3) Christ is our Judge who carries out judgment in this life on behalf of his people.

Title: Our Defender, Advocate and Judge

OUR DEFENDER

Psalm 58: 1: Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men? 2: Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth. 3: The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. 4: Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; 5: Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

Christ is our defender. If any have not believed on Christ then Christ speaks this to you. If there are any who are unjustly accusing Christ’s people, Christ speaks this of you—*“Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?”*

Who among sinners can stand up and charge other sinners with unrighteousness. Do you speak righteousness about your own self before God? Do you judge uprightly concerning your own self before God? Let me show you what it is to speak righteousness concerning ourselves before God. This is judging uprightly about our own selves before God. David prayed to God,

Psalm 51: 1: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2: Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3: For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. 4: Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

We judge uprightly and we speak righteousness when we take sides with God against ourselves. But in the day when Christ walked this earth, the wicked took sides with each other against God and against his Christ in an attempt to justify themselves before men.

In every generation the wicked exalt themselves as judges over Christ’s people, condemning Christ’s people (the righteous) in attempt to justify themselves. So Christ prosecuted his own wicked accusers. Christ prosecuted David’s wicked accusers. He prosecutes our wicked accusers. No wicked sinner shall escape the righteous, just judgment of Christ our Defender. He says to the wicked, *“Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?”*

We know Paul quoted verse 4 in Romans 3. But this may be the Psalm Paul had in mind when he wrote Romans 2. He says, *“Do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?”* Then in Romans he writes,

Romans 2: 1: Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2: But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3: And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

When a sinner judges another sinner he condemns himself because BEFORE GOD he is guilty of doing the same things. But when God judges, it is according to truth and none shall escape. The only place God judges a sinner to be “the righteous” is in Christ the Righteous. Believe on him, forgive one another for his sake and leave judgment to God.

Christ defends his people by convicting the wicked of heart-wickedness. This is true of all of us in our sin-nature—*"Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth."* Wicked sinners are quick to condemn the outward acts of other sinners—especially God's saints. But our omniscient God sees the sinful acts men commit in our heart—*"Ye weigh the violence of your hands in earth."* As sinful as you see the outward acts of your brethren to be, just know that God sees far more sin being committed by you in your heart!

Isaiah 26:7 says that God "weighs the path of the just." It means God observes it, considers it, approves of it, and takes delight in it as being right and agreeable to his mind and will. Here it means in their hearts the wicked "*weigh the violence of their hands in the earth*"—they think on it, purpose it, approve of it and commit it with delight because it is agreeable to their sin-nature. The proud self-righteous religious sinner works wickedness in their heart far worse than the outward acts they condemn in God's people. And God sees "*for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*" (1Sa 16:7)

David said, "*Thou desirest truth in the inward parts; in the inward part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*" Before we exalt ourselves as self-righteous judges we should remember that Christ had mercy on sinners who struggled with outward acts of sin but whose hearts rested in Christ's righteousness alone, who were constrained by Christ's love, who loved their brethren, who delighted in mercy toward others. But Christ was strict with the self-righteous whose outward acts appeared righteous before men yet whose hearts were hard as stone, with no love for Christ or his people, with no mercy or forgiveness. No sin is good. But I would rather struggle outwardly with acts of sin and have a new heart set on Christ with love and mercy toward my brethren than to be straight as an arrow outwardly with a stony heart of self-righteousness—because God looks on the heart.

Christ declares the wicked are sinners from the womb—*"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent."* We sinned in Adam; we were conceived in sin from Adam; so we are all estranged FROM GOD from the womb; we go ASTRAY FROM GOD as soon as we are born.

Romans 5: 12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

A lie is what we are therefore lies is what we speak—out of the poisonous heart the mouth speaks. Unregenerate, wicked sinners lie about their righteousness, sin and guilt. They speak lies on Christ. The message they preach is lies.

But the wicked will not hear God's gospel—*"they are like the deaf adder [asp] that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."* Our gospel is like the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely. The charm of the gospel is Christ Jesus the Righteous. The doctrine that charms the believer is God the Father's divine election in Christ by grace, Christ's finished redemptive work for his people, the Spirit's regenerating grace to give us life, alone with God's preserving grace, resurrecting grace, and glorifying grace. The charm of the gospel is that salvation is all of grace apart from our wicked works. But wicked sinners shut up the ear to the gospel like a deaf adder to the voice of charmers.

1 Corinthians 2: 14: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

This is so of all sinners, including God's elect. This is the wickedness we are and which Christ must save his people from.

Romans 3: 9: What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13: Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: 14: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: 15: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: 16: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: 17: And the way of peace have they not known: 18: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

What makes some remain the wicked and others to be "the righteous?" Not by the works of the law. The law was given to give us a knowledge of our sin to shut our mouths in guilty.

Romans 3: 19: Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

How then are some made to be "the righteous?" It is only by Christ's faithful works given to us freely through faith in him.

Romans 3: 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood,

1 Corinthians 4:7: For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

Why then would you and I, believer, glory by condemning another sinner? Why would look at the outward, sinful acts of one Christ purged of all sin and exalt ourselves in judgment over them? You and I are wicked in ourselves. Everything we have God gave us freely by his grace through the blood and righteousness of Christ Jesus his Son. So Christ speaks to wicked sinners who spoke unrighteousness of him and who speak unrighteousness of those for whom Christ died, saying, *"Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?"* Christ said what men do to his people, they do to him. Believer, we never want to be guilty of charging others unjustly, especially one for whom Christ died because it is charging Christ Jesus our Righteousness. But remember, when we are charged, Christ is not only our Righteousness but arises like a defense attorney on our behalf. Christ is our Defender!

OUR ADVOCATE

Psalm 58: 6: Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. 7: Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. 8: As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun.

We see Christ our Advocate with the Father. Here Christ intercedes against his accusers and ours by asking the Father to execute judgment upon the wicked—*"Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD."* Notice, in this, the perfect faith of Christ the Son of God. He is speaking to the Father against the wicked in defense of his people. Christ is our Advocate who intercedes for his people. The teeth are often put for the destructive words that the wicked speak. Christ asks the Father to shut the mouths of the wicked who intend to slander his people.

Christ advocates for the wicked to be taken away so as to do no harm to his church who Christ has made righteous—*"Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun."*

We see the election of grace in this, Christ prays for the destruction of the wicked and he does so for the good of his people, God's elect, chosen by free grace in Christ.

Also, we see *the sovereignty of God* in this. Our God is sovereign to make the wicked melt away. He cuts their arrows so that they do no harm to his people in this earth in this life. He makes them melt away like a snail. God makes our enemies as useless as if they had not been born.

Believer wait on the Lord Jesus Christ to Defend you against the wicked. And wait on Christ to advocate for us with the Father to stop our enemies. But whatever you do, never be found on the side of the wicked against whom Christ intercedes.

OUR JUDGE

Psalm 58: 9: Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath. 10: The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked; 11: So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

Believer, when the self-righteous turn again to bite and devour you with their self-exalting judgment, wait on Christ our Judge to execute judgment. Christ not only arises to be our Defender, he not only Advocates for us with the Father, but also the Father has given all judgment into Christ's hand. It is Christ who executes Judgment for us, right now in the earth and who shall do so at the last great judgment. He tells us three things about his judgment.

One, God's judgment upon the wicked shall be speedy—*"Before your pots can feel the thorns"*—it is like us saying before you can boil water. *"He shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath."* He means right now in this life God judges our enemies speedily. Look at Korah for example. Korah plotted against Moses and Aaron. In the midst of his scheming, while they were alive and planning, God in his wrath opened the earth and swallowed them up speedily then closed the ground upon them.

Two, God's judgment upon the wicked shall be thorough—*"he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked."* Vengeance shall be thorough: Christ shall make a thorough end of all our enemies, washing his feet in the blood of the wicked.

Three, judgment upon the wicked shall cause his people to rejoice—*"The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance...So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth."* God's people do not rejoice in God's vengeance as a personal vendetta. We would much rather see sinners granted repentance and reconciled to God through faith in Christ. But God's people rejoice in the justice of God. Christ justified his people so God's justice demands none be lost. We rejoice in the vindication of God's honor. And we rejoice in Christ's righteousness.

Our reward is all of grace. By his providential judgment in this life, God makes us know that our religion is not a vain and unprofitable thing. Our triune God is the living God. Right now he judges the wicked in this earth for the safety of his people and honor of his holy name and that makes us rejoice.

1 Chronicles 16: 20: And *when* they went from nation to nation, and from *one* kingdom to another people; 21: He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes, 22: *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. 23: SING unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. 24: Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.

Sinner hear this word. If you find yourself on the side of the wicked, repent and worship Christ now. You will not win otherwise. *“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”* (Ps 2:12)

For you who Christ has made “the righteous”: trust Christ our Defender to deal with the wicked for you; wait on Christ our Advocate with the Father to stop the wicked who would harm us; leave vengeance to Christ our Judge who shall take care of the wicked speedily, thoroughly and make us rejoice in the justice of God!

Amen!