

Series: Psalms

Title: The Response of the Perfect

Text: Ps 64:1-10

Date: May

Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 64: 1: « To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. »

As we read Ps 64: 1-10 hear Christ praying to the Father while in this earth as the GodMan, Mediator.

Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. 2: Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: 3: Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: 4: That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. 5: They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? 6: They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.

7: But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. 8: So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away. 9: And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing. 10: The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

Subject: The Response of the Perfect

Verse 4 says that they “shoot in secret at THE PERFECT: suddenly do they shoot AT HIM, and fear not.” The Perfect is the Lord Jesus Christ. Nobody has ever endured the bitter attack of enemies like the Perfect Lord Jesus when we walked this earth. Has any brother or sister in Christ ever been slandered or reviled by men? What was your response? We failed miserably did we not? We reviled back, defended ourselves, did some reviling of our own—if not in word at least in heart. Have you ever been there? But we see here the response of the Perfect. Christ is not only our Salvation but he has left us an example to follow.

Proposition: When our Lord Jesus was attacked by his enemies, he committed all to God the Father and we will see what God did and does for those who commit all to Christ.

Divisions: 1) Christ’s description of his enemies 2) The response of the Perfect 3) What God does for those who commit it all to him

CHRIST DESCRIBES HIS ENEMIES

Psalm 64: 2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: 3: Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: 4: That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. 5: They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? 6: They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.

As we look at these descriptions, remember this is the sin-nature of every sinner as we come into this world. Christ describes his enemies as the workers of iniquity under the power of the devil. “The wicked” is first of all the devil. “The workers of iniquity” are those under the power of the devil. The Sanhedrin, Pharisees, Sadducees, and a host of wicked sinners all sought to destroy our Redeemer. They were sinners under the power of the devil.

John 8: 44: Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

All are not children of the devil. There is a remnant who God chose in Christ by free and sovereign grace before the foundation of the world. We come forth sons of God. But all sinners enter this world walking “according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” (Eph 2:2)

Christ describes how they worked iniquity. He speaks of “the secret counsel of the wicked.” They thought they could plan and scheme and no one would see. Natural man does not believe that God is all-knowing. Truth is, there are no secrets before God; he knows all.

Christ speaks of “the insurrection of the workers of iniquity.” Insurrection is a violent uprising against authority. It was a tumult which is a loud confused noise. They wanted others hating the one they hated. Therefore, they stirred up insurrection against the Prince of Life.

Bitter words were their weapons, “Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.” Spiritually dead sinners have no fear of God before their eyes, no fear of Christ as God. Therefore, they tried to surprise God in human flesh and take him unawares. How foolish!

Spiritually dead sinners commune with each other encouraging each other in ways to work evil against Christ, *“They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them?”* They emboldened one another in the evil plotting against Christ, convincing one another their schemes would work. Most of Christ’s enemies hate each other but they commune in harmony on the one subject of rejecting Christ. They were conceited in their efforts, thinking they were taking Christ by surprise and he would not see. But God our Savior knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. Here he is describing their hearts and intentions.

Spiritually dead sinners search diligently to find ways to commit iniquity against God, *“They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search.”* But they only accomplish it if it is the will of God for his glory and the good of his saints, as it was with Christ our Redeemer.

Psalm 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

Here is the problem. It is the sinner’s evil heart, *“both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.”* Brethren, unless the Spirit of God irresistibly, graciously create in us a new heart, that is the enmity against God in every carnal mind.

Jeremiah 17: 9: The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Ecclesiastes 9:3 [God says through Solomon]...the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

What madness would it reveal for a person on life support to try everything he could to destroy the life support machine! Christ’s enemies (you and I when dead in sins) were seeking to destroy the all-knowing, all-powerful Prince of Life who gives and sustains even our natural life. That is the utter madness of our sin-nature.

God is the only one who can reveal to us the depravity of our hearts. Only God’s irresistible grace can save a sinner from himself, from his hatred of God. That is why salvation must all be of God’s grace. Knowing this about ourselves should help us when other sinners revile us. It should help us do as Christ did.

THE RESPONSE OF THE PERFECT

Psalm 64: 1: Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. 2: Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

What was the response of the Perfect? How did the perfect Lord Jesus respond to his enemies? He committed himself to the Father. God give us grace to respond the same.

We see Christ’s condescension here: Christ is God! He could have summoned more than twelve legions of angels to his defense. But as the representative of God’s elect, the Son of God took flesh and became entirely dependent upon God his Father. This is Christ THE PERFECT. This is perfect submission, perfect faith and fidelity, perfect holiness, and righteousness. This is the perfection of every true believer, Christ THE PERFECT.

Notice, what he did not do. When he was reviled, he reviled not again. It would not have been perfect submission or faith or holiness to the Father to revile again.

None of us likes for someone to malign our character and reputation. And we do not want the things they say to be true. But you and I are sinners. If someone misses us with one accusation, they can get it right with another—we are sinners! But this is Jesus Christ the Perfect—in him is no sin—he said, *“Which of you convinceth me of sin?”* He had a character and reputation worth defending. Yet, when he was reviled, he did not revile again. May God help us to remember: if our Perfect Savior did not revile again then let us, the imperfect, learn not to revile again.

But what the response of THE PERFECT? He committed himself to God who judges righteously. Look at his three requests: *“Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer.”* He used his tongue for the best purpose—he committed himself to God his Father. He said not simply hear my prayer but hear *my voice* in my prayer. Brethren, we never want to pray to be seen of men or even to be seen of God; we do not want to be heard for our much speaking. The Pharisee’s stand on street corners and make long prayers for those reasons. We want God to hear *our voice*: the earnestness, the hunger, the need, our utter dependence upon the Father.

Since our Perfect Substitute is our Intercessor, most importantly, we want God to hear Christ’s Voice. His is THE VOICE—*“Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice, with THE VOICE together shall they sing.”* If all you hear is my voice preaching, even if I lift up my voice in agreement with every preacher on earth, it will do you no good. But Christ said, *“my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I...Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice, with THE VOICE together shall they sing.”*

The same is true of prayer. If all God hears is my voice then I am in trouble. But Christ is THE VOICE that makes our preaching and our prayer effectual. When we pray we want Christ to intercede saying, “Hear MY Voice, O God, in [their] prayer.” He is our Advocate with the Father.

1 John 2: 1:...if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: [THE PERFECT] 2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of [his elect throughout the world]

Two, Christ the Perfect committed all to the Father by asking God, “*Preserve my life from the fear of the enemy.*” He asked God to preserve him, not only from the enemy, but from the disquieting fear they caused; fear has torment. Again, we see our Lord’s humanity in this. He was touched with the same feeling of our infirmities, yet without sin. He had a fear of the enemy even as we. When the Jews sought his life he walked no more in Judea till near the time. In that we see that our Redeemer was really a Man, the same as he was really God. Why is that important? As a Man he could fulfill the law for us; bear our sins; bleed and die! As God everything he accomplished for his people was in power and eternal! Plus, he can comfort us!

Hebrews 2: 17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

When we fear, we are tempted to take matters into our own hands. But he submitted perfectly in perfect faith to the Father—“*preserve my life from the fear of the enemy.*” Doing so, he worked out perfect Faith for his people so that Jesus Christ the Perfect is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

But understand, he never asked to be preserved from the cross. He came to lay down his life in place of his people to declare God just and Justifier. But he trusted the Father to *preserve his life from the fear of the enemy* until that appointed hour came

Brethren, we have many enemies and all seek to devour us; and we fear the fiery darts of the wicked. But let us always follow our Substitute and commit the preservation of our life—spiritual and natural—to Christ even as he did to the Father. We preach and believe perseverance of the saints by the preserving power of our God, so let us act like it.

1 Peter 1:5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The third petition our Savior made was “*Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity.*” God hid him from the counsel itself as well as from the wicked who counseled. God hid him from the noisome trouble as well as the workers of iniquity who caused it. No man was able to lay hand on our Redeemer until the time appointed by God. The same will be true of his people. But in all three requests note, Christ did not revile but committed himself to the Father.

1 Peter 2: 19: For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20: For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. 21: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: 24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25: For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Some believer is hearing this right now and you are saying I have failed at this. So have I and so have your brethren. But God forgives for Christ’s sake and God gives more grace. Christ grows us in grace and knowledge of him by letting us fail then making us learn from our failures so that the next time, by his grace and power, we commit all to Christ as he did to the Father.

WHAT GOD DOES FOR THE COMMITTED

Psalm 64: 7: But God shall shoot at them *with* an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. 8: So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away. 9: And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing. 10: The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

What did God do for Christ and what does God do for his people for the sake of Christ when we commit all to him?

One, God defends us. God dealt with Christ’s enemies and God shall deal with ours—“*But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away.*” Remember, those four judgments of God—*famine, pestilence, war and wild beasts?* They are described in scripture as God’s arrow and Gods’ sword (Eze 5:16,17 Ps 91:5,6 De 32:41,42) God shall deal with our enemies: we do not have to fight them. God will make their own tongue fall upon themselves. So commit it to God and trust God to deal with our enemies.

Psalm 7: 10: My defence *is* of God, which saveth the upright in heart. 11: God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry *with the wicked* every day. 12: If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. 13: He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors.

Two, God shall bring glory to himself. He used the trial of Christ's enemies to bring honor to himself—"*And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing.*" Men did to our Substitute only that which God before ordained—and we are still declaring the work of God over 2000 years later. Christ conquered the devil for his people—the devil and his seed thought they were overcoming our Savior—but the only thing they did was wound our Savior's heal while our Savior utterly crushed the devil's head and conquered all our enemies. He conquered putting away the sin of his people, he brought in everlasting righteousness for his people and he made reconciliation between God and his people. Christ conquered death for his people—Christ said if you believe on him then right now you have eternal life; you shall never see death. And by God's grace Christ conquers our sin-nature—making us wise so that we consider his doing and we fear God. Brethren, knowing God conquered our greatest enemies will he not conquer all workers of iniquity who come up against us?

Romans 8: 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. [shall the enemy separate us from God in Christ] 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36: As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Three, God shall make his people glad. For you who are righteous in Christ, upright in heart by Christ dwelling in your new hearts, this shall be the sure end after God has dealt with our enemies—"*The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.*" We glory in the same one we are made glad in, the same one we trust in—that is in the Lord of glory!

Brethren, I say this with reverence, was Christ disappointed for committing himself to God our Father? Then being made righteous in Christ and upright in heart by the indwelling of Christ neither shall we. Let us end by reading Ps 37. In every trial and at all times, do this. If you detect I am being overcome by my sin-nature then remind me to do this. This is our salvation in every trial and at all times.

Psalm 37: 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. 6: And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

AMEN