

Prep

Central Truth

Trust + Prayer = Waiting for the Lord

Purpose

I would like the listener to slow down and see that the pursuits that we often chase today are worth putting into the hands of the Lord and to wait trusting and praying that he will be the stronghold of their life.

Outline

What do we want?

While you Wait – Trust and Pray

Trust in the Lord (27:1-3)

Pray to the Lord (27:4-14)

Dwell with the Lord (4-6)

Ask of the Lord (7-14)

Salvation and the Saviour

Wait for the Lord (27:14)

Bible Reading:

Psalm 27

CHECK TIME

Talk

Prayer

Dear Lord and Father,

Hear our voice when we call

Be merciful and answer

Don't hid your face from us,

Or reject us

But instead teach us

So that we might confidently live in the light of your salvation.

AMEN

What do we want?

- There are places to see.
 - People to meet
 - Much to achieve
 - Lots to learn
 - Things to do
 - Relationships to have
 - Words to say
 - Children to raise
 - Study to finish
 - Jobs to succeed
 - Money to earn
 - Property to buy
 - Holidays to enjoy
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- There are so many good things in life and there is such an urgency and drive to achieve them.
 - Yet none of them happen without the hand of God.
 - The believer knows that, even if we find it hard to live by.
 - The unbeliever will find it out, sooner or later and hopefully not too late.
 - Yet all of us, depend on the Lord to give what he chooses to give, when he chooses to give it.
 - And so we wait, and hope, that God will give us what we want.

Talk – Psalm 27 – House Rules

In Psalm 27, David has worked out how to wait on the Lord – to wait till he gives what he chooses to give. And he says, **while you Wait – Trust and Pray.**

Explanation

Let me show you.

- The author of this Psalm David, the *King* David of Israel, the best known King of the Old Testament people of God.
- For all the many blessings he enjoyed, and privileges he received, he was a King who at times of his life suffered greatly and often at the hands of many enemies – you can read through 2 Samuel or 1 Chronicles in the Old Testament to find a record of those conflicts.
- Those conflicts serve as a backdrop to what he wants to teach in this Psalm.
- It might help if we start where we will finish.
- In Verse 14 David expresses his confidence in the Lord – and twice calls on those who read this Psalm (14) to ‘wait for the Lord’.

Application

- If you are someone who is longs for something, then I hope you will see that this Psalm connects with that longing (as difficult as it might be) and calls on you to ‘Wait for the Lord’.
- This Psalm will also tell you what to do while you wait.

Trust in the Lord (27:1-3)

State

- In verses 1-3, David says Trust in the Lord.
- For him, the Lord his is his light and his salvation – for him the Lord is his stronghold – and as such he says, if the Lord is who I trust in, then who is there to fear, who is there to be afraid of.
- In fact he gives some examples – verse 3 – if evil men advance, if enemies and foes attack, if an army besieges, if war breaks out – then his confidence is in the Lord, for him there is nothing to fear.

Explanation

- If I happened to be a King, or represented my country in an arena of war, which I know some here do, then these words would immediately resonant with me.
- But that is not the setting for most of us.
- That said, what is expressed here is a picture that any believer should be able to resonant with if you have received any opposition to your faith.

Application

- In this congregation we have teachers who are restricted in what you can teach about Christianity
- We have scientists who often ridiculed for holding faith and fact together instead of in opposition.
- We have doctors who cannot talk to patients even with terminal illnesses about faith matters
- Along with a host of other professions who in varies ways and through various means are contained in what they say about Jesus.
- And many of us have families who reject Christianity and as a result makes our lives a little tougher.

- And so the encouragement from David here for us - is not to live in fear of your faith.
- Trust that God has our measure and the measure of those who want to oppose him.
- If you are waiting on the Lord to deliver you – then Wait and Trust him.

PAUSE

Pray to the Lord (27:4-13)

State

- What comes next in the psalm is a call to prayer.
- From verses 4-13, David lists a whole bunch of things that are worth praying for whilst waiting on the Lord.

Dwell with the Lord (4-6)

- Let me break it into two parts – first from verse 4 – David says Dwell in the house of the Lord
- One thing I ask of you Lord, one thing I seek – is that I might ‘dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life’.

Illustration

- This is as if David was standing on the front steps of God’s majestic Kingdom – knocking and saying, ‘Please sir, may I come in’.
- I would like to be in with you.

Explanation

- If you look over the verses that follow – down to the end of verse 6, David’s request is that he dwells with the Lord – he wants to seek him in his temple (that is, to be with him in the holy place that is not open to just anyone), he wants to be kept safe in God’s dwelling (in his house), to be hid in the shelter of his tabernacle, to be away

Talk – Psalm 27 – House Rules

from those who could hurt him – and at that tabernacle he wants to be able to worship and offer sacrifices, and sing, and make music to the Lord.

Illustration

- Imagine, if you can what it would be like to be homeless (I know for some here no imagination is required) – exposed to the elements, as the wind blows in, and as the rain comes down, as the hungry strikes, and people walk on by trying to be distracted by other things to look away – it is lonely and isolating – and you take shelter under the awnings, in the discreet places, in the shadows.
 - But then on one occasion, you look in the window of some big house. You see the fire burning, and the table set ready with a wonderful meal, a family that gathers, and the comfort and acceptance that is shown – and you wish that you could be included at the table.
- David’s prayer, the one thing that David asks for, is that he be in that house all of his days – and to be in that house is not only about enjoying the comforts that he knows are there, it is enjoying the relationship with the one who owns the house and provides all that is to be enjoyed.

Application

- This is the believer’s prayer – it is what anyone who waits on the Lord should be hoping for. It is a longing for what is to come and for what will never end.
- And yet it also exposes the unbeliever’s mystery – why pray and seek out a future dwelling with the Lord – when I can work and earn and build and achieve some much for myself right now.
- And the difference is that for the believer – it is a hope that is sure and it is a blessing that is given – not because of what you have earned, but because the Lord of the house has said, come into my house and enjoy dwelling here forever.

PAUSE

Ask of the Lord (7-13)

State

- The second part of David’s Prayer list starts in verse 7 – when he says ‘Hear my voice when I call O Lord, be merciful and answer’.
- When a believer prays – you want to know that you are being heard.

Explanation

- And that is what David is saying here – in fact he has four requests of the Lord.
- In verse 7 he asks the Lord to **Listen**.

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- In verse 8 when seeking the face of the Lord, he asks that the Lord **would not hide** from him – in other words turn his back on him, make it difficult for him.
- In verse 9 he asks that the Lord **doesn't reject him or forsake** him – in other words that the Lord would keep his word to him and despite anything that David might have done, that the Lord will still be available to him.
- In verse 11 he asks the Lord that he would **teach him and lead him** – such that he would know wisely how to walk.

- One of the things that I find interesting about what David asks of the Lord here, is that he asks that the Lord would be available to him – yet was there a time when the Lord was not available to David?
- If the relationship between the Lord and David was strained – it was not because God was unavailable it was because David himself was unavailable to the Lord.
- David in so many ways was a model King. He was a man after God's own heart and he was a king who pleased and honoured God throughout his life.
- But David was not a perfect King.
- When David sinned, the relationship between him and God was damaged.
- His most notable sin (as recorded in 1 Samuel 11) was when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and then arranged for her husband Uriah to be killed – adultery, deception and murder – not a particularly good example for God's own king.
- Was God being unavailable to him – not in the least, but it was David going against everything that he asks of the Lord in this Psalm.
 - David didn't listen to God – he knew adultery was wrong.
 - David hid from God – for a while to tried to pretend there was nothing wrong and tried to arrange it that he could cover up his sin.
 - David rejected the Lord and forsook him and in murdering Uriah he presumed that the Lord would not notice.
 - And it was David who refused to be taught or lead, even when God sent the Prophet Nathan to show him the error.
- But that is what sin does – it breaks down relationships – and in makes the sinner unavailable to God (and in fact to the person the sin is against).

Application

- We should be able to see this in our own lives
- Sin happens when we don't listen to what God says is the right thing to do
- When we sin, the temptation is to run from the consequences – to run away from those we have wronged – to pretend nothing happened – to cover-up so that we don't have to face the music.
- When we sin, we reject the Lord, and presume that he doesn't know or doesn't care – we presume that he will not hold us accountable.

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- And when we sin we find it difficult to be taught, to be corrected, to be lead in the ways of righteousness

David the sinner cries out to the Lord and asks that the Lord will treat him the exact opposite to the way that he has treated the Lord.

And that is why this is such a great prayer for us to pray – because what it asks of the Lord is to do the exact opposite of what we have done before God.

PAUSE

Salvation and the Saviour

- So why can David be so confident?
- In verses 1-3 he says Trust in the Lord and finishes that section by saying he will be confident.
- In verse 4-13 he says Pray to the Lord and finishes that section saying he is still confident that he will see the goodness of the Lord.
- Why so confident?

- Do you notice that throughout this Psalm – he refers to the LORD at every point but one – in verse 9.
- Where he says ‘O God my saviour’
- The reason for his confidence, is because he knows he has been saved.

- Now that should connect a whole bunch of dots for us – because what David does is foreshadow the salvation that we know in Jesus.

Wait for the Lord (27:14)

- Let’s think quickly about what we know of Jesus.
- In John 1:14 we read that Jesus is the Word, that he became flesh and ‘made his dwelling among us’ – if David’s prayer is that we dwell with the Lord, then in sending Jesus, Christians gain a front row seat when it comes to dwelling with the Lord – because he came to be one of us.
- In John 14 we hear Jesus tell his disciples not to worry because he was going to prepare a place in his Fathers house – and that he would return and take them to be with him. If David’s prayer suggests an eternal place of dwelling with the Lord, then Jesus provides the way and the means for that to happen.
- In Hebrews 9 we read about Jesus as the High Priest – as the one who stands between God and his people – where sin was paid for in sacrifice, Jesus was sacrificed in order to deal with sin and as such he is now called the mediator of the New Covenant – and the one through whom salvation has come. The one who has

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made things right so that those who want to approach God can, because they come as forgiven sinners.

- In 2 Corinthians 5:21 – Paul clearly states how Christians are saved when he says ‘God made Jesus who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God’ – if David’s prayer shows no concern about that fact that he stands before the Lord as a sinner, yet God would still be available to him – then Christians have even more reason, because Jesus has taken the sin that we stand with, so that we might be righteous before God.
- It is not just David that can say verse 1 ‘The Lord is my light and my salvation’ – it is any believer who stands in the light of Jesus.
- And if you stand in the light of Jesus – then Wait for him – be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.
- **And while you Wait – Trust and Pray.**

Application

- There are so many good things in life and there is such an urgency and drive to achieve them.
- Yet none of them are as important as waiting in the Lord.
- If you don’t know Jesus – then let me promise you, in him, an eternity that our world cannot offer.
- And if you do know Jesus – then let me call you out of the ideals of this world and ask you to renew your confidence in Jesus, the stronghold of your life.
- Wait for him – and while you do, trust him and pray.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Be our stronghold and help us to trust you.

Help us to dwell in your house forever asking of you to show us your goodness.

And help us to wait confidently.

In Jesus

AMEN