

Speaker: George Hutchison
Date: 18th January 2009
Reading: Ps 107v8,v15,v21,v31
Subject: God's goodness

People cried to God in trouble and he delivered them.

There are 4 groups of people in this Psalm and God's goodness can come to them all.

1. Those lost in the desert

They were lost and at the end of their tether and couldn't help themselves.

This is illustrated by the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. He repented and was restored.

“There is a way that seems right to a man but the end therefore are the ways of death”, (Prov 14:12)

If your pathway is not by way of the cross, you are still lost and on the wrong path in life.

Because King Saul rejected the word of the Lord and did things his own way, God rejected him and he was judged for it.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate...”(Mat 17). The broad way has many people on it but it is heading towards a lost eternity. If you repent and put your trust in the Saviour you will be on the narrow way. He said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me”(John 14:6).

God's promises are based on His power, His warnings are based on His holiness.

“the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not” (2 Cor 4). They can see human difficulty but are blind to divine sufficiency. They fail to realise that they depend on God's mercy, the favour of one to an inferior. We can come into God's mercy by faith. The Lord Jesus said, “I am the door by me if any man enter in He shall be saved”(John 10:9). If you cry to the Lord in your distress he will save you. You can have peace in the desert by faith in God and repentance to the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Those in bondage in darkness

They are bound because they rebelled against the word of God. He provides an answer, “God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved”(John 3:17). Everyone in the same way has broken the laws of the land, but all can be saved, and, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”(John 3:16).

Not everybody will be saved, but all who put their trust in Him will be saved.

Are you saying, “I don't know the answer; I don't know way out?”

“But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.”(Ps 69:13).

The Lord Jesus promises, “him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37)

The best reason for hope is God's faithfulness. This promises not only mercy but grace as well.

“By grace ye are saved through faith, that is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:8-9)

God's grace is infinite love through infinite goodness.

“the goodness of God leads to repentance” (Rom 2:4). Examples of this are – the man of Gadara (Legion – Mark 5:1-20), Jairus' daughter and the woman with issue of blood (Mark 5:22-43). They were completely cured by the touch of the Saviour.

The name of Christ is precious to those who believe and profane to those who do not. What does it mean to you?

3. Those who were fools near death

They had got themselves into trouble because of sin.

Sin is likened to a disease. “the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint”, (Isa 1:5). The Lord says, “Come now let us reason together saith the Lord though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool”(Isa 1:18)

“Behold now is the accepted time behold now is the day of salvation”(2 Cor 6:3). The clock of time is wound only once, now is the only time promised.

“There is but a step between me and death” (1 Sam 20:3). There is only a step between you and life. You could take that step tonight by accepting you are a sinner and accepting Him as your Saviour. It is one thing to know there is a God, it is another thing to know who God is and do something about it.

“Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life”(John 3:15).

It is a dangerous presumption to say tomorrow when God says today.

“Deliver from going to pit for I have found a ransom” (Job 33:24)

“There is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus”, (1 Tim 2:5).

Are you in the good of great and eternal salvation?

“The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness” (1 Cor 1:18), but the believer says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth”(Rom 1:16).

The faintest knock of faith opens the door to salvation wide. Are you restless in life?

“come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”(Mat 11:28).

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Isa 53:4). He has lifted them and placed them upon Himself.

We are all different. Christ has the answer to all our needs.

4. Those in a storm

“Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast”, (Heb 6:19). It is fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Nothing can destroy life that is hid in Christ with God. (Col 3:3). It is a personal thing to be saved. It is between you and God alone. If you scorn it, you will bear God's judgment.