

# Reflection Questions

## Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

Is David talking about his righteousness throughout this Psalm?

## Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

How does David view the wicked (12)?

## Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

Instead of attacking the wicked, how does the introduction of this Psalm remind us of the correct response?

## Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How does David ultimately find peace even though the wicked prosper (15)?

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 51:10-13

Song #221 ~ His Mercy is More

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 15:1-23

Song #23 ~ Creation Sings the Father's Song

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 16:1-22

Prayer

Sermon ~ Psalms 17:1-15

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #197 ~ The Power of the Cross

Psalm 16:2

I said to the Lord, You are my Lord; I have nothing good besides You.

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## Text: Psalm 17:1-15

**Theme:** The righteous take refuge in the Lord.

**Introduction:** On the surface, David seems to be asking for help from God because of *his* righteousness. But how can that be? Certainly, he was a man with many faults (cf. Ps. 51). Perhaps David is referring to a specific time in his life (i.e. during the time when King Saul was seeking to kill him; cf. Ps. 18 introduction). But when we read Psalm 71 (a parallel passage), it becomes clear that David is referring to the Lord's righteousness (71:1-2, 15-16, 19, 24). In both Psalm 17 & 71, we have the Psalmist taking refuge in the Lord (17:7; 71:1), but in Psalm 71, the righteousness comes from the Lord. Since David can refer to the Lord, even though he uses a first person pronoun (i.e. Psalm 16:10) then Psalm 17 should be understood as referring to the Lord's righteousness. This also becomes the natural interpretation as we view Psalm 17 from the lens of the Davidic Covenant (i.e. David anticipates a perfect Ruler).

- I. The righteous take refuge in the Lord (1-15; cf. 7).
  - A. The righteous call out to God for help (1-7).
    1. David uses 3 different terms to call out to God (1).  
**Application:** What does it mean to take refuge in the Lord? Clearly, for David, it means to call out to Him for help.
      2. Refuge is only for the righteous (2-7).  
**Explanation:** Although David is speaking in the first person, clearly the Lord is the speaker (cf. Ps. 16:10). For example, David could not have said that his feet did not slip (17:5). So, like David, we can take refuge in the Lord because of His righteousness (71:1-2, 15-16, 19, 24).

- B. Protection from the wicked can only come from the Lord (8-12).
  1. David asks for protection by giving 2 illustrations (8). First, we are the apple of His eye. The eye is one of the most sensitive areas. We shield our eyes even for the smallest particles. Secondly, we are hidden in the shadow of His wings. A bird uses its most valuable part—the wing—to shield her young.
  2. Who does David need protection from (9-12)? He needs protection from the wicked. This should not surprise us. There is a war between the righteous and the wicked.

**Explanation:** He describes the wicked as a lion seeking its prey (cf. 1 Pet. 5:8). The wicked are at complete odds with Christ and His people. There is no common ground. But instead of defending himself, David seeks protection from God.

- C. Since God deals with the wicked, we can be satisfied with Him (13-15).
  1. The Lord of all will deal with the wicked (13-14).  
**Explanation:** The wicked attempt to find their satisfaction with the treasures of this world that they pass on to their children (14). These treasures cannot and will not bring satisfaction.  
**Application:** Remember when King Saul went to kill David at Engedi (1 Samuel 24:1-15; cf. intro to Ps. 18)? Instead of taking his life, David sought protection from the Lord. So, when the opportunity comes for us to attack our adversary, we ought, instead, to let God deal with the wicked (cf. Rom. 12:14-21).
  2. Instead of worrying about the wicked, be satisfied in Christ (15).

**Explanation:** Some argue that David is referring to seeing Christ at death. But remember, David has already made mention of being visited at night (3), so David is likely referring to the morning.

**Conclusion:** Typically, the Psalms were intended to be sung. But here, we have a prayer (Ps. 90 is the only other prayer). When the wicked seem to prosper, pray along with David.