

# Reflection Questions

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

How does this Psalm connect with Genesis 3:15?

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

Instead of letting God vindicate us, what do we tend to do?

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

When someone who appears to be godly is being accused of something, should we immediately assume that the accusation is correct?

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

How is David able to rejoice in the midst of persecution (9, 18, 28)?

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Job 40:1-9

Song #15 ~ Behold Our God

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Revelation 16:1-21

Song 221 ~ His Mercy is More

Scripture Reading: Revelation 17:1-18

Prayer

Sermon ~ Psalm 35:1-28

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #214 ~ Jesus, Thank You

Psalm 32:11

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

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## Text: Psalm 35:1-28

**Theme:** Let the righteous God vindicate your cause.

**Introduction:** The world is clearly at odds with Christ and His followers. Throughout the Psalms, the wicked and the righteous are at odds with one another (1:6; 2:12; 3:7-8). This should not surprise us. Genesis 3:15 tells us that the Seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent are enemies. When the seed of the Serpent hated David for no reason, it should not surprise us that they hated Christ without cause as well (cf. John 15:25; Ps. 35:19). This is also true for us—all who live godly will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).

I. Let the righteous God vindicate your cause (1-28).

A. Let God take up your cause (1-8).

1. Let Him take up the battle axe (1-3).

**Explanation:** In these verses David pictures an elite soldier gearing up for battle (2-3). As we face persecution from the seed of the Serpent, let us remember that God takes up His battle axe.

**Application:** Notice that David asks God to take up the battle axe. Our problem is that we often take up the battle axe and fight for our rights.

2. Let the wicked be ashamed (4-8).

**Explanation:** David is clearly referring to the wicked (i.e. chaff; cf. Ps. 1:4; 35:5). David knows that he is in the right because the wicked attempt to harm him without a cause (7).

B. The Lord rescues the afflicted (9-16).

1. Rejoice, because the Lord delivers the afflicted (9-10).

**Explanation:** Typically, the weak and helpless are taken advantage of by the strong. But David finds his salvation in the Lord—there is none like Him (cf. Is. 46:9).

2. God takes up the cause of the righteous (11-16).

**Explanation:** David is completely unaware of the accusations being hurled at him (11). In fact, he mourned with them (13-14). Yet, when an opportunity arose, they slandered him without a cause (15; cf. 7). In a similar instance, Daniel's enemies were attempting to get him killed by installing a law that he could not obey—praying to the king alone (Dan. 6:4-5).

**Application:** All who live godly in Christ will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12), yet we can easily be tempted to be jaded when we wrongfully suffer persecution.

C. Call out to the Lord as you patiently wait for Him to take up your cause (17-28).

1. The Lord sees the wicked (17-22).

**Explanation:** One thing was certain—God sees what the wicked are doing (17, 22). The wicked were acting as lions devouring their prey (17). Their words were words of deceit (19-20).

**Application:** When you find yourself getting frustrated because God is not acting, remind yourself that God sees the wicked and will deal with them.

2. The wicked claim to see things, but the Lord sees the truth (21-22).

**Explanation:** The wicked are so desperate to take down the righteous that they accuse the righteous of things that did not happen. There is no need to worry—God sees it.

3. Since God is righteous, He takes up the cause of the righteous (23-28).

**Explanation:** God does not just take up our cause. He judges according to His righteous standard (24). So, before you assume that your cause is right, know that God will evaluate it based on His righteous standard.

**Conclusion:** Throughout the Psalm, David is rejoicing in God's righteousness (9, 18, 28). In times of persecution, know that God sees and will vindicate the cause of the righteous.