

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 01/08/2012

Title: "No Fear / Know God"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him"

Text: Psalm 27
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

When the Lord is "my light and my salvation"...

- "My"=personal, like Psalm 23; "light"=truth/clarity; "salvation"=personal delivery from distress, national deliverance, but also forgiveness (Ps 130:3-4), and eventual salvation in Christ (Acts 4:12; Titus 2:11-14); "stronghold"=fortress
- When the Lord is all of these, what is the result? The rest of the Psalm unpacks the answer.

1. There is Unparalleled Peace (1-3)

- "Whom shall I fear?" is obviously a rhetorical question. No one! It's true even in the worst-case scenarios of vs 2-3. We are often worried about the worst and most unlikely dangers, but we are safe even from those when we know God. Ps. 46:1-3 details another worst-case scenario.
- The assumption of Psalm 27 and 46 is that there are real reasons to fear in this life. "Some of life is driving down a proverbial highway with our hands on the wheel and doing our best to steer, to stay on the road. But much of life feels like being buckled into a car speeding down the highway and there is no steering wheel to grab hold of. It's out of our hands."
- These psalms also assume that we legitimately wrestle with fear and worry. We don't like it. People deal with it, though, in different ways: By being consumed by fear - as if fear/worry make up a kind of protection; By trying to suppress it - alcohol, drugs, materialism, entertainment, doing; By trying to deny it - living by FDR's line "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"; By trying to conquer it head on - Fear Factor; thrill seekers (I'm not afraid / protest too much); By trying to fix it - fix the circumstances which cause the fear; try to do damage control.

2. There is a Hunger for His Presence (4-6)

- David speaks of "one thing." This is his one wish, if you will. His wish is to dwell in God's presence all his life. We often let many good things function like they are the "one thing," but they are not. Making God our "one thing" is really nothing less than obeying the 1st Commandment.
- "Dwell"=Ps. 16:11. For David and for us we experience God's presence through His Word, prayer, being with God's people in worship, etc.; "Gaze"=we all know what it is to gaze as something glorious, something lovely, something wonderful. David sees God this way.
- Romans 8:31-39

3. There is Confidence in His Protection (7-12)

- Here we have a list of requests. It is interesting that these aren't the main thing he wants (Deliverance from fear, protection, etc.). In and through them, he wants God. Remember his "one thing"?

4. There is Steadfast Patience (13-14)

- God's people are a waiting people. Israel waited for her Messiah, and we await Christ's return.
- 1 Cor. 1:7; Ro. 8:23; 1 Th. 1:10

Sample Questions

- At the front of Ryan's sermon he asked us to consider some of our current worries, fears, and frustrations - things we're afraid could go badly, or go from bad to worse. What are those for you?
- What "one thing" do you want, do you gaze at, do you seek in life?
- What are we really after in our prayers to God? In praying for health, for help, etc. are we wanting Him through it all?
- If the worst things we can imagine happened to us in this life, would we be okay if we still had God? Think of Job who said, the Lord give and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord.
- What texts from the New Testament address our fears with the reality of the greatness of Christ? (Ro. 8:23)