

What Trusting in God Brings

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Bible Text: Psalm 27

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Well I've got to tell you something, it's interesting how the Lord works. The text that we're going to be studying today, Psalm 27, God has been just wrecking me with. What I mean by that is, what this text is about is what I've been struggling with the most. I'm basically preaching to Josh today and you guys just get to listen in.

It's really interesting, we live in a world that's pretty uncertain, don't you think? I've developed this characteristic from a family member, I think, and basically myself too, I tend to worry a lot about all sorts of stuff so when life becomes uncertain the worry kind of rises and so it's allowed me to ask the question in these things is that in the times of uncertainty who can you really trust? Because at times, we try to trust in people and people, even people that love Jesus, they actually let us down. Sometimes then we trust in maybe it's like our job or the stuff that we have and that stuff says, "See you later," spreads wings and flies away. Other times, maybe we trust in, I don't know, maybe a bank or something like that, but we found out, uh oh, you can't even trust banks anymore. It's like should we put our money under mattresses now, what do we do?

So it's made me ask the question, who can you trust? The reality is that we're going to see from Psalm 27 is that really ultimately the only one we can trust fully and depend on fully is actually God himself. That is what Psalm 27 is all about. Here's kind of the big idea, the main point of what we're going to be talking about today and that is this, because of who God is, because of his character and what he's done, because God wouldn't do what he does if he wasn't who he is. Because of who God is and what he's done, I am free to trust him with all of my life. Guys, because of what Jesus has done in your place and my place, we are now freed up to live a life of dependence and faith and trust in God alone.

This morning, we're going to look at three things that trusting in God brings from Psalm 27. Number One, we're going to see that trusting in God with my life brings confidence in him instead of fear. Number Two, we're going to see that trusting in God with my life brings a desire for him instead of a desire for things that will not help me and will not satisfy me. Number Three, trusting in God with my life brings hope in him instead of a false hope that won't deliver.

If you haven't turned already, turn your Bibles to Psalm 27 and we are going to begin. A little bit of background to this Psalm, this Psalm is ascribed to David and it describes a

faithful person. By faithful I mean someone who has a relationship with God, whom God is working in their heart, working on their life. This is not about the faithfulness of the person as much as it is about the faithfulness of God. It's describing this faithful person, this person who has a relationship with God. He's troubled by those who would destroy him by violent and deceitful means. The reality of this Psalm is that someone who can trust God in those situations. I don't think there's many people in here who want to kill you. There're people who might be upset with you right now, but I would venture to say nobody wants to kill you. I hope, maybe you're like a bounty hunter, like a side business but really I don't think anybody in this room wants to kill you. In light of this, if David by God's grace can trust in God in these situations, that means in all situations we can trust him and depend upon God.

If you look at verse 1 here's what it says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" David really asked a rhetorical question, a question that really like, this is what's called a Captain Obvious answer. A Captain Obvious answer is, if God is my light and my salvation who should I fear? What, hold on a second. Nobody. I don't need to fear anybody. So when David says, "The Lord is my light," he's talking about who God is.

When the Bible talks about God's light it's talking about the fact that God's light is his salvation, it's his goodness, it's his character. This is direct opposition to what the Bible calls darkness which would be sin. Sin blinds us and doesn't help us to see how awesome Jesus is, but God in his light has sent Jesus who is the light to open up our eyes to see who Jesus is and what he's done. So David says, "The Lord is my light. He helps me see." As a result of that, the Lord is also my salvation. He means, he's my rescuer, he's my deliverer and he brings me into safety, safety that produces freedom of a present danger. David is saying, "I have been in danger physically and also spiritually and the one who rescues me and protects me and keeps me safe and saves me is none other than God himself." So, who do I need to fear? Nobody. "I don't need to be frightened," he says, "I don't even need to be scared."

He continues and says, "The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" The idea of a stronghold again, is the idea of a place of protection, the means of being safe. It's the idea of a refuge. So he says, "God is my protection, he's my refuge. I don't need to be afraid of anyone."

Then David now goes and describes who this is. He says, "I don't even need to be afraid when..." verse 2, "When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh. My adversary and foes. It is they who stumble and fall." I had to look up what the word "assail" means, I don't see people going about saying, "Oh, you're assailing me!" and I'd be like, "I don't know what you're talking about." The idea of assailing is the idea of coming near or approach. David said, "When evildoers, when people who don't love God, they don't love Jesus, when they want to hurt me and they are approaching me and they are coming near, to kind of surround me, they want to eat up my flesh." That means they want to destroy me and they want to consume me. I picture me being in the wilderness and a pack of hungry wolves that are surrounding me going, "That guy looks really good, let's eat him." That's

what I'm picturing right now when David says this. He says, "When evildoers are coming near me and they want to eat up my flesh, these are my enemies, these are my foes," David says. He says, "In the midst of this it is they who stumble and fall, not me." That's interesting because from the way the picture is painted, it would seem that if you're surrounded by people and they're coming near you and they want to destroy you and kill you and hurt you and eat you, that you would be the one who would be in trouble. But David says, "No." He says, "They are the ones who are going to stumble and fall because they don't have the Lord as their light and their salvation."

He continues in verse 3 and says, "Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war arise against me, yet I will be confident." Again, when David says, "Though an army encamp against me," this is the idea of someone setting up a camp near your enemy. Could you imagine if just outside your neighborhood all of a sudden the SWAT team comes out and they're setting up their tents and just chilling outside your house? And you kind of have a feeling that they're coming for you because everything is kind of pointed your way? That's kind of the idea here. He says, "Though an army sets up shop they encamp against me, even then my heart will not fear." Again, as we think about the word "heart" here, is this is your inner life, your inner person and this is all about your mind, your emotions and your will. He says, "Even in the midst of this difficulty when people want to hurt me and kill me and they're surrounding me, my heart and my mind, my emotions, my will, I won't be afraid." He says, "Though war rise up against me. Even in the midst of war and times of bloodshed," he says, "I will be confident." The idea of confidence is to trust on, depend on, rely upon. He says, "Even in these times, I'm going right to God because I can depend and trust in him."

He continues in verse 4 and he says, "One thing have I asked of the Lord and this is what I will seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his Temple." David says, "One thing that I've asked of the Lord, this is what I'm going to seek after, I want to dwell in God's house." Meaning, I want to live there, I want to be there for a long time. To dwell in God's house means to have access to the sanctuary for worship. What David is saying is, "Because of who God is, because my confidence is in him, because of that, I now want to be with him, I want to be near him, my desire is for him."

The end of verse 4 says, "I want to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord." To gaze is to look or to observe. I want to see God and his majesty. I want to see his beauty. I want to see his glory.

Five years ago right before I came on staff here at the church, the place that I worked at before, my boss and some other people gave my wife and I a few days in Yosemite. I'd never been to Yosemite, I'd seen pictures but pictures don't do stuff justice. We go to Yosemite and my boss is like, "Josh, you have to go and see the sunset at Glacier Point." I'm thinking, I trust you, I like you so I believe you but in the back of your mind you think how beautiful can this thing really be? We go up there and the sun starts to set and you can see Half Dome and all this granite and just the beauty of God's majesty and I look over and there's this whole line of people that are looking awestruck. If I could've

looked at myself, I was doing the same thing. I was in awe of the beauty and the majesty of something that God had created. How much more amazing is God?

So David says, "Even in the midst of evildoers and of sinners who want to attack me and hurt me, all I want to do is be with God's people." That's how much confidence I have in God that I want to see him and his beauty, I want to see his glory. He says, "On top of that," end of verse 4, "I want to enquire in his temple," meaning I want to sit there and I want to meditate upon who God is and upon what he's done.

That's what we're supposed to do as God's people. That's why we've come together. You have not come to be entertained. You have come to worship the living God and to think about and to meditate and to marinate upon how awesome he is and how amazing it is that he would take a wicked sinner like you and rescue you and bring you into his family. We are overwhelmed by that forever and ever and ever and ever and ever. That's what David is saying.

In verse 5 he says, "For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of his tent. He will lift me high upon a rock." Do you see the confidence that God has given David in who God is and what he's done? He says, "He will hide me," meaning he will protect me in his shelter where people can't get me and this will happen even in the day of trouble when things are really difficult and really bad. He says, "He will conceal me," that means to cover me under the cover of his tent. Then, "He will lift me high upon a rock where I can see where things are clear," he says.

Verse 6 he says, "And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies all around me." That's a position of power, right? you can see what your enemy's doing. That's a good thing. He says, "My head will be lifted up above my enemies all around me and I will offer in his tent," that's the idea of God's sanctuary where worship happens because the Temple was not built yet. "I will offer in his tent sacrifices to God." That's worship. "I will offer sacrifices, I will worship with shouts of joy. I will sing and make melody to the Lord."

As we think about this point here, that trusting in God with my life brings confidence in him instead of fear, do you see the confidence that God has produced in David? Again, David is not a super Christian. We know that because the Bible says he was a nasty, gross sinner just like me and you. This is all what God produced in David. Do you see that as a result of this, David says, "I'm going to offer sacrifices. I'm going to worship with shouts of joy." David is excited and he is enjoying who God is and what he's done so much so, he says, "I'm going to sing and make melody to the Lord."

As we think about this, I have a question for you, Who is your confidence in right now? Or, what is your confidence in? For me in the last few weeks, my confidence has been in me. That hasn't worked out well. It has been in other people. What's your confidence in? Is it in God? Is it in who he is? The fact that he's gracious, loving, glorious, forgiving? Is it in what he's done? That he's sent his Son to live and die and rise in your place so you

could call him your Dad? Is that where you're placing your confidence and your trust right now?

These things, your job, your possessions, yourself and others, if you place your confidence in them primarily I promise you you're going to be let down at some point. It's a reality of who we are as sinners. Only Jesus is the one who our confidence should be in and following Jesus produces a confidence in God's protection which results in a desire for him. That's what happened. David was recalling that this is who God is and this is what he's done and because of that, he's my protection and therefore my desire is to be with him and to know him.

Another question to ask is, Well, why then? If our confidence should be in God why can we be confident as God's people? There are a million passages we can go to. I want to take us to Romans 8, a passage we are all familiar with, this is Romans 8:28-39. Because of who God is and what he's done you can trust him with your life because he will bring you confidence in him instead of fear. As we sit and read and think about these verses, just think about the amazingness of this, of what you have in your relationship with Jesus.

Verse 28 says, "And we know," we know, "that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." That means even the bad stuff, even the stuff we don't get, God is working it out for his glory and our good. "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." How do we know that God's working things out for our good? He chose to rescue us from our sin.

Verse 30, "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." Our confidence can be in God because of who he is and what he's done and therefore look at verse 31. This is very eerily similar to Psalm 27 if you think about it. Paul says, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" That would be another one of those rhetorical questions. The answer would be, nobody. How do we know that? Verse 32, "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" If you're in this room and you're really wrestling with having your confidence be in God and trusting in him, if God was willing for his glory and your good to kill his Son why would he not give you everything else he has to offer? His Spirit, his people, that's who we have in Jesus.

He goes on, "Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us." He's praying for us, he's acting on our behalf. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation?" No. "Trouble or distress?" No. "Shall you being persecuted for your faith in Jesus?" No. "Shall you having a lack of food, famine?" No. "You not having clothing, nakedness?" No. "Danger, or sword?" No.

Verse 36, “As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors.” That’s the idea of extreme domination. We more than conquer is what that says. “Through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” That’s why you and I can be confident in God and in God alone.

It’s because of that, because of what Jesus has done and therefore by God’s grace, this is not something that we pick ourselves up by our bootstraps and do, it’s relying upon the Spirit asking God to help us and then seeking after God. We should be a people who trust in God with our lives because it brings confidence in him instead of fear. So if you’re afraid, run to Jesus. You’re scared, run to Jesus. He will help you, he’ll guide you, he’ll lead you because trusting in God with your life brings confidence in him instead of fear.

Here’s the second thing trusting in God with your life brings, it brings a desire for him instead of a desire for things that won’t help you or satisfy you. Look at verse 7 of Psalm 27. As we look at verses 7-12, I want you to see the desire that God has given David for God. And you see the urgency that David has for God. He says, “Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!” This is actually David and his prayer commanding God, “God, I need your grace.” Meaning I need you to show kindness and compassion to me. It’s like he knows that he doesn’t deserve it and isn’t that the truth? Nobody deserves God’s grace. David says, “Be gracious to me and answer me.”

Verse 8 he says, “You have said, ‘Seek my face.’” Now David says, “God, you have commanded me,” and the way that this is written, it’s a plural command meaning this is not for David but this is for God’s people. “God, you have told me that we should seek you and pursue you and be all about you. You have said, ‘Seek my face.’” To seek God’s face is the idea to seek God’s presence, to seek who God is, to seek where God is, meaning God we need you, we want you, we desire to. “God, you have said, ‘Seek my face.’”

So David says, “My heart says to you, ‘Your face, Lord, do I seek.’ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.” Do you see what’s happening here? David is saying, “God, you’ve told me that I should pursue you and seek you and go after you and that’s my heart’s desire because you’ve given me that desire. So, I want you.” And then he says, “God, please don’t hide your face from me. I need your presence, don’t remove it. Don’t turn me away in anger even though I deserve to be judged for my sin. Don’t turn me away because you are the one who’s been my help.” That’s why there’s such urgency. God has worked in David’s life so that David understands that without God, there’s zero hope because God is the only one who can help him.

Then David says, “Cast me not off; forsake me not.” This is the idea of, “God, please don’t abandon me. Please don’t abandon me. Please don’t forsake me because you are the

God of my salvation.” It’s the idea of, “God, if you abandon me, if you would reject me I would have no hope. I couldn’t be saved because you are my salvation.”

He then says in verse 10, “For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.” When it says, “the Lord will take me in,” this is stating that God will gather me and assemble me together with him. He’s saying, “Even my parents who care for me and love me,” like many of you parents do. He says, “Even they at times, they let me down.” Which is why we need God. We need the gospel, we need Jesus more than anything else.

He says in verse 11, “Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path.” The idea of “teach me your way” is, “God, teach me how to live as a follower of you. Teach me how to live as a follower of Jesus,” meaning, “I want to know you, I want my life to be about you. Help me. I need you to teach me and guide me and direct me in this because I cannot do it by myself.”

He says, “Lead me on a level path.” I don’t know if you guys have ever ridden over a road that hasn’t been paved in, I don’t know, 100 years and you’re going bump, bump, bump and it’s not very level, right? And then when you ride on that newly paved road, literally you say, “This is awesome, and I could do 90 and not even blink.” You know what I mean? That’s what I think about when I think of this. It’s the idea that God’s ways really are the best ways and this is really hard because they’re times where God brings us deep with him. He brings us through some really difficult circumstances and really difficult situations to where we go, phew, “God, I know who you are and I know you said that you’re to be, but this is really hard.” And we waver a bit and yet God’s ways are the best ways because they are actually for your good and my good.

David says, “Teach me about you, God. I want to know about you, I want to follow you, I want to search you, I want to seek for you because you’re the one who can lead me on a level path.” Sin does not want to lead you on a level path, it claims to, but it does not. Only God does.

He says, “Lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Give me not up,” meaning “God, I don’t want to be placed in someone else’s possession, I want to be yours. Give me not up to the will of my adversaries, my enemies, false witnesses, liars. Liars have risen up against me and they breath out violence.” You see the situations that David is in, there are people that are lying about David, lying to David and there’re people who are breathing out violence meaning they’re saying to David, “We’re coming for you, brother, we’re coming after you.” So he says, “God, I need you to teach me, I need you to take care of me, I need you to be there for me.”

As we think about this, understand again that people or stuff or power or status or you fill in the blank, they will let you down and they will not satisfy you. I can give you a great example of that. We use the word “love” like crazy. I really like Disneyland, it’s just reality. When I roll up to the park, I turn into a ten year old boy again. Literally, we just went a few days ago and I wanted to push Grace over to get on rides, that’s my daughter,

I was really excited. Disneyland claims to be the happiest place on earth and honestly it's pretty awesome but here's the thing, I saw parents, I saw adults, I saw teenagers and I saw kids yelling at each other, I saw them crying and this is even in my family. The whole point of that is it claims to satisfy but it doesn't. Disneyland is an amazing vacation, you see fireworks, they do a great job of making you who is really just a regular guy, you're not one in a million, they make you feel that way. You know what? As I'm leaving the park yesterday, I'm going, "It's over already." So it satisfies you like that. If that's the best the world has to offer, what about everything else? People, stuff, things they let you down, they don't satisfy you. That's why you long for more but we don't fill the longing with Jesus which is what we're made for, so God has to open up our eyes to see, "That's what I need, that's what I long for, that's what I want." Then guess what happens? Satisfaction, joy, peace.

Other things let us down, they don't satisfy, they offer satisfaction but they don't fulfill you. If you're in this room and you have a pulse, you know that because we go after things and we try to satisfy ourselves with things, we've placed our confidence in things and they give us satisfaction for a little bit or we can trust them for a time and then boom, it's gone or boom, they let us down. But not the gospel. God will not let down or abandon his people.

Another great question, How do we know that? Because he's brought us into his family through Jesus. Ephesians 2, says that God has killed the hostility. That's like what Jews and Gentiles have with each other and he's brought us peace and therefore, verse 19, "We are members of God's household," which means we are members of God's family. That's how you know God's not going to abandon you or let you down. He sent Jesus to live, die and rise in your place so now it's not just that you're his slaves, you're actually his sons and daughters.

Why do we not want to be satisfied in that? Again, if you're in this room and you don't know Jesus, I pray that God is opening up your eyes to see that, "Only Jesus can satisfy me. I need him, I am trusting in him right now to save me." If you know Jesus your response as a follower of Jesus, should be a passionate pursuit of him. Just like how when I walked through the doors of Disneyland I was like, "Nobody's getting in my way." That's how you should be in your relationship with Jesus. "Nobody's going to take my joy away. Nobody's going to take my satisfaction away. I am clearly focused, laser centered upon the gospel, upon who Jesus is, upon what he's done and therefore my life is about knowing him, about serving him, about living for him." That comes through talking to him, the Bible calls that prayer, that comes through getting into his book and studying his word and reading his word and thinking about his word. It comes through being with his people corporately and worshiping Jesus and then going into these small groups and fellowshiping with each other. That's how you grow in your relationship with Jesus. That's what will satisfy you completely.

The question, again, is, Is that you by God's grace? Is Jesus your greatest desire? Meaning compared to everything else, is he all you have? Think about the Apostle Paul. Again, not a super Christian. This is a guy who so other guys could kill a follower of

Jesus and actually use their arms, they could throw the stones really hard, “Hey, I’ll take your coats so you can throw it really hard at him.” So not super Christian, right but God did amazing work in his heart to where Paul said, because God produced it in him, in Philippians 1, “If I’m living, it’s all about Jesus. If I die, that’s gain.” Meaning, it’s better for me to die because I’m with Jesus. But if not, my life’s all about Jesus. Is that you this morning? Is that me? That’s not, “Oh yeah, I can totally do that, that’s going to be my total desire.” No, that’s why we need Jesus. We need to trust in him and depend upon him because really he’s all we have. We don’t have anybody else, he’s all we have. So, trusting in God with your life should bring a desire for him instead of a desire for things that won’t help me or satisfy me.

The last thing that trusting in God brings from Psalm 27 is this, trusting in God with my life bring hope in him instead of a false hope that won’t deliver. I hope you’ve seen through these that we’re talking about trusting *in him*, desire *for him* and hoping *in him* because that’s where it’s found. Look at verses 13 and 14, “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” David is saying, “I have faith, I have trust, I have confidence that I will see God, I will see his goodness.” Goodness of the Lord is God’s character again, it’s who he is. God is righteous, God is loving, God is holy, God is compassionate, God is true. He says, “I believe I’m going to see this.”

In many of these references it has a reference to Moses on Mount Sinai, Exodus 34. Moses is on Mount Sinai and he asked God an amazing question, “God, I want to see your glory.” So for me I’m thinking, alright, major thunder and lightning show, some fireworks here and there, whatever the case may be, right? If you look at Exodus 34, I’ll read it to you. God says, “I will let my goodness pass before you,” meaning you will see my glory and what makes me glorious is who I am. Moses is able to see a glimpse of God’s glory. But here’s what happens as it passes by, Exodus 34:5, “The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there.” Here’s God’s glory, he proclaimed the name of the Lord, “The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” When Moses saw God’s glory, God revealed his character to him. Do you know what that means? Obviously, one day, we will see God in all his majesty but if you know Jesus, you’ve seen God’s glory. Because you’re rescued, you are a dead man and dead woman and you’ve been rescued from your sin. That’s God’s glory, that is what God does, that’s who God is.

David says, “I believe, I trust that I will look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. I will see God work and act. I trust that if he’s brought me to it, he’ll get me through it, that’s what I trust. I trust in the land of the living,” meaning I’m confident that God will be with me and will take care of me and then David cries out, God used him to encourage us as his people. Verse 14 says, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.” This is a command to wait on God. Sometimes waiting, obviously does mean patience. God’s timing and our timing sometimes are two

totally different things aren't they? The idea of waiting also means also to look forward with confidence. When we're talking about trusting God with our life brings hope in him, instead of a false hope that won't deliver, this is not a, "Oh, I hope that stain comes out in the wash today." Do you know what I'm saying by hope? We're talking about we confidently expect because of who God is and what he's done, so we know, we expect, we hope in God because we know it's going to happen. That's the kind of hope we're talking about.

When David says to wait for the Lord he's saying, "You look forward to this with confidence." Waiting is admitting to God, "God, I am helpless and weak." That's humbling but it's reality. "I am helpless and weak but my confidence is in you alone to satisfy all my needs and desires and therefore, it's about you."

Then he says, "Be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord." Again, the strength is not in you, the strength is in Jesus. Ephesians 6:10, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." If we try to find our strength in ourselves, we will fail in a major fashion but if our strength, by the Lord's grace, is in God, in who he is, in what he's done to rescue us from our sin, in Jesus, guess what? That produces courage, that produces confidence, that produces hope.

We as sinners are weak and needy but God is strong. Our dependence and trust must be in him who has freed us from our sin and brought us into his family through Jesus. Again, if you're in this room and you know Jesus, remember that because of what God has done for you in Jesus you are in the land of the dying going to the land of the living.

Colossians says that has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness, that's our sin and the world and this system, and has now transferred us into the kingdom of the Son whom he loves and his Son loves us. Remember that fact as you walk throughout your days. As a result of that, by the Lord's grace, pray that he will use you to be a vessel so that where the gospel speaks through you and into the life of someone else so that they are now in the land of the dying going to the land of the living.

If you don't know Jesus, you can enter the land of the living through him. That's it. You are a dying sinner and if you don't know Jesus you have zero hope right now. You can't get up there and go to God. "Yeah but... Yeah but... Yeah but... Yeah but." But here's where the hope comes in that God in his grace sent Jesus who lived a perfect life for you earning righteousness for you. He then died on a cross and took on all your nastiness, all your sin and gives you his righteousness so that through faith that he gives you in Jesus' life and his death and his rising from the dead, God now looks down and he doesn't see you the sinner, he sees Jesus the righteous one and therefore you're rescued, you're freed, you have a relationship with God. Now your purpose for living is to represent him and advance his kingdom until God comes back or takes you home.

If you don't know Jesus, trust in Jesus right now to save you from your sin. Trust in Jesus right now to save you from your sin. By God's grace, our hope and confidence should be in Jesus who has rescued us, he's brought us into his family, he will never leave you even

when life gets really hard. There are some of you for whom life is really hard right now. Maybe you're developing some anger and bitterness towards people or towards God. By the Lord's grace, repent of that and understand that Jesus is there to carry you through and guide you through and produce in you a deep joy and satisfaction that only be found in him because he won't abandon you. Remember, why do we have hope? He is coming back for us and he's coming back so he'll be glorified and we will have joy and satisfaction in him. Again, unlike Disneyland, there's not going to be any crying, there's not going to be any pain, there's not going to be waiting in long lines. There's going to be forever being in the presence of Jesus. It is awesome to be able to say that we're going to be able to see our loved ones but honestly, here's the reality, if Jesus is not in heaven, you know where that is? That's called hell. Think about it. If Jesus is not in heaven, why should we want to be there? We want to be where Jesus is. And because of what he's done, we get to be where Jesus is and we get to be with all of God's saints together as a corporate gathering, a mass choir of people who have been rescued and freed to worship Jesus for ever and ever and ever and ever and ever.

We started this morning with this question, Who can you really trust? By the Lord's grace, God in his word through Psalm 27 says, "You know what? Because of who God is and what he's done, you are free to trust in Jesus with your life." I would just add as we conclude one little thing, who can you trust? God. But who are you trusting in? I can't answer that question. Maybe by the Lord's grace we can be people who trust in Jesus.

I want to close with just some readings of Psalm 73. I thought Psalm 73 was really fitting with this. This is a Psalm written by a man by the name of Asaph. Asaph was a man who as he thought about life, he looked on and he saw that people who don't care about God, don't care about Jesus by any stretch of the imagination, it seems like their lives were pretty peachy, really good. They don't have pains like God's people have, they don't go through these things. He was developing, you know, some bitterness toward God, some anger, struggling with this. All of us, maybe you're going through that right now in your life, or maybe you have. What's amazing is the moment God worked in his heart and brought his focus back onto who God is and what he's done, things changed.

Verse 16 says, "But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end." He started thinking about the fact that even if my life on earth is not as awesome as other people's lives, if they don't have a relationship with God by his grace, they will spend forever away from him where it's not going to be enjoyable. Which is why they need God to rescue them, why people need Jesus to rescue them.

In verse 21 he says, "When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you." That's how some of us are with God sometimes. But notice what he says in verse 23, "Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory." As we think about that trusting in God with my life brings me confidence, brings me hope, brings me satisfaction by the Lord's grace, verse 25-28, is what we want our hearts to be and they only can be because of what Jesus has done.

Verse 25, “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.” Because of who God is and what he’s done, you are free to trust him with your life. As a result of that, our pursuit should be all about Jesus, trusting in him, having confidence in him, placing our hope in him so that we may tell of his works. If God in his grace produces a life in this that only comes through Jesus rescuing us, do you know what happens? People will start to ask you, “Why aren’t you afraid? Why do you have so much confidence in this God that you can’t see? Why do you have such hope in him?” and you can say, “You know what, it’s not me but it’s Jesus. Because of who he is and what he’s done, my hope is in him, I trust him with my life, my life is all about him. You can have the same hope too.” Then God speaks through his word, through his servant, their eyes are opened, they are brought into God’s family and now we have this amazing thing called the Disciple Cycle and disciples are being made for God’s glory, for the advancement of his kingdom.

May by the Lord’s grace we be a people who trust in God with our entire life for his glory and for our joy and good.

Let’s pray.

Father, thank you so much for your Word. I particularly thank you God for the thing that I’ve been wrestling with is what this Psalm is all about. I thank you for Jesus. I thank you that you sent him to be our hope, to be our confidence and to be our satisfaction. Because of that, I pray that your Spirit will produce in us a confidence in you instead of a fear. I pray that it would produce in us a desire for you instead of a desire for things that won’t satisfy us. I pray that it would produce in us a hope in you instead of a hope in something else that won’t free us or rescue us. May you produce this in us, Lord, and may this place be a place that we grow closer to you, closer to each other and where your kingdom is advanced for your sake, for your glory and our good. We pray.

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