

The Only Strength and Purpose That Last Foreverclick bit.ly/3GxEL2u to hear this lesson as taught (or scan QR code→)**Tuesday, May 31, 2022 • Read Psalm 52**

Questions from the Scripture text: Into whose hands was this Psalm put (superscript)? Who wrote it? When (cf. 1Sam chs. 21–22)? What question begins this Psalm (v1a)? What is more enduring (v1b)? What does the evil/“mighty” man’s tongue do (v2a, 4b)? In what manner (v2b)? Why (v3a, 4a)? With what behavior (v3b)? What will the forever-God of v1 do (v5)? Who will have which right response toward God (v6a)? And toward the wicked/deceitful (v6b)? In what do the deceitful foolishly put their trust (v7)? But what are the truth-tellers like (v8a)? Where? How (v8b)? What will they do for how long (v9a)? For what (v9b)? Among whom (v9c)? What will the righteous do now (v9d)? Why?

What hope will stand the test of time (and eternity!)? Psalm 52 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that while those who trust in themselves and their means are the so-called “mighty” who lie and deceive (v1–5), those who trust in God’s mercy will use their mouths for praise. The liar will be quickly destroyed, but the praise-er and his praise will endure forever like his God.

Does the Edomite was so eager to get in good with Saul that he betrayed and then exterminated the priestly household in order to do so (cf. 1Sam chs. 21–22). But what did he gain thereby? Will Saul be king forever? Will Doeg live forever? Of course not. It is God and His goodness that is forever (v1b). And since God is good forever, the evil will be destroyed forever (v5a). In a moment, all of their schemes will be dashed.

When the righteous sees the wicked seeming to prosper, he should fear (v6a). But not fear the wicked—the righteous ought to have a holy ridicule for such folly (v6b) that makes anything other than God one’s strength (v7a). If God alone is forever-strong, then it is literally, utterly ridiculous to make anything else our strength! Yet, the world is full of those who hope in money (v7b) and therefore in whatever they think will obtain it (v7c). Not so the righteous. When the wicked seem to prosper, the righteous should see the folly of it, fear the Lord Who will repay it, and turn away from evil.

But what about the one who makes God his strength? When he goes to the house of God (v8a), he sees his end (cf. Ps 73:17–19, 23–24), and realizes that the worship of God is just the beginning of something eternal! An olive tree seemed almost eternal to a man, since they live thousands (!) of years. But there is something far more enduring in v8: the mercy (covenanted love!) of God, which is forever and ever.

God’s love is determined to give us the highest purpose and privilege: to praise Him (v9a). And we will not be alone in this. All of His saints (v9c), His holy ones whom He has separated unto Himself from the world, they will be there forever. They will be strong forever. They will praise Him forever.

If we know that this is the case, why would we hope in anything else? God forbid that we would! Let us instead wait upon His Name (v9d)!

What sorts of things are you tempted to trust in? What happens when they fluctuate or even fail? Where do you go (gather!) to experience something infinitely more powerful and enduring? What relation does this assembly have to eternity? What does a commitment to the Lord keep you from doing?

Sample prayer: Lord, You have extended to us Your steadfast, covenanted, eternal love! We trust in You, and when we gather in Your house, we find a strength that is the beginning of something eternal. Now, in the presence of Your saints, make us to delight in You! Remind us of the end to which the wicked quickly come, and make us to fear You instead. Keep us from all lesser hopes and foolish schemes by setting before us now: Yourself, Your goodness, Your love, and Your praise—all in Jesus Christ, through whom we ask it, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP52 “Mighty Man, Why Boast in Evil?” or TPH52 “Mighty Man, Why Boast of Evil?”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Psalm 52. These are the words of God to the chief musician. Contemplation of David. When diag the Edomite went and told Saul and said to him, David has gone to the house of an Emelon.

Why do you boast an evil? Oh, mighty man, the goodness of God and doors. Continually your tongue. Devises destruction. Like a sharp. Razor working deceitfully. You love evil. More than good lying rather than speaking righteousness. You love all devouring words. You deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy you forever.

He shall take you away and pluck you out of your dwelling place. And a brute you from the land of the living, the righteous also shall see and fear and shall laugh at him saying, Here is the man who did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and strengthen himself in his wickedness.

But I I'm like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever, I will praise you forever because you have done it and in the presence of your saints. I will wait on your name for it is good So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

The Psalm refers us back to first Samuel chapters 21 and 22. And David is running from Saul and Saul was very frustrated because he can't track David down or kill them and David is hidden by a hemlock and his family. The priests and dough egg, the edamite happens to be there and he goes and he snitches on David

and Saul comes down and of course, David is gone.

And Saul commands as people to murder the priests and nobody there is willing to do it. But dough egg is willing to do it dough. Egg is a loser wimp who wants to have influence and favor with the king and so you can even see the beginning of the Psalm.

Why do you boast an evil almighty, man? It's sarcastic, he's not mighty, he thinks that by his schemes, he has attained a position to for himself and he has attained a position for himself, but it isn't attained the position for himself of person. Whom Saul is about to reward.

He has attained for himself the position of person, whom the Lord is about to destroy. And that is the perspective of the Psalm. We when we trust in ourselves or are trying to manipulate situations for a particular outcome and we seem to gain our design, We can be forgetful that all of life has lived before the face of God and that successes of the wicked are temporary at best and often, even just superficial even during the short time in which they appear to have been gained but that the Lord will execute to his full vengeance.

It's God. After all, who is, who is forever? And so you see how he uses verse 1 to set both of those things? Why do you boast an evil almighty man? And you remember, it's to wake the edomite, you know, your Bible, which the scripture expects you to do and you read about Doing the Edomite in the superscript, You're supposed to know that sarcastic what you post an evil?

Oh mighty man, we've put fear quotes on mighty man there, The goodness of God endures continually. That's what needs to be your boast, the blood over which you rejoice that and which you put your trust. If you trust in your schemes, then they will perish with you, right? That's why Psalm 146 even tells the godly not to hope, even in godly princess.

Because the good that he intended, and that he was executing, it will be buried with him often. Good men, who accomplish good things and that glorifies God to imitate him and do good to others, and it's real good. That is done to others that matters, But it's not permanent, It's not something to put your trust in, Put your trust in something that is going to be forever.

So you can look at the end of the Psalm and Hebrew. Poetry is often this way. You have the bookends and then you build that towards the middle. He says, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the mercy of God. The Has said the steadfast love of God forever and ever You can only trust in something forever and ever if A it is going to be there forever and ever and B you are going to be there forever and ever.

And so in this incident, where Doe egg and gratifies himself to Seoul by murdering these, priests, by snitching on David and then murdering the priests. There is something great to be learned and something great even to be feared. But the great thing to fear is not the deceptiveness of dough egg, or the murderousness of dough egg.

And saw the thing to be feared is that it's possible for a man to completely forget that he is before the face of God, or maybe even words them. Forget as we're gonna be hearing Wednesday evening in the midweek, sermon to push down on the knowledge of God. Everybody knows, he's made it known in us.

He's made it known to us and the things that are made. We know it takes mental effort to resist the knowledge of God and it's possible for a man who does that to not fear God. So in verse 6, says, the righteous also shall see and fear and shall laugh at him saying, Here is the man who did not make God his strength.

He trusted in the abundance of his riches and strengthened himself in his wickedness, when it says that he fears. He's not fearing Doe, is he? Because he's laughing it though. Egg. What he was doing is, he's fearing. God, He's realizing that that which is on display in a huge way.

In doe egg, the Edomite. Forgetting God. Forgetting to fear God and knowing his need of atonement. So that rather than the wrath of God, you will have the favor of God and peace with God through Jesus Christ through the sacrifice, that God provides. That that Doe egg has not feared God and so the righteous even when he laughs at the folly of the wicked and not laugh.

Haha, it's amusing but laugh ridicule. That's, I don't know how to explain ridicule. You know that our ideas are laughable mockable. There you go. The that we would sin is something so stupid as to be mocked and laughter, then the righteous learns to fear God even more. Because what was in Doing in a big way is in each of our hearts, in a small way.

At least We are all forgetful of God and we're reminded to fear when we see what the wicked are bringing upon themselves. This brings this changes. Doesn't it How you view the rising of evil in our culture or even when people are sinning against you and in different contexts, rather than being afraid of them and obsessing about what they might or might not be doing God, help you and God forgive you for such foolishness.

You realize what they might be bringing upon themselves and you fear God even more for yourself and be more grateful for Christ's atonement for you. And look to God, to make you walk and not only independence upon him but in devotion to him and in delight in him. So as he describes what God sees, you know what to do, exe dough, egg saw himself getting in good with Saul But what does God see?

And what does David describe this almost describe here? Your tongue devises destruction like a sharp. Razor working deceitfully, you love evil. More than good lying rather than speaking righteousness. The lighting tongue is one of the things that God hates right. We're you read that in some five and a couple time.

Places in the proverbs. You love all devouring words? You deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy you forever. He shall take you away and pluck you out of your dwelling places up. And brit you from the land of the living, the righteous also shall see and fear. So one of the reasons we need a frequently to worship God and he's built into our lives.

The weekly assembly on the Lord's Day private and family worship morning, morning, and evening is to give us that Psalm 73 experience where it looks like. The righteous are succeeding right? For most of Psalm 73. And then asap goes to the sanctuary. He beholds, the glory of God and he says, then I saw their end.

Truly, you have put them in slippery places all at once. They shall be destroyed. That's what Psalm 52 is doing here. Seeing it again from from God's perspective but I he made himself and his riches as wickedness, whatever he could devise or accumulate His hope. But God is David's strength.

And the scripture here teaches us to have God as our strength, but I am like a green. Olive tree in the house of God I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. I will praise you forever because you have done it and in the presence of your saints.

I'll wait on your name for it is good. So you have here not just the strength that can uphold you forever, but you also have the purpose that is forever. We realize that we will be forever because we exist to praise God. And we've been redeemed to praise God.

And his praise on our lips will not be extinguished. The green olive tree here, by the way, is meant to imply, something permanent. I know all of trees aren't actually permanent but they do live more than 2,000 years, which is pretty permanent. If you're, if you're human at least, now It was pretty amazing when mom and I were on the Mount of Olives and there were all of trees in that grove, that were more than 2000 years old to think that some of these trees were trees already.

When the Lord Jesus was there and they're still there, They still make olives. It's it's pretty permanent but we'll be more permanent than that. Because 2000 years, isn't forever, but one, it has goddess. His strengthened, you has been created and redeemed to praise him. That person is forever. Let's remember that in our day today and not start trusting in many schemes.

But instead walk before the face of God in service and obedience wherever he has put us, Let's pray. Our Father in heaven. We pray that you would remind us that we need a strength. The hope something to rest upon that. Nothing can ever stop not even death so that we will trust in you.

Thank you for giving yourself to us to be our trust. We pray that you would make us to live, not for ourselves but for you that even in the places of service and the roles that you have given us, you would we pray that you would make yourself the aim of our heart and mind.

Even as we do good to others that it's in this world and achieves that success only temporarily remind us that it is rendered unto you permanently, because you are permanent. And so help us O Lord, to have that eternal perspective that takes you into account. Most of all, so that we will not be the laughable.

Mockable people who are always trying to scheme our own ends. Forgive us O God you know how prone our hearts are to that but we thank you that Christ has been perfectly righteous in our place and we thank you that you have redeemed us that you would make us like him.

And so we pray that your spirit who gave us faith, that we could be counted righteous with Jesus's righteousness. Would now continue growing us in that faith to make us to be righteous like Jesus if we ask it in Jesus's name, Amen.