

Psalm 34 — “Bless God At All Times!”

Psalm 34 is a Hymn of praise for God’s provision, protection & providence.

No wonder Ps 34 was often connected with the Lord’s Supper in the early church.

- The Lord's Supper is a thanksgiving to God (a tasting & seeing that God is Good!)
 - ★The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ.
 - ★The Lord's Supper is a participation in the body and the blood of Christ.
 - ★The Lord's Supper signifies the work of the Spirit.
 - ★The Lord's Supper symbolizes the unity of the church in all times and places.
 - ★The Lord's Supper seals the coming kingdom of God.

- **William Law — “God’s never-failing care demands unfailing praise.”**

Ps 34’s title shows that David wrote it when he escaped Abimelech. 1 Sam 21:10-25 mentions Achish. How is this resolved? Some names were dynastic names (e.g., Darius, Caesar, Pharaoh). Abimelech is also the name of the Philistine kings in Genesis 20:2 and 26:1. This is evidence that Abimelech (= “my father is king”) was a dynastic name. Achish would be the personal name of the king of Gath at the time of these events.

THESIS — Ps 34 teaches us to bless God at all times. *How do we respond to God’s provisions in our lives?*

1. **BLESS** THE LORD (1-3)
2. **SEEK** THE LORD (4-7)
3. **FEAR** THE LORD (8-14)
4. **TRUST** THE LORD (15-22)

I. **BLESS THE LORD!** (1-3)

II. **SEEK THE LORD** (4-7)

We need a generation of [Christians] who seek God and seek Him early (in beginning each day w/ God), who give the freshness and dew of effort to God, and secure in return the freshness and fullness of His power that He may be as the dew to them, full of gladness and strength, through all the heat and labor of the day. Our laziness after God is our crying sin...We do not seek God with ardor and diligence. No man gets God who does not follow hard after Him, and no soul follows hard after God who is not after Him in early morn. (EM Bounds)

III. FEAR THE LORD (8-14)

- **HOW do you teach a child to fear God?** *5 considerations*
 1. **Show them God's glory.** — bible teaching, catechism, creation, awe of God
 2. **Deal with sin firmly.** — discipline, restoration, forgiveness, expectation of obedience
 3. **Live at home blamelessly.** — integrity, purity, humility, confession; repentance
 4. **Plead with them eternally.** — beg them to be spared from hell; discipline is a gospel opportunity.
 5. **Prioritize worship of God Almighty.** — *private* worship – prayer, reading & *family* worship – reading, praying, singing & *corporate* worship – preparing, attending, responding, practicing.

IV. TRUST THE LORD (15-22)

- William Law — **"God's never-failing care demands unfailing praise."**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again: Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen. **(Book of Common Prayer, 1662)**

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The Heidelberg Catechism asks to what advantage it is to know that God rules and upholds all things and then answers this way:

"That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from His love; since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move."

Thomas Boston lists 7 reasons why God brings afflictions into our lives in His good providence:

1. To prove your spiritual state as a hypocrite or genuine believer
2. To stir you to obedience, wean you from this world, and set your eyes on heaven
3. To convict you of sin
4. To correct or punish [chasten] you for sin
5. To prevent you from committing sin
6. To reveal latent sin deep within your heart
7. To awaken you from laziness so that you exercise yourself in grace.

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GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

PSALM 34: Psalter

Tune: "I greet Thee who my sure Redeemer art

All of my days I'll bless and praise the Lord;
His praise will ever be within my mouth.
Boast, O my soul, extol the living Lord;
Let all the humble hear it and be glad.

Come, join with me to magnify the Lord.
Let us together praise His name on high!
Daily I sought; the Lord has answered me,
And He from all my terrors set me free.

How good to taste the goodness of the Lord;
Bless'd is the man who trusts in Him alone.
In fear of God, you saints, forever dwell;
For those who fear God never suffer want.

Love you long life and want to see good days?
May your tongue keep from evil and all lies!
Now from all evil flee—instead do good;
Seek peace and strive for it with heart and mind.

Righteous cry out—the Lord will hear their cry;
Saves them from all their troubles and distress.
The Lord is close to every broken heart,
And saves those who are crushed in heaviness.

Phil. 4:19-20 — And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.