

An Evening Psalm (Psalm 4)

- It is tempting to see Psalm 4 in same historical setting as Psalm 3 but it's not
- No justification for thinking: follow on from David fleeing from Absalom
- Psalm 3 focus on the external danger of the king, namely Absalom's assault
- Psalm 4 focuses on different trial, the malicious slander & lies of the king
- It is the psalmist's reputation rather than his person that is being attacked
- He needs a sense of God presence & approval rather than physical deliverance

I. The Agony and Ecstasy

- This psalm combines two genres: individual lament with quiet confidence
- None of us are intrinsically righteous, only in God's righteousness (Christ)
- There are times when we are walking with God, but people do us injustice
- How do we rise above malicious slander, lies, & baseless accusations? Note:
 1. David's urgent plea to God in his time of distress (vs.1) David needs answers
 2. David makes a moving remonstrance addressed to his enemies (vv.2-5)
 3. There is a final expression of David's security found in God alone (vv.6-8)

II. David's Appeal to God

- David didn't turn to others to find support, slander or mock his antagonists
- Vs 1. David strengthened himself in the Lord- He turned to His God in prayer
- He knew his only hope was in God and this is how David ends his psalm:
- You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety; two things about his appeal:
 1. **David's appeal is honest**: He holds nothing from God, he pours his heart out
 2. **David's appeal is balanced**: He knows he's a sinner who is righteous in God: "Be gracious to me" he knows his deep need of God's mercy & grace

III. An Appeal to His Enemies

- David knows God delivers the godly & he reminds his enemies of this truth
- David appeals to the ungodly to repent & turn to God & to seek forgiveness

IV. The Psalmist's Trust in God

1. God assured Him of His Favor (vs. 6) "who will show us some good..."
2. God filled Him with Joy (vs.7) "You have put more joy in my heart..."
3. God gave him Peace in turmoil (vs. 8) In peace I will both lie down and sleep