

Advent Psalms #1
November 29, 2015
Psalm 25

An Excellent Daily Prayer as We Await Our Savior
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Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

Here we go again, still getting ready for Jesus to come. We just finished the Sundays of End Time. Today we begin the Sundays in Advent. In order for our Savior to come again, he had to have come before. Advent prepares us to welcome Jesus when God sent his Son into the world, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.”

Now is not the time to seek the novel; the new and different. We are a community of memory. We find rest in our annual reflection of the Son of God’s coming into the world to redeem the world. That reflection always is upon God’s Word. Today we begin a four part series on the Psalms the church has appointed for our preparation to celebrate our Savior’s birth.

The Holy Spirit’s words King David penned under inspiration set us on our path. Psalm 25 is **An Excellent Daily Prayer as We Await Our Savior**. It is a prayer for protection. It is a prayer for forgiveness. It is a prayer for a godly life.

King David fought many battles on behalf of God’s people. That is what a king does. Sometimes his enemy was an individual, like Goliath. Other times his enemy was an entire nation, like the Ammonites. Where was David’s trust and hope for victory? “To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I put my trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me... Guard my life and rescue me.” [1,2,20]

In 2 Samuel 8, we read, “The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.” [14] Has anyone ever threatened your life? It has happened to me twice. Maybe our enemies did not threaten our lives but the lives of our loved ones, or, threatened to take our property or good name. Think of our fellow Christians who put their lives in danger in the military or law enforcement.

Psalm 25 is an excellent prayer as we await our Savior this Advent season. Jesus Christ is our King. He will protect us. That is what a king does. We lift up our souls to Jesus Christ in prayer and God gives us victory wherever we go. That victory includes triumph over my internal enemies. David prayed, “Turn to me and be gracious to me for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.” [16, 17]

Psalm 25 also is a prayer for forgiveness. What better way to prepare the royal highway for the approaching King of kings than in repentance and the assurance of his forgiveness?

Our violet paraments and banners remind us to prepare for Christmas with broken and contrite hearts. God will not despise them, as David confessed in Psalm 51. It is time to clean out our hearts of every treacherous thought, every hurtful word, and every damnable deed.

Advent takes us to the foot of Jesus’ cross where our King offered up his holiness as the full payment for that debt we have failed to give to our Father. We offer up this excellent prayer as we await our Savior.

“Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways... For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity though it is great.” [5-7, 11]

David surely was mindful of his sins of murder and adultery in his younger days. Remember the sins of your youth? Recall your rebellious ways against parents, teachers, maybe even pastors? Even now as Satan keeps trying to bring these sins to mind, and often is successful, we

know that God does not remember them. God said through Jeremiah, “I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” [31:34]

As you await our Savior’s birth, as the Savior comes into your hearts through the gospel, pray this prayer of faith not in order to become a believer but because you are a believer, “For the sake of your name, L O LORD, forgive my iniquity though it is great.” [11]

Finally, Psalm 25 is a prayer for a godly life as we await our Savior. The sweet singer of Israel prayed also that his life as a child of God would continue to bear the fruits of love more abundantly. It is the gospel alone that creates a godly life. Prayer is good to ask for the goodness and guidance of God’s will to direct a godly life.

David acknowledged the instruction of God’s Word to do that. “Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.” [8, 9] God’s Word gives us good instruction in our preparation. The law is our guide. Following the Ten Commandments is how we recognize evil and know what is right. It is no less true for us than it was for King David that we will grow in godly living as we pray in faith that Christ’s love continues to compel us to no longer live for ourselves, but live for him who loved us and gave himself up on the cross for us.

Jesus is coming into his manger bed. Time to prepare. Part of that preparation is Psalm 25, an excellent daily prayer as we await our Savior. Amen. <SDG>