

Turning to God

Psalm 5

"An outline is helpful for understanding the text. Psalm 5 consists of five strophes or stanzas. In three of these (the first, third, and fifth) the psalmist is standing face-to-face with God with only God in view. In the two alternating stanzas (the second and fourth) he glances sideways at the wicked, as it were, and develops contrasts between God and the wicked (in stanza two) and the righteous and the wicked (in stanza four). Their interlocking contrasts give movement and power to the psalm... Craige adds that "the prayer is not only for protection from the wicked persons, but also a prayer for the protection from becoming like them." Boice

- I. It is important for us to understand the privileged position we have been given in this world if we are to keep the world from stealing the joy of our salvation. It can do that quite easily by making us angry, hopeless, and anxious. Psalm 5 is a psalm of prayer. It is a psalm that David wrote with the understanding that he has a place to go to seek help and relief from a wicked and violent world. It is a place where a believer can go to speak with God face-to-face. It is a place reserved for the righteous, a safe haven from a godless and perverse world that couldn't care less about what it means to be made righteous through his Son Jesus Christ.

Ps 5:1-3

Ps 46:1-3

James 5:16b-18

Luke 18:7

James 1:5-6

Psalm 4:3 Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him.

- II. The wicked, to whom the gift of salvation is offered, cannot speak with God face-to-face. He does not hear their prayers, nor does he take pleasure in them because of their rebellious, sinful hearts. Consequently, the contrast between the righteous and the wicked is to be stark and unyielding, lest our prayers be weakened in every way. A sure way to prevent that from happening is to remain humble before our King and our God.

Ps. 5:4-10

Prov. 3:5-6

Ps. 66:18-19 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened and heard my voice in prayer, but surely he listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God that he has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me.

- III. The Lord is our shield and he encourages us to take refuge in him for his protection from the anger, despair or anxiety we might find ourselves mired in because of this fallen world. His desire is to bless us with the joy and gladness of knowing that we are favored and loved by him.

Ps. 5:11-12

Psalm 91:1-2 1Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."