

Psalm 89 Part 3

Introduction:

The Blessed Gospel. The effect of GOD's Faithfulness and Lovingkindness upon His Covenant people.

Read Psalm 89:15-19

Please consider the reality of what we just read together. Because all that comes before verse 15 is True, we, the people of GOD are "blessed". That which comes before this verse is a doctrine of GOD, which is the Truth of Who He is. I used to struggle with where to start in proclaiming the Gospel to those around me. I have learned it begins with a pursuit of holiness or the out-working of salvation called sanctification. It begins with the world witnessing GOD's Divine Work (called Grace) in me and you - the Work of Christ in which He purifies His people; the Work that proves His people to be aliens in this world that shows our belonging to Him - the Work of Christ which produces Hope in Christ and is to the praise of His Glorious Grace. The Result of His Work in His people puts us and keeps us in a state called "blessed", regardless of circumstances. Regardless of circumstances because this is part of what the prophet or psalmist is teaching us. Before he pleads his brokenness before the LORD, he expresses the Truth that GOD has revealed about Himself and His Promises. We will see more of this, LORD willing, in the coming weeks.

Not to get off track, but I must mention, any doctrine, which is a principle or Truth, that is to be taught must begin with who GOD is. Nothing can be rightly understood apart from who GOD is. Why did I mention the pursuit of holiness as a beginning of proclaiming the Glorious Gospel? In short, we give credibility to the unbelieving world to remain in sin if what we say does not line up with our way of life and the way of life for the believer is a result of our being "blessed".

I want to look at and have each of us consider what it means and what it looks like to be a "blessed" people as stated in our Psalm reading this morning. Blessed is used many times in GOD's Word to describe the result of His Work of Grace in the lives of His people. All of the phrases and statements made previously to verse 15 about the LORD GOD; about Who He is,

are praises and are directed as Worship toward Him. These are precious Truths that we need to hold fast to and live upon. We need to be reminded often of these Truths. To worship our LORD and to be reminded of these precious Truths is why we are to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. This is why we are here today: [Hebrews 10:23-25 NASB] **23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging [one another;] and all the more as you see the day drawing near.** Being made able by Divine Grace to hold fast to the confession of our hope, which Christ is our Hope, is what it means to be blessed – to be able to do so without wavering; to know Him as Faithful – this is our strength and how our “horn” is exalted. Now we don’t do this perfectly, so I don’t want to paint a picture that is not true. We know this by experience as well as the example we have before us in this Psalm. After the psalmist states these wonderful Truths about the LORD GOD, he expresses deep anguish because it seems as though GOD has spurned His Covenant and His people. We never have that problem, do we? We never struggle with doubt or unbelief, do we? The honest answer is yes, we do. This is the most dreadful, alarming, and horrific state of the believer, which by the way “feels” opposite of blessed, is to doubt the LORD GOD. You see, this Covenant mentioned in this Psalm is the foundation of His Salvation being imparted to man. This is why we meet together – to have the Truth of the Glorious Gospel, the Truth of Who GOD is, what He has done, which is promises fulfilled, and that which He has promised to do, that His name is glorified and His saints are strengthened and encouraged – NOT to hear false promises that we should be free from difficulty or made healthy and wealthy. We do struggle! I am learning, even though we are taken through the valley of the shadow of death at times in our pilgrimage through this world, which causes the struggle with doubt and unbelief, is not bad **if** it drives you to the feet of Christ. The promise is that He is with us – His rod and His staff comfort me. So even in our struggle we are able to say and walk in the Truth that we are blessed – that the Gospel is a joyful sound – that we walk in the Light of His Countenance – that we rejoice in His name all the day, even when or especially when we struggle – that we are exalted by His Righteousness – that His Glory is our strength – our horn is exalted by His Favor – that our Shield (protection and provision) belongs to Him.

So, to be blessed is to be happy - Happy in the LORD. Happy is a word that I must qualify because we have as a culture demeaned the value and true meaning of this word. We have been made and are being made blessed by His Glorious Grace. We are being made happy that we enjoy GOD's favor which brings peace to the saint. By His Grace, we who once shamefully hated GOD and all His Ways, are now able to love Him and treasure Him. This is the fruit of His granting the believer repentance. Repentance at its essence is a change of mind, a change of heart, that results in blessing because of GOD's Mercy and Glorious Grace. I thank GOD for His Gospel, for His promises, for the means of meeting together to remind one another so that we honor and exalt Him and that we are encouraged and strengthened – that we are prepared to battle our great enemies, satan, the world, and the flesh for another week.

We see the word “horn” used in verse 17, which is a reference to strength and honor. It expresses GOD's favor upon His people and Holy Displeasure against those who are not. [Psalm 75:10 NASB] **10 And all the horns of the wicked He will cut off, [But] the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.** Here are some other verses to help us understand “horn”: [1 Samuel 2:1, 10 NASB] **1 Then Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD, My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. ... 10 "Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed."** Christ Jesus is called the Horn of Salvation: [Psalm 132:17 NASB] **17 "There I will cause the horn of David to spring forth; I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed.** And [Luke 1:69 NASB] **69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant—** I want us to consider this because we will see the term “horn” come up next week, LORD willing, in our Psalm reading.

Lastly as a prelude or introduction to our time together next week, verse 19 turns back to the Covenant. GOD spoke the promise to His prophet Nathan by way of a vision to give to David. We can see the dual meaning – that some promises relate specifically to Christ, some to David, and some to both. Even when there is correlation, the promises to and of Christ are eternal and the Truth that Christ is preeminent should dominate our minds and hearts. For example, the

phrase “I have exalted one chosen from the people” relates to David in that GOD has ordained and providentially caused throughout history that our King, Jesus, would come in the flesh through the lineage of David. Here is the greater meaning - [Colossians 1:15-20 NASB] **15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the [Father's] good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

LORD, by Your Mercy, may each of us lay our faith where You, O GOD have laid our Help.

Amen