

TRUSTING GOD IN A FALLEN WORLD

(Sermon Summary)

Reading: Psalm 64.

In Psalm 63, we were able to marvel at the love of God towards us. When we come to Psalm 65, there are again reminders of the good things that the Lord has in mind for His people. In this Psalm the themes are darker, more intense and solemn, though it does finish in v10 with encouraging thoughts. It is not immediately clear from which part of David's life that this Psalm came. He is not having difficulties with his own sins for he does not mention these. He does, however, speak of enemies (v1), and the wicked and workers of iniquity (v2). He is therefore facing opponents of godliness and truth.

1. Living in a fallen world.

David is here recognizing something that is a fact, namely, we live in a fallen world. He is not exaggerating in saying this but this is the reality for everyone who is true child of God. We might be fooled at times into thinking that people are so nice but v6 tells us that there is often more going on under the surface. People may have an inward rage which the truth of the Christian faith exposes in them.

David is facing plots (v2) and efforts to destroy him. He mentions the secrecy that surrounds their evil work (v2 and v5). He also talks about the snares they have set (v5). The evil put a lot of work into their plans, devising their schemes (v6). While we may finish the day in thanksgiving to God, they are busy plotting. They do not have any fear (v4) but can devise evil schemes and not seem to be troubled by what they are doing. They are fighting against God, against His work in creation and against His commandments. So as Christians we are to expect to be surrounded by misinformation, lies and false accusations. The plots have become more organised and thought-through, especially given the encouragement to them that the legalizing of gay marriage in the UK, and in the West generally, has been. MPs are more brazen in pushing for more abortions and have exploited the various lockdowns to push their agenda. Efforts to entrap open air preachers and get them in trouble with the police are more frequent now. Books and TV programmes blatantly lie about what Christians stand for.

2. God's view.

In the midst of such opposition, it would be easy to lose heart. The wicked think that there are unseen by anyone who will do anything about it. God sees what they are doing and He is the one that now shoots at them (v7). People in their opposition often end up

stumbling. The things that they have said end up working against them. Their lies are exposed as they trip over themselves. Sometimes they end up falling out with each other, as is happening with the arguments at the moment between feminists and transgender supporters. We have seen a lot of the evil of the 1970's being brought to public exposure over the last ten years or so. Big household names have been found to be guilty of exploiting and abusing young people.

So despite the seeming power of evil-doers, arrogantly fighting against the laws of God and despising authority, God sees all the evil that is done. In the face of this, we are to stay calm and to trust God in this fallen world.

3. God as our refuge.

God is a real refuge to His people. This is not trying to say something that sounds good but is not actually true in experience. God is a living being and so He is able to be these things to His people. It is David's prayer in v1 that the Lord would preserve him. This is what the Lord does. He really does help people to stay safe. Although He is a refuge, that does not mean that God is immobile. This refuge goes wherever we go. So as we journey through life, we are protected and cared for.

We are to trust the Lord that the evildoers will be judged (v9). They will be disgraced before all people. There are judgments in this life for them. Even more so, there will be judgment on the Day when all the secrets of men's hearts are exposed. We are to pray for people that the Lord might deliver His people. Sometimes those prayers are answered in that opponents stumble and discredit themselves. There is peace of mind that we can find in the midst of all this. Our conscience can be at peace and the turmoil we can feel within can be stilled.

We are then to trust the Lord and rejoice (v10). All He tells us about Himself is true. The Lord's people have a good future while evildoers will perish. We can rejoice and be glad in Him for we are His children, deeply loved by Him. He has great power to see us safely through this evil world. He can strengthen us so that we repent of our lack of trust and feel able to leave matters in His hands.