

Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Saturday 23rd May

Psalm 58

Before reading this difficult Psalm let's set the context. Then we can learn lessons for today.

- Remember David is in the middle of physical battle. He's escaped Saul's attempted murder, but is being pursued. He is caught between Israel's king seeking his life, and Israel's enemies. So he sees God's judgement in very physical, war-like terms.
- Even so, see how he commits them to God's judgement. He uses strong language, but leaves it to God to carry out the sentence. Remember how twice he passed the opportunity to kill Saul himself, saying he was in God's hands.
- the New Testament teaches 2 Cor 10v3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1 Do you rulers indeed speak justly?

Do you judge people with equity?

2 No, in your heart you devise injustice,
and your hands mete out violence on the earth.

God sees the heart.

3 Even from birth the wicked go astray;
from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.

We are all sinful from birth.

4 Their venom is like the venom of a snake,
like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears,

5 that will not heed the tune of the charmer,
however skillful the enchanter may be.

God is trying to speak, with grace and love, to invite sinners to turn to him. But they don't want to hear.

6 Break the teeth in their mouths, O God;

Lord, tear out the fangs of those lions!

7 Let them vanish like water that flows away;
when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short.

8 May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along,
like a stillborn child that never sees the sun.

David's outrage at their wrong doing makes him plead with God to be judge.

9 Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns—
whether they be green or dry—the wicked will be swept away.

10 The righteous will be glad when they are avenged,
when they dip their feet in the blood of the wicked.

v6-8 describe 10 pictures, not literal, of what David longs for. v10 is also a picture, using warrior language (there is no record of David doing anything like this).

We know that sinners will be judged, and that we too deserve the same, only Christ has died in our place.

If only people realised that sin has consequence, they would unstop their ears, and recognise the Lord of heaven is both just and gracious.

11 Then people will say,

"Surely the righteous still are rewarded;
surely there is a God who judges the earth."

We are glad that God will judge the earth. All wrongs will finally be sorted.

We are glad God's judgement is righteous. We cannot comprehend, but we can trust that He is fairer than we are.

We are glad the God promises a future with no sin, no evil, no suffering, no sadness. Again, what we cannot get our heads round we can accept as perfect because God is perfect and sovereign.

And we are more than glad that God's free offer of forgiveness through Christ is made to all who will hear.

A hard Psalm. Remind yourself of the overwhelming love of Jesus by [listening to this song](#)

Gordon

It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heaven,
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,
for love of those who loved him not.

I sometimes think about the cross,
and shut my eyes, and try to see
the cruel nails and crown of thorns
and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see him die,
I should but see a little part
of that great love, which, like a fire,
is always burning in his heart.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.