

Psalm Twenty-five

a psalm of longing

The Big Picture

:: the CHARACTER of God ::

As we look at Scripture, we are asking the Holy Spirit to promote the greatness of God in Christ to our hearts. Record what you see of the character and/or truth of God revealed in this passage.

:: our RESPONSIBILITY ::

As you examine this passage, do you see any mandates or commands given? Does this passage call for a believer's right behavior or responsibility?

:: REDEMPTION in Christ ::

Thankfully, God does not leave us with commands alone, but repeatedly reminds us of our redemption in Christ. Where do you see redemption in this passage?

:: our ATTITUDES and our ACTIONS ::

We are now looking at the fruit of our hearts in light of the character of God and the believer's responsibility and our redemption in Christ. A believer's heart at times responds in the flesh and at times responds in the Spirit. What attitudes and actions have betrayed your heart? In contrast, which of your attitudes and actions help you to see the fruit of Christ working in and through you as the Vine provides life for the branch?

:: MEDITATION ::

Take some time to think and pray through the truths of the character of God, and redemption and forgiveness in Christ, so that they capture your mind and heart in Christ throughout the week.

The Hebrew alphabet, with an occasional irregularity, supplies the framework of the psalm, in which the pressure of enemies, the need of guidance and the burden of guilt take turns to be the dominant concern. The tone is subdued, and the singer's trust is shown in patient waiting rather than the outburst of joy that sometimes marks the climax of such a psalm. (Kidner, 133)

1. How does David describe his circumstances and the emotional state that motivated this prayer? (vv. 16-18)

2. One of the major causes of David's anguish is his enemies and foes. (vv. 2, 19) Their victory would discredit not only him, but what he stood for: that is, the conviction that a man must live by the help of God (Kidner, 133). Another source of anguish is his own sin and guilt (vv. 7, 11, 18). What is David's response in the midst of His distress?

v. 1:

vv. 4-5:

vv. 7, 11:

v. 15:

v. 20:

3. What of David's character is he acknowledging through the responses listed above?

4. Do we get the sense that David appeals to God because he deserves any kindness from the Lord? Does David pray to the Lord confidently? On what basis does David go before the Lord and make the requests listed in question 2?

5. How have you seen growth in your prayer life as you have grown in understanding and confidence in the character of God?

6. Verses 11-14 demonstrate that as we grow in intimacy with the Lord, growing in knowledge of His word/His character/His ways, we will see a change in the way we respond to difficult circumstances and even our own sin. Consider now, are you more concerned about your sin against God than about getting relief from the pressures and problems in your life? Where do you turn for encouragement if you are not able to answer that question with a confident yes?

7. Now consider the sins of loved ones close to you. Are you more concerned about how their sins offend our holy God, or are you more concerned about how those sins have offended or affected you? What can this reveal about your heart?

8. How can you cultivate a greater sensitivity to sin and a greater sense of how sin pains God?

Read Colossians 2:13-14 and consider with reverential awe God's grace extended to you through Christ.