

Preparation for Bible Class

THE THREE CRITICAL FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIANITY



Salvation
+R

Acts 16:30-31



Daily Relationship w/God
Dynamic SL

Isaiah 1:2-3



Maturing Relationship w/God
SG life

Ephesians 4:11-16

- 1) **Acts 16:30-31**, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved,
- 2) **Isa 1:2-23**. Ritual without reality. Religion: just going through the motions---- no real fellowship or relationship with God. Greatest 2 commands?
- 3) **Eph 4:12-16**. . . to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, (ἵνα μηκέτι ὡμεν νήπιοι) tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine,

Psalm 56 – The dynamics of David's Recovery from Reversionism ---only in the pss can we see what is going on in the soul & the mechanics of SL.

1. Recap of David's reversionism: fleeing from Saul; lying which led to the destruction of the whole city of Nob; running scared; and feigning insanity at Gath. Reversionism is always attended by neglect of BD, and eventually comes with a very high cost.
2. David's recovery from reversionism began with him getting back to His relationship with the Eternal Son of God, Psa 34:7-8. Psa 34 gives us David's recovery from rev and return to SG---his soul.
 - Psalm 34:7-8, The angel of the LORD (מַלְאֲכֵי יְהוָה) encamps (מִבְּיַב) around those who fear (לִירְאָיו) Him, And rescues them. ⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed (אַשְׁרֵי) is the man who takes refuge (יִקְחֶהָ) in Him!

3. Reversionism always starts by lack of fellowship with God which puts the believer in darkness and under the noetic effects of sin,

- ✓ **1 John 1:5-6** And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness (ἐν τῷ σκότει περιπατῶμεν), we lie and do not practice the truth;
- ✓ The dark noetic effects of sin: disoriented to and distortion of the POG and BD; HV with attendant fear, anxiety and FSH ; mental and psychological problems; 3 stages of divine discipline

4. Principles on David and the Eternal Son of God (AKA, “Angel of the Lord”) who surrounded him), the Trinity, and the oneness of God.
 - a. There is one God and His name is Elohim and He reveals Himself through His Eternal Son (the Angel of the Lord and the Messiah) who is the very image and reflection of God.
 - b. God is one. “One” (*‘echad*) does not refer to absolute unity; rather, it refers to compound unity as per one team, one couple (Gen 2:24), one nation, and one people. There is not a single verse anywhere in the Bible that clearly or directly states that God is an absolute unity.
 - c. The Shema of Dt 6:4 in the New Jerusalem Publication Society Version, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the LORD alone.” The entire thrust of DT 6:4 was that the Lord alone was to be Israel’s God. This fits perfectly with Elohim, Gen 1:26, the Midrash, and NT depictions.

d. **Christ is the image of the invisible God, Heb 1:1-3; Col 1:15-19, 2:9.**

- ✓ **Hebrews 1:3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.
- ✓ **Colossians 1:15** And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

e. **The invisible God and image of the invisible God.**

- ✓ **Exodus 33:20** But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"
- ✓ **Exodus 24:9** Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel
- ✓ **Exodus 24:1** Then He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD,

- ✓ **Ex 3:6**, Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- ✓ **Genesis 32:30** So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."
- ✓ **John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; but the only and unique Son, who is identical with God and is at the Father's side---he has made him known (Jewish New Testament).
- ✓ **Hebrews 1:3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,
- ✓ **Colossians 1:15** And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.
- ✓ **John 14:9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father '?

- ✓ **Gen 18:1-2**, Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. ² And when he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth,

- f. **Only Jesus the Messiah---the divine Son, the image of the invisible God, the Word made flesh, the exact representation of the Father's being---solves the riddle in the OT and NT and explains how someone could really see God, even though God cannot be seen. The Messiah is the visible representation of the invisible, the living manifestation of the glory of God, and the angel of the Lord who surrounded, protected, and lifted David out of reversionsim and impending SUD.**

Psalm 56 – Superscription

- ❖ “For the choir director; according to the tune of ‘the silent dove in far-off lands.’ A Mikhtam (writing) of David when the Philistines seized him in Gath”
 - This describes David as a reversionistic fugitive as he fled like a dove to the far-off lands of Nob and Gath.
 - The far-off lands refer to David leaving the Lord, DV, and God’s geographical will for his life.
 - Under the noetic effects of sin, the believer can rationalize away anything and find a “reason” for anything.
 - David went from being a SG hero, a slayer of Goliath and Philistines, to being as timid and flighty as a dove, see 55:6.
 - The far-off land of Gath is the home of the slain Goliath and the Philistines. This gives us the context for the thoughts of David in this psalm as they “seized him.”
 - Mikhtam: God’s wonderful *written* provision so we can avoid the darkness of reversionism or even recover from reversionism if we ever find ourselves in its grasp.

Psalm 56:1-2.

- “Be gracious” (חַנּוּן). Note David’s grace orientation. Apart from grace orientation, it is impossible to recover from reversionism. Grace means that it depends upon God and not man and his righteousness. David recognizes the mess he is in and understands that he is totally and completely helpless. He understands that he has been under DD, and so he throws himself on the grace of God. Absolutely no SR in David. Consider the helplessness of David as he is mocked and mistreated by the Philistines at Gath. David is pleading for help from God. David’s only solution and our only solution is the divine eternal Son. Grace orientation really is what it is all about.
- “Trampled upon me . . . fight proudly against me.” Consider David’s situation and how he even contributed to his own adverse circumstances. Again, the critical need of grace orientation and seeking the Lord for help. Lowest point in David’s life.

Psa 56:3. “When I am afraid . . . I will put my Trust in You.

- “Trust” (Batach). David was the first to use this term in relationship with God. The word has the idea is of a good tight grip (clinging, clutching) and of intimate union. It is a favorite word of David throughout the psalms. Generally it is not in the easy smooth times that we trust God, but when the trials howl around us—not when the sun shines. We have the wonderful privilege of moving from fear to faith as we face our necessities, weaknesses, sorrows, and sins. It is when we are exposed to danger that we can move into calmness or confidence. This trust and lack of fear really is not the product of outward circumstances. Circumstances tell us to be afraid. Trust must have content, this has nothing to do with positive thinking. Foolish confidence, groundless confidence, is no security at all. Facts are not altered by resolution. True faith fixes its gaze on the divine Helper and His promises. The key is to keep your eyes on Him while threatening enemies are within arm’s length. Lack of trust is why David is here in the first place.

Psa 56:4, “In God, I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid”

- ✓ The victory of faith. Note the contrast between the two MA: from a baneful attitude of darkness to blissfulness attitude of confidence and enlightenment. The true antagonist and triumphant rival of fear is faith, and faith alone. There is no reason any man should be emancipated from his fears apart from faith. There are plenty of reasons for dread in dark possibilities (disasters, losses, sickness, and death) which could come at any moment. Faith in God and what He has revealed is the only solution to the human condition of dread.
- ✓ Trust as per the FRT, faith as part of clinging to God, not only conquers fear, it also brings tranquility and security as it takes away fear by taking away danger,
 - **Proverbs 28:1** The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold (BATACH) as a lion.
 - **1 Peter 5:7** casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

Psa 56:4, “In God, whose word I praise.”

- ✓ Note David’s return to Bible doctrine. Apart from love for BD, there really is no solution.
- ✓ This is the key to any true deliverance in life.
- ✓ This is the only way to go from HV to DV.
- ✓ With Bible doctrine: “I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?”
- ✓ He goes from being half mad in the midst of taunting, abusive Philistines to absolute confidence, boldness, tranquility---and it had nothing to do with the circumstances of life, cf. Paul in prison as he wrote Ephesians and Philippians.
- ✓ What a change! Only possible through personal love of God which is always demonstrated by a love for BD.

Psa 56:5-6

- ✓ Just imagine the hostilities he must have suffered at the hands of the Philistines.
- ✓ There is nothing you can do to placate the implacable. When people are implacable towards you, nothing you say is going to be right. That is just the way it is because of the power of the noetic affect of sin.
- ✓ Every believer needs to be on guard about having a negative attitude to any teaching PT. You will end up hurting yourself as you nullify his teaching due to negative attitude toward him. It is not the man, it is the message.
- ✓ In reversionism believers are filled with MAS and end up twisting and distorting what others say.
- ✓ God used the Philistines to administer divine discipline. This was God's way of "knocking on the door" of David's soul in an attempt to get him to wake up & turn around.

56:7. Imprecatory prayers for victory over the enemies of God---the Philistines mocked David and Yahweh. This prayer will actually be fulfilled by David himself after he recovers and moves back into SG.

56:8. The ultimate triumph of a grace relationship with God. The wanderings here refers to his reversionistic flights from Saul. The tears in a bottle express the beauty and insight of David's understanding of God. David took all of his failures and heartaches to God. David has realized that he had become a walking disaster. David never forgot that no matter how low he had sunk, God was there all of the way with him. Only God can turn tears into joy,

✓ **Psalm 126:5** Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.

- ✓ **Lamentations 3:16** And He has broken my teeth with gravel; He has made me cower in the dust. ¹⁷ And my soul has been rejected from peace; I have forgotten happiness. ¹⁸ So I say, "My strength has perished, And so *has* my hope from the LORD." ¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. ²⁰ Surely my soul remembers And is bowed down within me. ²¹ This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. ²² The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³ *They* are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

56:9

- ✓ David's belief in the power of prayer. Note the incredible confidence David has. SG believers are keenly aware that God is for them. It is the carnal and reversionistic person who lives in uncertainty and feels he must cajole God into blessings and being for him. God (Elohim) speaks of the Trinity. David faintly understood there were three persons in the one Godhead.

56:10

- ✓ Compare David's attitude to the WOG with attitude on the part of most believers. If you want to know what it was that made David so great, it is right here! What is your attitude to the WOG? The challenges of being a teaching PT, and what he must be on guard about.

56:11. The blessings of the FRT, 1 Pet 5:7; Philip 4:4-6.

56:12. Reversion recovery. Really getting back to a dedicated life to God and appreciation of His grace---realizing His matchless grace.

56:13.

- ✓ The foundation of everything in the SL: active fellowship with God. Note David's faith = he is already delivered. David lives in reality that his future is with God no matter what. It was the doctrine contained in the previous 12 verses that got him here.
- ✓ The purpose of all of our deliverances is to get us back to the POG, precisely to really living with God. To walk before Him. Why did God save your bacon the last time? Did it work?
- ✓ Walking with God, before God, and after God---adjustments.
- ✓ The land of the living = land of spiritual enlightenment, Psa 116.
- ✓ David's total grace orientation, Psa 103.