GOD'S CHOICE

PSALM 4
1/22/2012

INTRO: Illus. of picking up sides for ball teams. The first ones picked are usually the most valuable - at least in the eyes of the captain. EX. of how you would hope a certain captain would pick you.

*** GOD CHOOSES THOSE WHO CHOOSE HIM!**

(Those who are right with Him and trust in Him are His choice)

2 key ideas in passage are righteousness and faith.

I. GOD CHOOSES TO HEAR THE ONE WHO IS RIGHT WITH HIM (v. 1-5)
(No need to be distressed: God hears the cry of the righteous)

Read and explain verse 3.

A. THE SOURCE OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (God) (v. 1)

The righteousness I possess, I possess in Him.

Be clothed in His righteousness!

Parable of man without wedding garment (Mt. 22:10,11)

"Distress" = narrow or tight circumstances. When there seems like no way out.

"Enlarged me" = widened, broadened, expanded my tight circumstances.

How do I spell relief? G-O-D.

When trouble comes, we feel boxed in; pressure etc.

(N.T. word for tribulation is - meaning pressure)

God's past faithfulness is a reason for confidence in the present.

If God can do the miraculous work of saving our soul (making us right with Him), He surely can hear when we call.

He will hear because we are His children (born-again, adopted sons)

B. THE STUPIDITY OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (v. 2) (believing lies of Absalom)

"Sons of men" = An appeal to those rebels who were teaming up with Absalom in a revolt against King David.

"My glory" = my personal dignity as king.

"Love vanity" = it was a worthless, hollow, empty scheme to dethrone David.

"Seek after leasing" = lies or deception. They believed the falsehood of Absalom.

C. THE STEPS OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING (v. 3-5)

1. Get serious about God. (v. 3-4a)

a. Love God (v. 3)

"Set apart" = make distinct, separate.

God sets apart those who are "godly" (faithful in their love for God -).

They have a special relationship to God. We are on His side!

God delivered Israel from judgment on Egypt.

Exodus 11:7 - "But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."

b. Fear God (v. 4a)

"Stand in awe" = be trembling, shaking.

Psalm 114:7 - "Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob."

TURN TO Is. 66:2, 5.

Today we don't see a fear of God! The more sin increases, the more the fear of God decreases (EX. Sodom and Gomorrah). And the more the fear of God increases, sin will decrease (Cp. Acts 5:11, 19:17-20).

The one thing that kept me from drugs and alcohol was a fear of my parents.

The fear of God will keep you from sin!

2. Get serious about <u>your life</u> (v. 4b-5)

To be righteous, you must:

a. Give God your <u>attention</u> (v. 4b)

He is saying: In the quietness of the night, let your conscience speak and convince you of the error of your ways. -- We <u>suppress</u> (quench) the Spirit's speaking via our conscience too often.

"Commune with your own heart" - Don't listen to lies (i.e. of Absalom), but quietly contemplate your situation. Are you doing right? Look at your life!

Where are you headed?
Is it toward righteousness?

b. Give God your <u>best</u> (what is right) (v. 5a)

Before you offer anything to God, you must be <u>righteous</u>.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord"
Rm. 12:1-2 - God wants a sacrifice that is "holy and acceptable."

After David confessed his sin, he said: "Thou shalt be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar." (Ps. 51:19).

c. Give God your <u>confidence</u> (trust) (v. 5b)

--Renounce <u>self</u>-trust (in yourself)

--Renounce <u>misplaced</u> trust (in others - Note:

Absalom was the one they trusted.

II. GOD CHOOSES TO COMFORT THE ONE WHO IS RESTING IN HIM

(v. 6-8)
(No need to be depressed: God comforts the heart of the trusting believer)

A. HE COMFORTS BY GIVING US GLADNESS (v. 6-7)

(God cheers us up)

Real joy only comes from one place.

NOTE: David is saying this when he is in trying, difficult circumstances. No wonder He was a "man after God's own heart."

The time of the year that the nation of Israel would rejoice was at harvest time. They were cheered up, glad, had smiles on their faces. Kind of like you when it's pay-day at work, or when you make a sale, or when you get your income tax refund.

NOTE: David was not getting these types of blessings, yet he had joy!

The people were discontented. They longed for improvement and were ready to turn to any leader who made them promises; and so they rallied around Absalom. (ILLUS: of Tribulation - people will rally around the Anti-christ)

B. HE COMFORTS BY GIVING US SECURITY (v. 8)

(God keeps us safe)

"Thou Lord only . . ."

Security in God's hand is the only reliable security. It will give your soul peace!

--We worry too much. Why? Because we don't trust God! We try to manage by ourselves. Too independent, proud.

"Both" is lit. "together" With David's mind being now freed from anxiety, lying down and sleep become united, and he is not kept awake by fear of impending danger.

He needs no guards - God is his guard.

The safest place is in God's will! The least safe place is outside it.

CONCLU:

Prop: God chooses those who choose Him!

I.God chooses to hear the one who is right with Him
(No need to be distressed: God hears the cry of the righteous)

II.God chooses to comfort the one who is resting in Him
(No need to be depressed, God comforts the heart of the trusting believer)

Sing "Who is On the Lord's Side"

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2. Get serious about your life (v. 4b-5)
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   a. Give God your attention (v. 4b)
   b. Give God your best (what is right) (v. 5a)
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