

**Psalm Chapter 31 Commentary**  
*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David*

**1 "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.**

"*In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust;*" We have a clear picture here of David's full confidence, in the power of God, to deliver and protect him in his life; especially, in times of great distress and persecution. Do we have this full confidence of God? Is it manifested in our lives, in such a way that others may see, and glorify, our heavenly Father?

"*let me never be ashamed:*" David's prayer is God, impress my need of you upon my mind, and heart, is so great a way; that I never do anything, which would bring me into thy disfavor, nor cause me to be embarrassed before mine accusers and enemies. David asks that he might never be ashamed because he forgot his God.

Do we have such a great desire in our own lives? We should have this prayer in our lives always, as well as a desire to do that which is pleasing in the sight of God. We have such wording in the New Testament, seen in: **1Jo 3:18-24; 18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.** (If we have the love of God manifested in our lives; we will have this blessed assurance in our lives) **20 ¶ For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.** (If we desire to please God, we have evidence of our eternal salvation) **23 ¶ And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**" Praise God for the belief, and knowledge, of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

"*deliver me in thy righteousness.*" Whose righteousness is under consideration here? Does David say to God: deliver me because I am righteous? No, he pleads the righteousness of God. We have some scripture that demonstrates David's prayer, and gives us the commandment of Jesus, seen in:

- **Mt 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."** We must seek the righteousness of God. Why? Because, we have no righteousness of our own, which will justify us before God. We can only plead the righteousness of Christ as seen in the next text:
- **Ro 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"** We see clearly that the righteousness of Christ is a gift to us when we are born again. Praise the Lord! We don't have to work to provide the righteousness of Christ; it is the gift of God to us, Hallelujah!

**2 Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.**

David asks God; hear my prayer and deliver me speedily. How often have we been in great distress, and felt the need to be delivered speedily, or else I shall fall, fail, or die? Remember, when Peter got out of the boat to walk upon the water? He began to sink after he had taken some few steps, and he needed immediate help to keep him from drowning. **Mt 14:28-31; 28 "And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"** Christ bids us not to doubt, when we pray to God in his name, as seen in: **1Ti 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."**

David asks God; place your arms around me, take me in your hands, and erect a wall of protection about me, that the enemy might not break through and overcome me. We pray the same thing today, asking God to keep us grounded upon the Rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

### **3 For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore, for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.**

David asks that God would be his leader, and his guide, as he navigates the paths of life. We have the same need in our lives today. We understand that our eternal salvation was worked out, and finished, in Jesus Christ. Our desperate need, for the help and presence of the Holy Spirit leading, and guidance, is here in this present life.

What did David say in another Psalm: ***Ps 119:105 ¶ NUN. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*** Certainly, David wants God to keep his word ever present in his life, so he cannot forget God. We should desire the same thing. We should be reading, and meditating, every day, so we are familiar with God's word of truth.

### **4 Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.**

David affirms, for us, that his enemies have laid a trap for him, and he is caught in a situation that he cannot remove himself from, in his own strength. David acknowledges; God is my strength and my only source of help. Do we trust fully in Christ, or do we believe in our own strength of deliverance?

Do you understand that the power of Satan is greater than the power of man? Consider: ***1Jo 4:1-6; 1 ¶ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 ¶ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore, speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.***" Do you understand; he that dwells in the world, and in the flesh of mankind, is the antichrist, and that he is stronger than you are in your own strength? Do you understand; your power, to overcome the antichrist, is only in the power of Jesus Christ? We are told this definitively in ***1Jo 4:4*** "***because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.***"

### **5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.**

"***Into thine hand I commit my spirit:***" David again demonstrates; his complete confidence in God's power to deliver him. He tells God, my confidence in you is so strong, I yield unto you, my life; my life is in your hands. David says, I can do this because "***thou hast redeemed me.***"

I ask; are we so fully confident, in the finished work of Christ, that we can yield our lives completely to the service of God? Are we so filled with the Holy Spirit presence, that we can freely yield unto God in full confidence? Our feeble flesh is often tempting us to doubt, and to disbelieve, God and Christ.

I, personally, have experienced a few moments in life when I was so filled with the Holy Spirit power that I had no doubt that God was going to deliver me. I have experienced a few times; when I was so enveloped in God's love; I was willing to be taken from this life to go and be with God. These kinds of moments do not happen often. However, these experiences are evidence to me, in my life here, that Christ has indeed redeemed me, and that I am a chosen vessel of God. Hallelujah!

We also remember another time when this expression was recorded in scripture: ***Lu 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.***" Here, we have the dying words of our Saviour and Lord, Christ Jesus. Jesus had total confidence in God the Father and knew that in three days he would be resurrected from the grave, and that he would surely return to his eternal home on the throne of God.

This sets the same example that David is setting here in this Psalm. Even, if our natural life is to be taken away, we should have full confidence, in the work of eternal salvation accomplished by Christ on the cross. Understanding, that with the fulfillment of God's will for our lives here, we will finally be delivered, from this body of death, and carried unto our eternal home. We will finally have total deliverance from all temptations and the powers of evil, sin, and Satan.

This belief gives foundation to the great hope we have in Christ, believing he has indeed gone to prepare a place for us, seen in: ***Joh 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto***

**myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**" Not only did Christ go to prepare a place for us; we have the promise that he will return and take us there. Knowing that God cannot lie, seen in: **Tit 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"** we rest in full confidence; Christ Jesus will accomplish what he has promised. Even so, "**Lord come quickly.**" Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Amen.

**6 "I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD. 7 I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities; 8 And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room."**

Certainly, we see a picture of David's life, and a prophetic picture of Jesus's life in these verses. David hated those, who were against God and clung to lying vanities, which are the works of the devil. The same is true of Jesus. David and Jesus both trusted completely in the Lord.

David rejoiced in the mercy of God because God considered his troubles and knew his adversaries. David declares that God has not shut me up into the enemy's hand, but God has set his feet in a large room. David rejoiced that God was merciful to God's people, and that God knew the troubles of each one, and the adversaries that caused them. David knew that God had exercised deliverance in his own life from these ungodly, and in so doing had placed him in a large place. Remember, the troubles that David had from the time he was anointed to be king over all Israel as a shepherd, until he was seated on the throne over all Israel and was given peace with all his adversaries. God had then set his feet in a large place.

Now make these same applications to Jesus. Jesus hated all that were enemies to God's chosen people. Jesus trusted fully in God to the point of giving his life on the cross, being buried, and then resurrecting his body and finally returning to the eternal heaven.

Jesus took on a body of flesh to bear all the troubles that we must bear in life. Jesus knew who his adversaries were. Jesus knew that God would deliver him into the hands of his enemies to give his mortal life, but Jesus knew that he would not be shut up forever with them in death, because he knew he would rise from the dead and return to the eternal heaven, where Jesus is sitting in a large place.

We can make the same applications to our own lives as children of God.

**9 ¶ "Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly. 10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed."**

David had many occasions to plead for the mercy of God because of his troubles. David says that he is consumed with grief and his soul is overwhelmed with the continual years of suffering. David says that his strength fails because of his iniquity, and it is as if his bones are consumed and his bodily support is being taken away.

None ever suffered comparably to the troubles and grief as our Saviour and Lord. Remember when he prayed to God in **Lu 22:39-44; 39 ¶ "And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. 40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. 41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."** Surely, the small troubles we suffer here are nothing to be compared to the true suffering of our Saviour.

Remember that Jesus told us in **Joh 15:17-23; 17 "These things I command you, that ye love one another. 18 ¶ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also."** Wherefore, we know that our sufferings are not in vain. How? Because Jesus overcame all enemies for us, and we too shall overcome all enemies, through Jesus's finished work, and in

God's mercy. This will be fully manifested in the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the change of those who are alive at his second coming.

**11 "I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me. 12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel. 13 For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. 14 But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. 15 My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me."**

Was anyone ever more reproached of men as Jesus? Not by the world only, but also of his own people Israel. We were all his enemies before our new birth. When Jesus went to trial, and hung on the cross, was he not forsaken of all his friends? Yes, they all fled for fear of their own lives.

When Jesus went through all the rigged trials before his crucifixion, he heard all the falsely slanderous things that they cast at him. But Jesus, since he was God in the flesh, knew the end of all things. And He trusted in the covenant he had with God the Father, that he would be raised from the dead, and He would return to his rightful place on the throne of God.

When we make our public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, we immediately become a reproach to the unsaved of the world. Since they are not of God, and they hate God, they will forget you and slander your name for being one that trusts in the finished work of Jesus and God's eternal salvation in your life. They will do all they can to get you to denounce and turn against your profession of faith. However, through the finished work of Jesus, and the gift of faith in the Word of God, we can know that we shall overcome.

**16 "Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake. 17 Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave. 18 Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous."**

Surely, as we read in the gospels of the crucifixion of Jesus and the happenings thereafter, we can see these verses prophetically fulfilled in the life and death of Christ. After his crucifixion and resurrection, the face of God has surely shone upon the face of Jesus, for Jesus is the Light. Jesus was never ashamed of God in all the things He suffered at the hands of his enemies, and his friends. However, as soon as Jesus gave up the ghost and sent His Spirit back to God in heaven, the accusations against him stopped and even some of those who were involved in his crucifixion said of him in **Mt 27:54 "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."**

After the resurrection of Jesus, he remained upon the earth for about forty days before he finally ascended back to heaven. During that time, the lying lips were put to silence, for no one could dispute, truthfully, that he had not risen from the dead.

If you have been born again, by the grace of God, the lying lips of Satan, and his accusations against you, are put to silence. How? Through the shed blood of Jesus and the robes of the righteousness of Christ being put upon you, whereby you have the gift of eternal remission of sins, and eternal life in Christ.

**19 ¶ "Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! 20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues."**

There is nothing in this world equal to the greatness of the goodness of God manifested in the gift of eternal life to men on earth. We are indeed hidden from the pride of man as seen in **1Jo 3:9; 5 "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin,**

**because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**" This needs no explanation.

One of the definitions of pavilion is a tabernacle or tent. Our bodies are a tabernacle of God, and we are hid in Christ, wherefore the strife of tongues is kept from us, especially in the eternal sense, as seen in **Col 3:3; 1 ¶ "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."** If we are indeed hidden in Christ in the new birth, then the strife of tongues cannot affect our eternal inheritance.

**21 "Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city. 22 For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless, thou hearest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee."**

Is there any city stronger than the New Testament Church or the New Jerusalem? None. Indeed, Jesus was cut off from God for the little while on the cross when his body was left in mortality so that it may die the natural death, as we see in **Mr 15:34 "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"**

However, God heard the cry of Jesus on the cross when he said **Lu 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."** We know this is true because of the resurrection of the body of Jesus, and his ascension back into the eternal heaven to the throne of God.

**23 "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. 24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD."**

Jesus tells us in **1Jo 4:1-12; 1 ¶ "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.** (false prophets are proud doers) **2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.** (Those described in this verse are proud doers) **4 ¶ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore, speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.** (Those described in this verse are proud doers) **6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.** (proud doers hear not God) **7 ¶ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; (proud doers) for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."** To which every child of God can say, Hallelujah! Amen!

We have the contents of this chapter affirmed to us in **Heb 4:14-16; 14 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."** We can have great courage in the face of our trials and tribulations because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, and the gift of faith in the Word of God. As affirmed in these verses, Jesus will strengthen our hearts, and grant us help, in our times of need. To which we say, thank you, King Jesus. Praise and glory to your holy name, Amen!