

Psalms 039 The Burning Prayer

To the chief Musician, even to Jeduthun, A Psalm of David.

Ps 39:1 "I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me."

This is an example that we do not see in the world today, for the unregenerate are quick to defile the name of our God, speaking lies and vain things. David is teaching to keep our focus upon God, upon Jesus, and the Holy Spirit only, that we may uphold the integrity of the name of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

2 "I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. 3 My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue, 4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. 5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah."

David tells us that I kept my mouth and did not join the unregenerate in their slanderous conversations. However, I did not extol the name of my God before them, which turned into a burning fire in my heart. David asks God to show him how much longer he is going to have to suffer in this life, before he is taken home to be with God, forever. David says that if I have many days yet on earth, they are as nothing in comparison with an eternity spent in glory with God.

This reminds us of another prophet of God who had a similar experience. Jeremiah proclaimed the judgements of God against Israel until they all rose against him and mocked him and even desired to slay him. Jeremiah then declared he would speak no more in God's name. Listen to him in ***Jer 20:8-13; 8 "For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. 9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. 10 For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. 11 But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore, my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten. 12 But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause. 13 Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers."*** Can you witness with David and Jeremiah? If we do not see that the whole world of the unregenerate are against us, and often our brethren in Christ will be against us. However, our greatest enemy is our inherited sin nature. But, if Christ be in you, you will have a burning in your heart, which will make you willing to stand fast, and testify of the greatness of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, walking in uprightness before Him.

David says, all mankind is vain at best. What then can deliver us from this vanity of man? Christ in us, the gift we are given in the new birth. This, only, lifts us above this state of vanity, and sets our feet upon the solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

6 "Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them."

David is telling us that many, even those who profess to be Christians, are walking in the vanity of their inherited flesh nature. Those, who are children of God, who have turned their backs on God, are in a great warfare in their hearts and minds, they are disquieted in vanity. They heap up worldly wealth and do not realize that it shall be left to others. They have forgotten that God has said in ***2Pe 3:10-13; 10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 ¶ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we,***

according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Praise God, that His people have a promise of more excellent things than this earth has to offer.

7 ¶ "And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. 8 Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish. 9 I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it. 10 Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand. 11 When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah."

"what wait I for?" David reminds us; all that he looks forward to is to be restored to the joy of God's salvation in this life, for therein he finds his hope in God, and finally to be with God after death.

David now prays to God: Asking God to deliver him from himself and his inherited sin nature. David requests to not be made the reproach of the foolish. What does he mean by this? He means; if I fail, in being an upright man of God, and if I resort to sinful ways, the enemy will use my name as an example of how useless it is to believe and trust in God, and thereby persuade others to turn from God to idolatry.

David tells us that the rebukes of God are consuming my life, and the strokes of God's rod of admonition make me appear to my enemies as an ugly creature, because the beauty of thy goodness is not shining forth from me, and the brightness of my countenance is darkened. David is telling us that every man, without God, is empty, and unsatisfactory, (*which is the definition of vanity*) in the sight of God. Surely, we can see that these principles apply directly to our own lives as children of God.

12 "Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. 13 O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more."

David pleads with God to hear his prayers, and to take notice of his tears of repentance. David says that in my present condition, I do not feel your presence, which makes me a stranger to thee. But, says David, I am a sojourner before thee, as all my fathers were, and I still have the promises you have made unto me.

David asks God to spare him from destruction under the hand of God. He prays that God will return to him the strength that he needs to walk, uprightly before God, and be an example to God's people, while he remains alive. David carries his prayer further, and requests that he may walk in uprightness before God all his remaining days on earth.

This is a prayer that each child of God can take up every day of their lives. It is needful to pray, confessing that we are sinners and need the forgiveness of God in our lives. If we see and understand this truth, it will make it easier to purge ourselves as seen in **2Ti 2:19-22; 19 ¶ "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."** We all have wood, hay, and stubble, in our inherited sin nature, and need to purge that old nature from our hearts and minds each day. Why? So, we may do as David is praying, and walk uprightly before God, and before the world, and thereby bring glory and honor to the name of our God, and the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit power within us.

Wherefore, when the devil reminds you of past sins and tries to drag you down, attempting to make you willing to give up the race, remember David's prayer and find peace in your heart and mind. Also, never forget that our Saviour has prayed for us. His burning prayer (the effectual fervent prayer) will be answered by God the Father, and therein, we shall be eternally preserved through His finished work. Hallelujah! Amen!