

Trusting in God's Loyal Love

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Psalm 52:8

בְּטַחְתִּי בְּחֶסֶד־אֱלֹהִים עוֹלָם וָעֶד

Author's Translation:

I trust in the loyal love of God forever and ever.

At the conclusion of a psalm where David recounts the pride and imminent judgment from God upon Doeg, David affirms, in contrast, at the conclusion of the psalm that he trusts in the *loyal love of God* forever and ever.

I. THE LOVE OF GOD DESCRIBED

The love of God could consume the Christian's considerations till the day he enters heaven. It is so rich, vast, free, deep, wide, and broad. None can reach the bottom of God's love. None can swim to the outermost border of His love. None can rise too high beyond the reach of God's love. The love from God to His people should warm the hearts of true believers. It should elicit comfort and it should prompt praise.

What is the love of God like? God's love is perfect. That means that the love that God gives, bestows, and displays can never be anything less than the fullness of divine excellencies. For God to love perfectly means that God's divine beauties perfectly come, at the perfect time, in the perfect ways, to the perfect situation to God's child. God's love is also enduring. The love that God provides cannot fail. It will never come up short. It can never strive to reach a person, or a situation, or a moment and yet come up short. It can never be frustrated or thwarted. God's love endures forever. God's love has endured since all of eternity past since the Triune God perfectly and enduringly loved one another from all time. And furthermore, God's love shall endure to all of eternity future because heaven will be the very definition of perfect harmony and fellowship with God and with other believers. Also, the love of God is loyal. God cannot break His Word. He cannot revoke His love. He will never diminish His kindness to His children. He cannot allow anything to separate His love from His people. The special objects of divine affection and care are those who will constantly, eternally, faithfully, and most assuredly receive God's love. God's love is also full. It is not a partial love that God gives to His people. God does not dispense His love in portions or in fractions. God loves His children wholly, completely, and supremely. God does not give a fraction of His love to different people and increase that love as they excel in holiness. No! God fully loves all of His children with the fullness of divine love that God, by His very nature, is. And finally, God's love is a delightful love. It is a love that will never leave a saint wanting. It will not leave a person desiring more. It is a delightfully supreme, ever-satiating love. The love that God gives to His people is so marvelous and full, eternal and rich, faithful and divine that the son of God who receives the love of God longs for heaven to be with God so the fullness of God's divine love will consume his faculties eternally.

II. THE LOVE OF GOD RECEIVED

This love of God comes one way to sinners — namely, through Jesus Christ the Mediator. No one will ever taste the saving, loyal, covenant-keeping love of God apart from an intimate knowledge of Jesus Christ. Moreover, it is those whom Jesus Christ knows who experience, feel, and enjoy the love of God. The love of God has been poured into the justified sinner's heart through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1-5). This love that God gives can only be received when a sinner, humbled at the sight of his vile, despicable, abominable nature, comes broken, needy, and trusting to the cross of Jesus Christ so as to find cleansing, forgiveness, and eternal love. No divine love will be granted to a prideful sinner. One who persists in arrogance and who trusts in his achievements and power can find God's love. The love from God is available to broken sinners with nothing to offer God. It is the needy that find God's love fully lavished upon them. The self-sufficient, the able, the prominent, and the self-righteous are those who will find God violently opposing them in hell because they chose to reject His love and trust in themselves. The free love of God is received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone which results in the glory of God alone.

III. THE LOVE OF GOD TRUSTED

David affirms that he trusts in the loyal love of God. But, how does one trust in this love of God? The Christian who has received the saving, eternal love from God must rest confidently in the Lord and in His work of saving grace. The Christian living in this world, battling the flesh and abstaining from worldliness, must rehearse the work of God's grace centered on the terribly beautiful moments at Calvary. At the terrible moment of divine abandonment, God forsook Jesus because He made Christ to be sin — thus, Jesus bore the divine curse. And at the same time, the glorious moments of Calvary reveal the unrestrained love of God hunting after His own elect since God would crush His own dear Son so that sinners could be justified. This gospel message must remember this frequently. Remember *who* should be trusted in. The saved sinner must never find himself as the object of trust; nor should the person find confidence in his religiosity, his list of achievements, his prominence amongst other people, or his knowledge of God and the Bible. He must trust solely and exclusively in the saving message of God's grace — that Jesus Christ came to the world to save sinners. And, the Christian must remember *why* he must trust in this gospel. Without it, he will face God's wrath in the eternal fire. He should bear in mind *how long* he must trust in it. Till he graduates out of this life and enters the eternal bliss of heaven, the sinner must trust in Christ. He must lean upon Christ and find refuge in Christ. Indeed, this must be repeated habitually. The moment of faith looking to the Savior and being genuinely converted is necessary and yet what follows is also necessary — that is, an enduring faith. A constant trust. A continual remembrance of Christ and His substitutionary work on the cross. In looking to Christ every day, the believer finds himself trusting in Christ. Days gone by with a neglect in looking at Christ are days that the sinner has neglected to trust in Christ. Thanks be to God that salvation does not depend on man's trusting in God but in God's faithful, steadfast, loyal love toward believers. The regenerated sinner desires to trust more fully, more supremely, more confidently, more habitually, and more triumphantly as his years go by. May the Lord be pleased to enable and empower His people to trust in His loyal love forever and ever.