

GOALS FOR LIFE

CMBC February 23, 2014

Psalm 25:1 – 22

- I wish I knew the original tune to this Psalm. It would make for a great song to sing in church.
- There is a tune that was written for this Psalm almost 40 years ago by Charles Monroe.

*Unto Thee, O Lord
Do I lift up my soul
Unto Thee, O Lord
Do I lift up my soul*

***O my God
I trust in Thee
Let me not be ashamed
Let not my enemies triumph over me***

*Yea let none that wait
On Thee be ashamed
Yea let none that wait
On Thee be ashamed*

*Show me Thy ways
Thy ways O Lord
Teach me Thy paths
Thy paths O Lord..*

And it continues right through the Psalm.

- This is a beautiful song and a meaningful poem.
- King David wrote it as an acrostic, beginning each line with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
- There is a progression of thought, but as poetry, David keeps coming back to several themes throughout the Psalm
 - teach me oh Lord
 - do not let me be ashamed
- I have entitled this message GOALS For Life because David articulates what was for him and should be for us the primary GOALS of life.

It begins with David's longing....

1. Longing For A Character Shaped By God

- a. Lift up my soul

Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul

Oh my God, I trust in you.

- i. This is a longing after God.
- ii. Make me better than I am.
- iii. NLT Oh LORD, I give my life to you
- iv. David addresses God with two different names:
Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul
Oh my God, I trust in you.

1. Unto thee O LORD. Jehovah, I AM – the awesome God

2. I trust in You O my God, Elohim, the God of power, who can change me

- v. Get a vision of what God sees for you
O my God, I trust in you

- vi. Make me what you want. I trust in you.

- vii. The **GOAL** is to let God lift him up

b. Let me not be ashamed

- i. This isn't about being embarrassed

1. It is a desire to never embarrass God

2. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

3. This is about his enemies dragging out of him what would be an embarrassment to God

- ii. My number one **GOAL** is to bring honour to Your name, lift up my soul to that!

- iii. Notice verse 21 May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you.

- iv. My **GOAL** is to never let You down, to be real, genuine in my relationship with You

To reach those **GOALS** I need help.

So teach me how to live that way.

2. Taught By God On How To Live Life

[4] Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;

[5] guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

a. Committed to a teachable heart

- i. I want to learn all I can
 - ii. **ILL** In staff evaluations over the years, a key question has been, “Is he or she teachable.”
 - iii. **ILL** Granddaughter working on a ranch said, “I guess I don’t know everything.” And her boss said, “Oh great! Now you are ready to learn.”
 - iv. It is hard to work with someone who has an unteachable heart. There are bound to be embarrassments.
 - v. My GOALS is to be teachable
- b. God’s unique lessons for me
- i. David knows this to be his God: **vs. 5 You are my God and Saviour**
 - ii. Here is what David knows about God’s instructions **vs. 12 He (God) will instruct him in the way chosen for him.”**
 - iii. God has a curriculum that is specifically designed for you.
 - iv. How often we disagree with God about the curriculum He has chosen for us.
 - v. His GOAL is to let God choose the curriculum
- c. Having confidence in God
- i. **Vs. 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**
 - ii. His confidence is in God as he is honest before God.

3. Committed To Live God’s Way

David is honest about his need for God’s instructions because he fails

- a. Depending on God’s forgiveness
- i. **Verse 7** is a touching admission.
[7] Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.
 - ii. David has seen the mercy of God and knows that he can trust God now to forgive.
 - iii. **[6] Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.**
 - iv. God has always been a forgiving God

1. From the terrible sin of Adam and Eve
2. To the sin of Abraham, and Jacob, and Moses
- v. This is the God you are
- vi. **David's GOAL** is to always be honest before God, because this is a God he can trust to show mercy.

b. God's grace to start afresh

[8] Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. [9] He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. [10] All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

- i. God will instruct sinners
 1. Those who have failed Him
 2. God will bring us back
 3. God will start again with us
- ii. God has that kind of reputation and will keep that reputation

[11] For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

4. Here Is Why David Says He Needs God's Instruction

This is where I get off track. Two areas:

a. Troubles of my heart

[17] The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.

- i. Internal struggles with my weaknesses
- ii. My habits, my character
- iii. My anguish is that I try harder, but I still fail

[16] Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

- iv. There is a strange thing that happens when we are disobedient.
 1. We feel alone, afflicted
 2. I feel like nobody will help me
 3. I feel like nobody cares
 4. Nobody understands
- v. That is a dangerous situation
- vi. I need you oh LORD

Where I get off track is because of the troubles with my heart

And secondly I get off track from the attacks of the enemy.

b. Attacks from the enemy

[19] See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me!

- i. He needs God's help because the pressure from without is impossible to deal with along
- ii. The pressure from without pushes me toward taking short cuts with God, depending on other things than on God.
- iii. The enemy wants to take you down, to stick it to God.

Here is what is key in setting the goals for life:

[15] My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

The snare is always there. It has my foot. It threatens to pull me down.

That is the reality of life.

But my eyes are ever on the LORD>

And here is the beauty of this relationship

[14] The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

God offers an intimate personal trusting relationship with us.

And then, suddenly in this Psalm, his focus turns from himself to other

[22] Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!

All of David's focus has been on his life, his struggles, his goals
When he gets that into perspective he now can focus his heart on others.

This verse isn't part of the acrostic.

I could have been added by someone else, moved by the need for this in all of Israel.

It could have been David.

They sang this Psalm in church, in worship. "Lord teach me. I trust in you. Let me not be ashamed. Let not my enemy triumph over me."