

BENEFITS OF LOYALTY

If you recall, in Psalm 18, we have seen that when David was struggling through trials, he would “call upon the LORD” (vv 1-3). Sometimes the situation in which we find ourselves feels like we are “in the grip of death” (vv 4-5). In the last article, we looked at how salvation was attained because of “the LORD’s power and protection” (vv 6-19). In this article, we will focus on the benefits of loyalty to God (vv 20-30).

Why did God deliver David through his trials and afflictions? Was it because David was better than others? Was it because he was popular? Was it because he was a strong leader? I would say (and I think David is saying in poetic fashion) that it was because of his, David’s, loyalty to the LORD.

In the first part of this section, it looks like David is just “tooting his own horn.” It may appear like he is going on about how great he is, and if you could be great like him, then the LORD would do a bunch of cool stuff for you and save you like he saved David. David understood that he was in a covenant relationship, a kind of partnership, with the LORD and as a result, God expected him to be faithful to that partnership.

In verses 20-24, we see that God deals with people based upon their own choices. We can choose to be loyal to him and faithful to his instructions, or we can choose to rebel against his teachings.

In verses 25-27, David shows the difference (I believe these are perceived differences by some) in God’s treatment to various groups. God extends grace to all, but for the ungrateful they don’t perceive or receive that grace the way those who are loyal to God do. Those who choose to love and obey God will more likely perceive him as good and merciful. Alternately, those who choose to rebel perceive him as overbearing and mean. Also, the LORD will exalt the humble and bring down the proud (James and Peter both mention this in the New Testament).

Finishing this section in verses 28-30, David tells how God will guide our lives and illuminate our way. He will give us the strength to overcome adversity. We must be true to his word and seek shelter only in him.

What choices am I making? I don’t make myself righteous. God makes me righteous when I pledge my undivided loyalty to him and am fully trusting in him. Then, being in a relationship and partnership with the LORD, I should desire to make choices based upon the teachings and instructions found in his word.

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