

A Picture of the Man after God's Own Heart

Part One - Text Overview:

The construction of Psalm 34 employing different aspects of worship

- Doxology (1-3): David opens with praise to the LORD
- Testimony (4-7) David recounts God's faithfulness
- Exhortation (8-14): David instructs us to do good
- Theology (15-18): David describes how God relates with His people
- Encouragement (19-22): David assures us of our hope in the LORD

Part Two – Message of the Psalm

The main point of the Psalm is that we should follow David's pattern of Gospel renewal by rejoicing in our humble dependance on the LORD

1. **Recognize Sinfulness:** The gospel begins by recognizing our own inability to provide for ourselves or save ourselves. David recognizes his own sinfulness.
 - a. Context of Psalm (1 Sam 21) and the humanity of David demonstrate sinfulness
 - b. David recognizes his spiritual poverty (18, Ps 51:17), which is a precondition for salvation (Matt 5:3)
2. **Experience the Grace of our Rescue:** The reality is that God delivers his people now and in eternity.
 - a. **Who:** God justifies the ungodly through faith by grace (Romans 4)
 - i. Those to whom God gives a heart of humility and dependance (4-7) are His people; the self-sufficient (10, 21, 16)
 - b. **What:** Affliction is universal (19, 21) but God rescues his people (4) and cuts off the evil ones (16, 21)
3. **Give Thanks and Praise:** God's people offer praise and thanksgiving on the basis of what has been done for them
 - a. **When:** We should offer praise at all times (1)
 - b. **Who:** David offers praise, the humble hear and are glad. They exalt Him together (1-3)
4. **Respond in Blessed Obedience:** We are called to respond in obedience, with a promise of blessing if we conform our hearts to Him (12)
 - i. We are called to obedience: (12-16, 1 Pet 3, Eph 2:10) with a promise of a blessing
 - ii. The promised blessing is to be happy: to "desire life" to "loves many days" (12)
 - iii. We receive the blessing when we recognize the truth of God's love and shape our affections after Him (Ps 37:4)
 - iv. Joy in doing good in this life of toil is God's gift to man (Ecc 3:12,13)