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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

911

Prayer Meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Saturday evening 9.11.57

Hymns: 1125, 379

57/A

Reading Psalms 16 & 17: 1 Samuel 30.6-8

This Psalm - 17 - appears to have two points, that is to say David has a prayer and a confidence. There is a prayer. From the language of the Psalm David is having heavy travelling. He has enemies, oppressors, persecutors and those who would cast him down. But he has something better than all this; he has a God whom he knows as his own God to whom he can betake himself and pour out his heart before Him.

In David's prayer these three features seem to stand out. He prays for justice, beseeching God, under his peculiar circumstances, these evidently painful circumstances, to vindicate his cause, maintain his honour and prove his integrity. By God's grace he had deported himself in an upright and commendable way amidst all the difficulties, persecutions and reproaches that were cast upon him. This he was enabled to do particularly under the persecutions of Saul. In a full and proper sense it would seem that it is only of the Lord Jesus Christ that it can be said truly "Thou hast tried me and shalt find nothing". But in David's case he lays all before God seeking that He would vindicate his cause. It is then a prayer for justice, for the Lord to be his God in thus proving before all that he had walked in the ways of God and had not acted in any way improperly with regard to his enemies and persecutors.

Then there is a prayer for support under all his afflictions and trials. "Hold up my goings in Thy paths that my footsteps slip not". He would still wait on God to be his strength and stay, to hold him up in the path of tribulation. "Hold up my goings in Thy paths" - not my paths - Thy paths, the paths of truth and righteousness.

Thirdly, it is a prayer for preservation. He asks to be kept as the apple of God's eye. "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Thy wings". The apple of the eye! How expressive is this, being such a delicate and tender part. It is

a prayer for God's watchful care to be over him amidst all these dangers.

But there is also a confidence that God would be his deliverer and that he would be brought through and one day be satisfied. "As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness". Whatever may befall the wicked, who have their portion in this life, "I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness". So he seems to be lifted above and beyond all present dark and depressing things to the resurrection. "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness." This, in so far as it refers to the resurrection of the body, is the believer's hope. This often rises before his faith with great attraction. Indeed this is before every vessel of mercy, to behold the face of Christ in righteousness. That will be full and complete satisfaction. We shall be satisfied then, eternally satisfied! Satisfied in the likeness of Christ! This body will be raised a spiritual body, conformed to the glorious image of Christ. I shall be satisfied then. Nothing will be lacking to complete that happiness, or to mar that peace; I shall be satisfied then. How sweet then, when we feel we can look beyond the surges of time to that glorious day and feel a hope that we shall have this blessed and eternal satisfaction. Amen