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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

51/E

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
12th. February, 1951

Reading: Psalms 16 and 17

The Psalm is a prayer of David and a prayer evidently offered under peculiarly painful conditions but wherein he was graciously inclined to commit his case to his God. He prays first for justice, that is to say that God would defend his cause and deal with the matters that oppressed him and the accusations of his enemies in such a way as to bring him forth to the light. "Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal". He refers to his integrity which was indeed very marked in the case of David when he was oppressed by his enemies and when they were even in his hand. Although this is, I believe, prophetic of the Lord Jesus Christ particularly, yet as far as David is concerned it reveals the way in which he was inclined as it were to gather up things and to commit the conduct of his enemies unto God.

He prays also for preserving grace. "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not". He was evidently walking in a path of temptation to take revenge upon his enemies, but he prays that God would preserve him and enable him to live and walk in that path He had appointed him and to uphold him in it. This is a good prayer, especially when certain temptations may lie upon us and when circumstances lend themselves, as sometimes they do, in the experiences of the Lord's people, to revenge themselves or perhaps to take certain procedures that may strongly appeal to nature but may not be conformable to the precepts of the Gospel.

But he also prays for ultimate satisfaction which in the highest sense he realises cannot be found in this life amidst all the temptations and afflictions that attend the path of the

Lord's people; but looking forward with respect to his own case and being enabled to leave his enemies in the hands of God, he says "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness." That will be a wonderful satisfaction. It will be a satisfaction first in relation to all the disposings of God's providence here. In reflection then we shall see, as it may be we shall never see here, how all things have worked together for good in the purposes of God. We shall be satisfied with that provision the Lord has allowed us; we shall be satisfied with that holy conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ at the resurrection when death shall be swallowed up in victory and this mortal shall put on immortality. There are moments of satisfaction here, of sweet satisfaction too when the soul experiences a little inflowing of the precious Gospel, when Christ is revealed, when a taste of pardon is felt and the peace of God is enjoyed which passeth all understanding; but it is so very intermittent, often interrupted, amid changing conditions, clouds coming over our skies and darkness upon us after a time of light and enjoyment; but there it will be eternal satisfaction, not a satisfaction to be followed by conditions of trial and affliction. There the cup will be full to overflowing and there will be satisfaction in a perfect sense. What a prospect then awaits the Lord's people, a prospect which, when felt with a hope of interest, sustains the soul here, helps us to look forward, strengthens faith and makes the Lord precious in the hope and anticipation of one day being where He is.