

**Psalm 34: 1-11; “Will You Taste and See?” – A Message Delivered by Pastor Paul
Rendall at both Birkwood Village Assisted Living & Premier Estates
Nursing Home on the Afternoon of January 21st, 2024.**

The God whom I will describe to you this afternoon is the God of all grace and glory. He is the One, and the Only One, who can give you this greatest of gifts, the gift of eternal life. He will do this great thing for you through your tasting of the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. When you receive Christ and His grace, you will receive certain things which others, who have never tasted, have never experienced. 1st of all – You will taste of the ability to bless the Lord at all times. 2nd – You will taste of the ability to be saved from all of your troubles. And 3rd – You will taste of the ability to know and to experience every good thing.

1st of all – You will taste of the ability to bless the Lord at all times. (verses 1-3)

The importance of your tasting of spiritual realities, even if you never have before, cannot be underestimated. Here in these verses, this is what each of us is encouraged to do; to “taste and see that the Lord is good.” If you have never come to God by faith, in order to know Him personally, you may taste of Him today, and know His goodness to you, this very day. If you already have come to know Him, and perhaps you have known Him for many years, you will always have Christ’s grace working in your heart.

And you should still be eager to taste of His goodness once again this afternoon, and to give to Him your thanks, for all the blessings of your salvation. To come to know the Lord is like tasting honey for the very first time. He brightens the eyes of your heart and your understanding. For you come to see and to know that the Lord is good, and that He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. He is the giver of life, and He is the One who gives spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Listen to the first verse again. “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Let us ask ourselves whether our hearts have been so changed by the grace of Christ that we are able to do this? It is so easy for an unbelieving heart to never praise God much at all. What is the reason for this sad silence? It is that you do not realize all that the Lord has done for you in His great salvation. You thought that all has depended upon your own strength; your own power and ability to cope with the things that life throws your way.

Actually it is God who is in control of all the various situations of your life. He knows the number of your days, before there is even one of them. He knows the number of the hairs of your head. He knows all the words of your mouth even before you speak. Your times are in His hand. He is the One who has given you all the strength and ability that you have, even from your youth. This is reason for praise to be continually in your mouth. If He has cared for you in this great way throughout your life, bringing you into the world, ordaining that you would grow up and have many years of strength and beauty, will He not care for you now, when you are at your weakest? Yes, indeed He will.

If you have believed in Jesus, God’s only begotten Son, you have every reason to praise the Lord at all times. He has taken away all of your sins, and He has given you a New Heart. He is teaching you many things about how to deal with your own inability to do many things. You cannot run and jump as you used to. Perhaps you cannot speak or think as you used to; but still God is faithful to you, the one who is trusting in Him. O taste and see, dear believer, of the greatness of God, and praise Him continually with your mouth.

But let me ask whether you boast in yourself, or whether you boast in Him? Because this goes along with all that I have said thus far. Most people are ever-ready to boast in themselves or in someone else’s strength. But what God is looking for from you is that your soul would make its boast in Him. At Bible Club we often sing a children’s song which goes like this: My God is so great, and so strong, and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do. The mountains are His,

the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork too. If the Lord made and watches over His creation, then there is nothing that He cannot do.

I want you to learn to think this way: Since my God is so kind and merciful, He will always be looking after me, even when I cannot look after myself. You see, this kind of boasting is not sinful. It glorifies God. You are confessing that all of your strength is found in Him. All of your hope is found in Him. He will give to you all things in and through the grace of His Son. You will remember what it cost Him? It cost the Lord Jesus great pains in His rendering a full and perfect obedience to His Father, in order that you could become God's Son or daughter.

It took unimaginable sufferings to atone for your sins on the cross; sufferings of soul and body so that you would not have to pay the penalty for your sins eternally in hell. This is why all true Christians boast in the Lord. The Lord has delivered you from all of your greatest enemies; sin, and death, and hell; the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christ has overcome all of them. When you praise the Lord you magnify His name. You make it greater in your mind and heart than all the experiences of pain and grief and sadness that you are experiencing.

You realize, that what He has done, and what He is doing for you even now. Things that you could never do on your own; change your heart and change your life from introspection and sadness to praise. Give you the expectation of His help and His final deliverance of you from all sin. In Psalm 44: 8 it says, "In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever and ever." Since Christ is raised from the dead, you shall be raised from the dead. Since He has overcome all your enemies, you too shall overcome by faith.

2nd – You will taste of the ability to be saved from all of your troubles.

(verses 4-7)

Verse 4 says, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." "They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed." "This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them." Let me ask you whether you are a man or woman of prayer? For this is how you, as a Christian, are delivered from all of your troubles. You seek the Lord and He hears you, and He delivers you from all your fears.

"What a Friend we have in Jesus, all my sins and griefs to bear." What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer." "Are we weak and heavy laden; cumbered with a load of care; we should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer." "Have we trials and temptations?" "Is there trouble anywhere?" "Precious Savior still my refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer." You look to Him in faith, and casting all your cares upon Him, you come to know that He cares for you.

Your face, which was once sad and discouraged becomes radiant by looking to Him. The joy of the Lord is your strength. You cry out in prayer and He hears you and saves you out of all your troubles. The angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ. He encamps all around those who fear Him, those who have regard for Him. Christ camps with you right here in this place where you are living. You come to have greater regard for Him than for any person who might minister to you here.

He is your Savior and Lord, and He is your Deliverer, bringing you through all the most difficult and distressing situations that you will face. Will you not taste and see that He is good? The Apostle Paul said in 2nd Timothy 4: 18 – "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom." "To Him be the glory forever."

3rd – You will have the ability to know and to experience every good thing.

Verses 8-11 say – "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" "Oh fear the Lord, you His saints!" "There is no want to those who fear Him." "The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing." "Come you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." People who think that they have

all of their resources in themselves, they will not seek the Lord. But those who see themselves as poor in spirit and needy, they shall apply to Christ for grace. They will trust in Him.

Verse 11 says – “Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” The fear of the Lord is something that you must be taught. The Lord Himself alone can really teach it to you in your spirit, although people like David and your parents and others who are your spiritual teachers, like your pastor, they can help in this process. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fools despise wisdom and understanding. The fear of the Lord begins when you will regard the gospel and place your faith in it.

You will taste and see that even in your most difficult hours that Christ is there with you; the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The young lions, all those people who think themselves so strong in themselves, will lack and suffer hunger. They will try to find meaning in life, satisfaction in life, and prosperity in this life through material things, but they will not find it there. No, you shall not lack any good thing if you trust in Jesus Christ.

“He who spared not His Son, but delivered Him up for us all (that is all who will believe in Him), how shall He not with Him (that is with Christ) give us all things?” Oh, that each of you will trust in the Lord Jesus today! Wait not a moment longer! May you taste and see that He is good. May you prove it to yourself, that He is faithful, and He has provided everything necessary for life and godliness through His life, His death, and His resurrection. Amen.