

Confident, Though Surrounded by Enemies

Psalm 118:10-16

Halifax: 1 April 2007

Introduction:

A few weeks ago,

- I introduced Psalm 118-A (which includes the first nine verses) to you as our Psalm of Focus.
 - When I preached from this portion of Psalm 118 at that time,
 - I explained to you that in this Psalm we are led to confess the LORD.
 - The word *hdy yaw-daw* translated “**give thanks**” properly means “**to confess**” and so when used of God has to do with praise and thanksgiving—when you confess or say what is true about him, it comes forth as praise and thanksgiving).
 - We are to confess Him...
 - because He is good
 - because His covenant love (Hesed) endures forever
 - because He has rescued us when we were in distress.
 - The Psalm shows you that when you sincerely confess His goodness, steadfast love, and acts of saving help, it will have a three-fold effect on you...
 - It will show you that you have nothing to fear...
 - It will make you certain that God will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you...
 - It will assure you that it is far better to trust in Him than in even the best of men.
 - You must see that He is good and that His covenant love is sure, or you will never be able endure the temptations and afflictions of this life...
 - You must never doubt that in all these things,
 - He has a loving purpose toward you.
 - **This is what enabled our Lord Jesus to face the cross—**
 - He was confident in His Father’s love and in His Father’s promise to save the world through His work.
 - This Psalm is first and foremost about Jesus as our Mediator—
 - He is the One who leads us in singing it!
 - He is the One who confessed that the LORD is good and that His mercy endures forever as He faced the cross, and now He leads us to do the same.

- That is why I selected Psalm 118-A to be our Psalm of focus as we studied that portion of Matthew's gospel where we found our LORD preparing to go to the cross...
 - It was this assurance in the Father's goodness and mercy that kept Him moving forward to the dreadful sufferings He was called to endure.
 - Last week in Matthew 26, we looked at His final resolution to go to the cross as he wrestled with temptation at the Garden of Gethsemane.
 - No sin was involved in His wrestling in His pleading that He might be spared the suffering if it was possible...
 - for the curse of God is not something that anyone ought rightly to desire—He despised becoming the object of His father's wrath and contempt as well he should...
 - Yet, He was wholly resolved to do the Father's will, and if that meant drinking this bitter cup, He was minded to do it.
 - As we move along in Matthew, we will now see that the time of preparation for Christ's death is over...
 - Now we will see Him actually going to His death...
 - Now we will see His enemies not merely preparing for His destruction, but actually coming upon Him...
 - betraying Him, arresting Him, trying Him, sentencing Him, and at last delivering Him up to be crucified.
 - And through it all, we will see Him enduring all this with the bearing of a sovereign king...
 - Though His enemies surround Him with bitter aggression, injustice, and malice,
 - we will see Him poised and confident as the one who will have the final say and the ultimate victory.
 - He stands among His enemies and their mocking abuse, not as one who is bettered and defeated,
 - but as one who seems to know something they do not know!
 - as one who is fulfilling a mission rather than as one who is being dragged into something against His will.
 - Oh what a marvellous kingly bearing He has through it all!
 - It will be a delight for us to marvel at Him until at last, the Roman centurion beside the cross who witnessed His bearing will declare for us:

- “Truly this was the Son of God!”

And so now as we prepare to take up this next section in Matthew’s gospel over the next few weeks,

- I want to introduce you to the Psalm of Focus that we will sing to accompany our study...
 - It is the next 7 verses of Psalm 118—Psalm 118-B in our Psalter—vv 10-16.
 - Here we see Him announcing that He is surrounded by His enemies...
 - But expressing full confidence that He will destroy them all...
 - And all this will bring forth praise from all the righteous!
 - It is a most suitable Psalm for us to sing as we delight ourselves in the display of His kingly bearing before His enemies.
 - Beholding Him in this way ought to draw forth these praises from our lips.
 - And in order that you might better understand what you are singing,
 - I will expound this portion of Psalm 118 to you this morning...
 - Psalm 118:10-16.
 - I urge you to listen diligently that you might not miss what the Lord has for you.

TRANS> To start off, I want to show you

I. The vivid account that our Lord Jesus gives of His enemies in verses 10-14.

DIGRESSION: But before I do, perhaps I should say a word or two about the way we ought to look at the Psalms...

- I have simply assumed that the LORD Jesus is the speaker here...
 - but how can this be when this Psalm was written long before He was born?
- It is true that it was penned by David or perhaps by some one like Ezra and that it was also true to their experience...
 - but the scriptures are unique because they are word of Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit...
 - And the very events of David’s life and Ezra’s life are given to us as types that find their fulfilment in Jesus Christ.
 - In Luke, the Lord Jesus explained that the Psalms, and other Old Testament writings are about Him.
 - And we are told in Hebrews 2:12 that now, after His resurrection, He leads His church in the singing of Psalms...

- That means that whenever we sing them, we need to look to Him as our Cantor, our worship leader!
 - I have had people tell me that they don't like to sing the Psalms as well as hymns that Christians have written because they prefer to sing about Christ!
 - Such persons do not understand that the Psalms are about Christ!
 - They are missing out on something marvellous!
 - They are missing out on the fellowship we have with Christ as we take His word and encourage each other with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual songs...
 - All three of these designations refer to the collection we call the book of Psalms that He has given us to sing in the church!
 - Songs of human composition can be rich and helpful,
 - but how much more these songs that Christ Himself gives us to sing when we sing them with understanding!
- So yes, Psalm 118 is about David and about Ezra and about every believer, for we are all members of the body of Christ...
 - but above all, it is about Christ Himself who is the head of the body!
 - There is nothing polluted in the sentiments and longings and confessions and desires in the Psalms...
 - It is all the very sentiments and longings and confessions and desires of our matchless Lord and Saviour who came to earth to represent us in our own flesh.
 - We sing with Him as those united to Him, aspiring to make His mind our own mind.

TRANS> Okay, so with this in mind, let me now turn back to the first point show you:

- **The vivid account that our Lord Jesus gives of His enemies in verses 10-14.**

A. First, see how He speaks of their ubiquity...

1. They seemed to be everywhere!
 - a. Four times, He speaks of them as surrounding Him or compassing Him about.
 - The idea is that they are coming against Him from all directions...
 - There was no place in the earth He might turn to be free of them...
 - He met Satan in the wilderness... and many other times...
 - He had Judas among His very own disciples...

- His brothers opposed him in His very own family...
 - The chief priests and the Pharisees scrutinized His every word and sought to ensnare Him...
- b. As Spurgeon put it,
- He was hemmed in by his adversaries, and scarce could find a loophole of escape from the bands which made a ring around him.
2. This surrounding of all nations against Christ speaks of the universal hatred of all mankind excepting those who have been redeemed.
- a. The word “**nations**” is the word *Mywg goyeem* (or Gentiles)...
- This is the word used in Psalm 2—
 - Psalm 2:1-2: Why do the **nations** rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed...
 - The apostles quote this when the early church is persecuted,
 - and interestingly, they quote it with reference to **Jewish** persecutors...
 - This is significant because we learn that even though their persecutors at this time were strictly Jewish leaders,
 - The Apostles called them *Mywg* because, by their malicious actions against the Church of Christ, they showed that they were not among the redeemed of the Lord—
 - they were Gentiles, persons not in covenant fellowship with God.

TRANS> Now we should learn how to interpret the word “nations” in Psalm 118 by looking at how the Apostles interpret it in Psalm 2.

- b. When the Psalm says, “All nations surrounded me,”
- the word **nations** (*Mywg*) refers to all people through all ages who are not redeemed, who are not born again, whether or not they belong to the visible church or not.
- 1) Here then is the great struggle of the ages between
- the City of Man and the City of God,
 - the righteous and the unrighteous,
 - the Seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent,
 - the godly and the ungodly,
 - the sons of mercy and the children of wrath,
 - those in league with Christ and those in league with Satan.

- 2) It goes all the way back to Cain who killed his brother Abel because Abel was righteous, and it is seen again and again...
 - and it is seen again and again throughout history
 - It was seen when the world opposed Noah,
 - When Egypt opposed Israel,
 - When Babylon opposed Jerusalem,
 - When Sanballet opposed Nehemiah,
 - But it reaches its climax when
 - “both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together” against Jesus.
 - It was then that we saw most clearly the opposition of all the unrighteous to the LORD and to His Anointed Son Jesus.
 - It was then that we saw what we would all do to the LORD of glory among us if we could...
 - unless our hearts have been changed by the power of God’s Spirit of Grace.
- 3) Every one of you who hears is my voice this morning is on one side of this struggle or the other...
 - You cannot be neutral to the One who came as Lord from heaven, and who calls you to be reconciled to God through His suffering and death.
 - You either defy His call and reject Him, or you humbly repent and turn to Him for life.
 - You are either with Him, earnestly following Him and trusting Him,
 - or you are against Him, opposing Him...
 - and whether you would admit it or not, if it came down to it, you would vote for His crucifixion.

3. Ever since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden,
 - a. Every person comes into the world as an enemy of God, determined to declare our independence.
 - It is only by the grace of God that anyone’s heart is changed,
 - and by the shed blood of Jesus Christ that anyone is pardoned.
 - Otherwise, no matter what you may say,
 - you are bitter enemies of the LORD...
 - you are among the Mywg who surround Him to destroy Him.

- b. And so it is that our LORD's enemies are everywhere...
 - Four times He speaks of all nations—all Goyeem, surrounding Him to do Him harm.
 - No wonder Jesus told His followers to not be surprised if the world hates them—for it hated Him first and it will hate us for His sake.
- B. See further how He describes the fury of the Mywg against Him...
1. He compares them to bees...
 - a. There is nothing like an attack of bees when they come at you from all directions—they are relentless and their sting is sharp...
 - Sinful men are like enraged bees after Jesus Christ...
 - They hated Him because He was righteous...
 - They hated Him because He was the perfect image of the Father against whom they are in rebellion...
 - And so they fly upon Him as one who has disturbed their nest!
 - Here them all shouting the chorus, “crucify Him, crucify Him” when once they have the chance.
 - b. This attack is the rage of the fallen human race against God,
 - expressed against those who are the most like Him...
 - and so reaching its full expression in the One who was His perfect image, the very Son of God incarnate.
 - This is the spirit of all persecution.
 2. These enemies are further compared to thorns ablaze...
 - a. In the eastern countries, it was the custom to burn over their fields during the dry season to clear them of thorns and briars and weeds...
 - In Palestine, the dry season was very dry, so the flames would rise in great fury!
 - Such is the rage of men against Christ!
 - See how they flare up and prefer a murderer and a thief to the Son o God!
 - Yet, how blind they are in that not one of them would have thought he would treat the Messiah like this if he were to come!
 - How blind they were!
 - How great was their deception!
 - b. But how do you know if this is not the case with you?

- How do you know if you are deceived?
 - It is all by what you do with Christ—not the Christ of the United Church who is moulded according to man’s desires...
 - but the Christ who calls you to repentance,
 - the Christ who offers Himself through His suffering and death as the only hope of salvation.
 - If His affirmation that you deserve Hell and that only His blood shed for you can secure your forgiveness offends you...
 - if it is something you cannot embrace for yourself...
 - then you are His enemy...
 - you are opposed to God and His righteousness because you are rejecting the only way of righteousness.

TRANS> You are like bees and blazing thorns in your rage against Him...

3. To this description, He adds the apostrophe in verse 13...
 - (an apostrophe is a figure of speech in which you turn to speak to someone or something that is not actually present—“O death, where is thy sting”).
 - a. He turns, as it were, to His enemies, and says, “You pushed my violently!”
 - Literally, this could be translated, “Pushing you pushed me.”
 - The same word is used twice to reinforce the violence.
 - We have here one thrust after another after another...
 - An unrelenting attack, thrusting again and again to make Him fall.
 - b. You know how Satan came at him one time after another in the wilderness to tempt Him...
 - and how the Pharisees came at him to question him again and again in an effort to make Him stumble...
 - and how even His own disciples objected when He told Him that He was going to be crucified.
 - You know how the cruel scourge came down upon Him again and again during his torture and trial.

TRANS> And what was the objective of all this vicious attack?

C. Our Lord describes the goal in verse 13...

- v. 13: “You pushed my violently **that I might fall!**”

1. That is always the goal... to make the righteous one fall...
 - a. The enemy will use temptations to entice the righteous away from full devotion to God...
 - There is a vigorous searching for weakness and for some area to get a foothold... to draw his heart away from his fidelity to the Father...
 - The Devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.
 - b. And if temptations fail,
 - The enemy will try to make us as uncomfortable as possible in serving God...
 - He will inflict poverty, torture, mockery, scorn, banishment—whatever he has power to do...
 - See how Satan was eager to afflict Job because he was righteous...
 - “Afflict him and He will turn away!”
 - That was his goal—to make Job curse God.
2. The Devil has both deception and murder in his tool box...
 - a. These he puts in the hand of his agents in very subtle and effective ways to bring down the righteous—to make them fall away from God.
 - If with these he can make us fall into grievous sins, he is satisfied...
 - He would rather see the righteous fall into sin than to see him die.
 - b. Such was the purpose of His relentless attack on the LORD Jesus...
 - but he utterly failed to gain his purpose.
 - Jesus remained holy, harmless, undefiled, entirely separate from sin.
 - Our LORD is our hero!
 - To use Isaiah’s imagery, Satan tries to wrestle away the belt of truth and righteousness from Him, but our Lord remained victorious.
 - Though He had the most difficult calling a man could ever have...
 - He perfectly obeyed the Father to the very end and emerged from the contest with undiminished, unspotted righteousness!
 - Nothing could bring Him down!

TRANS> And so, having seen the ubiquity, the rage, and the goal of the enemies’ attack upon our LORD Jesus,

- I now want you to look at His confidence in the midst of this attack...

II. Our LORD is confident that He will destroy all His enemies even while they surround Him in their rage.

- He repeats three times that “in the name of the LORD, I will destroy them!”
 - It was with this confidence that He stood before Judas, those who arrested Him, the chief priests, Herod, and Pontius Pilate.
 - He was undaunted even as He submitted to the cross because He knew that the victory belonged to Him!
 - He would destroy these enemies!

A. The word **destroy** (*lwm mool*) used here means “cut off.”

1. Thirty out of thirty-six times it is translated “circumcise” in our English Bibles!
 - Every Jew reading this would immediately think of circumcision
 - The idea here is that Jesus will cut these enemies off...
 - Paul picks up on this imagery when he says of the enemies of Christ that he could wish that they were “cut off” in Philippians 3.
 - In circumcision, the foreskin was cut off to signify the purification of sin...
 - But the circumcision here is the cutting off of these enemies from the earth to the very roots so that they cannot reproduce.
2. Our Lord will utterly destroy all those who oppose Him.
 - a. He came to save the world,
 - to establish a kingdom of righteousness in this wicked sinful world where people would love God, obey His commandments, and love one another.
 - b. And anyone who does not get on side with Him...
 - all who stand in opposition to Him He will cut off from this glorious kingdom...
 - They will be banished to the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth...
 - They will be cast into the Lake fire where they will be tormented forever and ever...
 - Cut off from the new heavens and the new earth where the righteousness they so despised will abide forever.

B. Know that it is the purpose of our Lord Jesus to cut off His enemies in this way!

1. The church in our day is altogether too foppish and effeminate!

- a. We have lost sight of glory of His judgement—
 - We are squeamish about it.
 - We are embarrassed to preach it.
 - We are ashamed to sing about it.

TRANS> We need to repent!

- b. We stand in opposition to the Jesus who is confident that He will cut off all His enemies!
 - to the Jesus who came to destroy the works of the Devil!
 - to the Jesus who came to crush the serpent's head
 - to the Jesus who sent a flood to destroy all the inhabitants of the earth except Noah.
 - to the Jesus who drowned Pharoah and his army in the Red Sea
 - to the Jesus who ordered that the Canaanites be slaughtered without exception.
 - to the Jesus who came in the clouds to bring destruction upon Jerusalem in 70 AD.
 - to the Jesus who will come with a flaming sword to put down the rebellion.
 - to the Jesus who comes with blood stained garments from treading upon His enemies.
 - to the Jesus who reigns until all his enemies are put under his feet.
 - to the Jesus before whom the whole church will shout Hallelujah when He at last destroys His enemies at the end of the age.

TRANS> Is this the Jesus we preach in the modern church?

- Is this the Jesus we worship?
 - This **is** the real Jesus.
 - We must put away our idols!
- 2. His judgement is a grand and glorious work
 - Not that we do not plead with men to repent and assure them that if they will come to Jesus, they will be pardoned...
 - Not that we don't plead with the LORD to grant them repentance...
 - But God forbid that we should be ashamed of the judgement that our Lord glorifies in when He at last cuts off all His enemies!

- If justice demanded that Jesus bear God's curse on the cross for our sins...if those sins were to be pardoned...
 - how much more does justice demand that His enemies bear the curse for their own sins.
 - If God's glory is seen in what Jesus endured to satisfy God's holy justice,
 - Let it be seen again in the destruction of all His enemies!
 - Let us glory in what He glories in!
3. All the while that our LORD stood before His enemies,
- He stood with the assurance that though they surrounded Him with all their fury and though they thought they gained the advantage,
 - They were but as thorns crackling in the fire... soon to be destroyed.
 - He was confident that He would cut them all off.

TRANS> And look at the basis of His confidence...

C. He knew that He would succeed because He would cut them off in the name of the LORD.

- Each time, He says, "**In the name of the LORD** I will cut them off."
1. What does this mean, to cut them off "in the name of the LORD"?
- a. To do something in the name of the LORD is to do it for Him...
 - to do it in obedience to His call, as one who represents Him...
 - to do it act for Him and to act in His strength.
 - It is to be about His business!
 - b. We are told that Jesus is **the** Apostle and High Priest of our confession...
 - He is the one who was sent from Heaven by the Father to carry out His business on earth...
 - Apostle means "sent one..." one who is sent on the official business of another.
 - Everything Jesus did was in obedience to the Father, and that includes bringing down judgement upon the Father's enemies.
 - This is something God has given His Son to do at the last day.
 - c. Brothers and sisters, when you go in the name of the LORD it gives you confidence in the blessed outcome!
 - 1) Are you facing sickness?

- Then face it in His name—endure it for Him—that you might honour Him through it and know Him through it...
 - Yes, as we saw last week, pray that if possible it might pass from you, but if not, take the cup from the LORD and drink it in His name!
- 2) Are you facing persecution?
- Well see that you endure it from Him—that you are about His business—that you are there for Him.
 - What confidence you will have to face it if you take it as what He has given you to bear for Him!
 - You can be sure that He will give you strength.
 - Will he abandon you when you are going in His name? as His representative?
2. Jesus was sure of success though He was here in human flesh...because He was doing the Father's will,
- He knew that the Father would keep His covenant and give Him the nations as His inheritance.
 - He knew that He would dash the rebellious in pieces like a potter's vessel.
 - He knew that the Father would raise Him from the dead and give Him the name that is above every name.
 - He would give Him authority over all things and declare Him to be Lord and Christ.
 - Let His enemies surround Him with their venomous rage!
 - He was on the Father's business...
 - He had come in the Father's name, and blessed was He who had come in the Lord's name!
 - He would not fail to see His desire upon all His enemies.
 - He would cut them off forever.
 - He would destroy the works of the Devil.
3. He is sure of the LORD's help!
- This is all brought together in verse 13:
 - "You pushed me violently, but the LORD helped me."
 - The Son was pushed to the cross and to the grave,
 - but He was on the Father's business and so the Father raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand to rule in the midst of His enemies until they are all either won over or destroyed!

TRANS> And would be the result of His God-given victory when at last He cuts off His enemies?

III. The result will be the eruption of praise among all the righteous!

A. First, it will be the eruption of praise from Him!

1. King Jesus in our flesh heads up the praise with the words of verse 14:
 - v. 14: The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.
 - a. This is the very words that Israel sang after they had crossed the Red Sea.
 - 1) They had been hemmed in by their enemies...
 - The way to the Promised Land was blocked—
 - the Red Sea stood in their way...
 - And their enemies were closing in on them in furious rage.
 - 2) But the LORD had acted for them to open the way of passage to the Promised Land—right through the Red Sea...
 - And in opening that way, He had destroyed the Egyptians when they tried to follow them.
 - 3) God gave them a song of victory to sing...
 - And that song contained these words:
 - “The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation!”
 - Psalm 118:14 is a direct quote from Exodus 15:2.
 - b. Consider what is being said here...
 - 1) They said that the LORD was their strength,
 - by His strength, they were able to resist their enemies when they tried to keep them from God’s righteous kingdom.
 - It was by His might that these enemies had been destroyed.

TRANS> Not only was the LORD their strength,

- 2) But they said that the LORD had become their salvation...
 - They could not open the way into the kingdom of God, but He, by His own holy arm, had parted the sea that they might enter in...
 - As their salvation, He had done what they could not do.
 - His holy arm had gained them the victory!

TRANS> And as their strength and their salvation,

3) He was their song.

- He was the heart and spirit of their song...
- He was their joy and the object of their praise and delight.

- By His work in their behalf and for their salvation,
 - He had ingratiated Himself to them...
 - He had become dear to them.
 - They had acquired for Him a reverent love and satisfaction...

- This love is the love that characterises God's righteous kingdom!
 - It is this love for God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength that is the supreme law of His righteous kingdom.

TRANS> This is what Israel was taught to sing after they crossed the Red Sea:

- "The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation."
2. But how could the LORD Jesus sing this since He Himself is the LORD who saves us?
- a. He sings it as our Mediator, as the one who came in our flesh to represent us.
 - When He came as man, He did not come to exalt Himself...
 - It was for the Father to do that.
 - He had to first bear our sins and bear the malice of His enemies.

 - b. As Mediator and Head of the church,
 - 1) All our iniquities were laid upon Him...
 - He became our sin bearer, and with the weight of all these sins, He went to the cross.
 - All the shame of our offences was transferred to Him, and thus He stood before the Father of glory.

 - 2) And in this position,
 - a) He cried out to the Father for mercy and deliverance.
 - He prayed that the Father would accept His offering for our salvation!
 - He prayed for Himself, that He would endure and not give way to temptation before His enemies.

- b) There is no hesitation in scripture about saying that God saved Him, that He heard His prayer, and delivered Him from destruction!
 - He accepted His offering and so raised Him from the dead and made Him to sit at His right hand...
 - And there He remains until all His enemies have been brought under His feet.
 - The Bible says that He was given dominion in this way—
 - dominion that He did not have until, as our Mediator, He had endured the cross.
 - The Father **made** Him to be LORD and Christ.

- c. And so it is perfectly fitting for Jesus, who prayed to the Father in our flesh and who stood before His enemies in our flesh,
 - to declare of the Father,
 - “The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.”
 - It is in this capacity as our Head and Mediator, our representative in our flesh, that He leads us in this song of praise to God for our salvation through Him.
 - It is a song that we will sing in heaven forever!
 - This is not to say that we do not also praise Jesus as the LORD of our who saves us...
 - but it is to fully recognise that He saved us by becoming our flesh and subjecting Himself to the judgement of God as our representative in the flesh.

TRANS> We see then Jesus Himself erupts with praise for the Father’s acceptance of His sacrifice for our salvation!

- The LORD is His strength and song, and has become His salvation!
 - This praise erupts from Him first as the leader of our praise...

- B. But it also erupts from all the righteous who through faith are the beneficiaries of Christ’s the salvation that Christ obtained!
 1. Verse 15 says the voice of rejoicing and salvation is heard in the tents of the righteous.
 - a. Our hero who went to battle against sin and death for us has emerged from the contest in victory—
 - And He is headed for that final victory at the last day when he puts all enemies under His feet!

- b. We are taught by God’s Spirit to join in the singing of our LORD who overcame the enemy for us and who leads us into God’s righteous Kingdom.
 - We had no way of access into the kingdom...
 - We were hemmed in as Israel was...
 - On the one side,
 - we had Satan who would not let us go—we were attached to him in the rebellion of death...
 - And on the other side,
 - we had the Red Sea of God’s law that condemned us and that would not let us enter His kingdom of peace.
 - c. But Christ has come and has opened the way for us—
 - He has gone before us to conquer our enemies and to open the gates of righteousness that we may enter in.
 - He has, by the grace of the LORD, done all that is required for our salvation, and the Father has accepted His saving work for us!
 - We have eternal life because He has obtained it for us from the Father.
 - He has opened the way to God, to the Promised Land, into His righteous Kingdom of Love!
 - d. We rejoice in the victory that God has given Him as our Head...
 - As Derrick Kidner put it so well,
 - “That battle was single-handed, the victory is shared.”
 - Jesus is our champion, and we are called to celebrate His victory for us!
 - Because Jesus fought the battle for us,
 - the LORD is now **our** strength and song and has become **our** salvation...
2. My friends, is the LORD your strength and song? Is He your salvation?
- a. Is His praise heard in your tents? in your dwelling place?
 - If you are righteous, it ought to be there!
 - If you are joined to Jesus by faith, you will join in with Him in His song of praise for your salvation.
 - It cannot be that one who has received so great a salvation could have no praise!

- Oh yes, there may be those periods of coldness and doubt...
 - But this ought not to characterise you!
 - If the seed of life is in you, so is the seed of gratitude,
 - and it will bring forth praise and obedience!
- b. And just as it was with Israel, you can attribute nothing to yourself.
- 1) It is not by the arm of your strength that salvation has come,
 - It is the right hand of the LORD that does valiantly!
 - His right hand refers to His strength that He exerts to save us and to bring down all our enemies!
 - Three times, it is mentioned in verse 15 and 16...
 - The right hand of the LORD does valiantly. The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
 - All the glory goes to Him, your arm did not save you.
 - 2) We who believe were rescued by His right hand when we were desperate and completely helpless!
 - The LORD Jesus, the Son of God, left the glory of heaven to come and rescue us...
 - And he rescued us by putting Himself in our place as one loaded with our guilt, though He had done no wrong...
 - And in this way, He offered Himself up to the Father for us and was fully accepted.
 - 3) And now He calls us to and rejoice in this glorious salvation...
 - to sing with Him through faith in Him that
 - “The LORD is my strength and my song and has become my salvation.”
 - He stands at our head, as it were,
 - and sends out His preachers to say, “Look what the LORD has done for us!”
 - This is the work about which we shall soon study in Matthew’s gospel.
 - Is He not your song who did all this for you?