

Ps. 145:17-21 “Whatever He Does Is Right”

For the Children: People react to fear and pain in different ways: Some people cry, some go quiet; some get angry; some call for help; some try to escape. The Lord puts before us situations that are scary or even painful. He does so to teach us to look for His help; to cry to Him for help, for ourselves and others; and to praise and thank Him for being good and kind to us, being near to us and being our Protector. He has shown us that He is all of those things by sending His Son for us. **Questions:** How does the Lord Jesus show God’s righteousness, kindness, nearness and protectiveness? How can it help us to go through difficult times? How can difficult times lead us to praise God more?

Introduction:

First Point: The Lord Is Righteous

- 1) Conforming to Himself: The fact that the Lord is “righteous in all His ways” does not mean that He conforms to some higher ethical standard; it means that He unchangingly sticks to the norm of His own character. This means that we can trust that He will respond to changing circumstances and answer our prayers with perfect consistency to Himself.
- 2) Kind in All His Deeds: His unchanging Self-consistency is the guarantee that He will always respond to us with kindness and goodness – for that is His Nature. The word “kind” is the important covenant-word, “lovingkindness.” That same lovingkindness led Him to send His Son for us, so that all the Lord now does to and for us is characterized by “kindness.”
- 3) Everything He Does Is Right: On this basis, we can say “Whatever the Lord does is right” – even if we experience affliction in this life. See Job. 1:21. We experience affliction because we share Christ’s sufferings; and to train, refine and strengthen us – which is a kindness on the Lord’s part.

Second Point: The Lord Is Near

- 1) The Nearness of God: Vss. 18-19 remind us that the Lord is near to His people, even if we feel distant due to sin and distraction. He is near in His omnipresence (Acts 17:27); He is near to us through the Lord Jesus; through Word and Spirit; and in worship and prayer. We often hinder our enjoyment of this closeness by our own sin and neglect of the means of grace.
- 2) The Nearness of His Answer: Because He is near to us in the above senses, we can be assured that the Lord hears our prayers when we call upon His Name in truth i.e., sincerely, in Christ, according to His Word (v. 18). He hears us when we cry for help and He answers by bringing deliverance (v. 19). He fulfills every godly desire that arises from the fear of God. This does not mean we are spared every affliction – rather, that we are brought through every affliction to blessedness.

Third Point: The Lord Is Our Keeper

- 1) Continual Protection: The Lord habitually “keeps” His people – guards, protects and cares for us. There is preserving grace for all who are in Christ.
- 2) Only for Those Who Love Him: Our love for God does not *earn* this protection; it *demonstrates* that we are in Christ, Who has earned it for us. The wicked will not be “kept,” but rather destroyed (v. 21). This is mentioned so that we make the right choice of Protector and value His protection.

Fourth Point: The Lord Is Our Praise

- 1) Praising God Versus Fearing for Self: In times of crisis, we tend to focus on our own needs and the needs of others. But crises are often sent to teach us to look more to the Lord. Supplicatory and intercessory prayers must therefore be balanced with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.
- 2) Who Offers This Praise: In v. 21, David praises God. But the One to whom he points, the Son of David, offered perfect praise to His Father – as well as dying and interceding for us – so that we could offer acceptable prayers today. Eventually, elect from every nation – “all flesh” – will bless God’s holy Name.

Conclusion: