

Waking In Your Likeness Psalm 17:13-15

INTRO:

What is the Christians great hope? We read of it in **Titus 2:13**: *“Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”* Why is that hope so blessed? There are several reasons, but chief among them is that we will actually see the One, *“Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls”* (1 Peter 1:8-9). As the hymn writer put it, *“Lord haste day when my faith shall be sight/ the clouds be rolled back as a scroll/ the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend/ even so, it is well with my soul”*

How does this future hope touch our lives today? It is the substance of the ultimate reality check. We see this reality in the life of David in **Psalm 17:13-15**.

- I. The Problem His Enemies (v. 13, 14)*
- II. The Greatest Blessing of All! (v. 15)*

I. The Problem His Enemies (v. 13, 14)

A. In **Psalm 17**, David is talking about his ever present enemies. We get a sense of the tenor of David’s song in the first two verses,
v.1-2 *“Hear a just cause, O Lord, attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful lips. Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright.”*

As David closes his Psalm, he does so contrasting the blessings that His enemies who do not know the Lord enjoy with the greatest blessing of all that is His.

B. In **verse 13**, David once again calls upon God to actively intercede for him.
“Arise, O Lord, confront him, cast him down; deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword.”

David calls upon God to deliver him from the devious plans of his enemies who are ready to pounce upon him and tear him into pieces.

C. Having prayed for deliverance, he recognizes the longsuffering of the Lord. Sometimes deliverance is not imminent. So in **verse 14** he points out the best things that the evil one can hope for and contrasts that with his own hope.

1. First, he tells us that all that they have is what they have in this present life. They may have many riches, or places of power, influence, and authority. Still, that is all that they have. Remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 6:1-2** about those who serve God for the applause of humans?

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

That is all there is for them.

2. Second, God in common grace sometimes gives them temporal blessings in abundance.

Psalm 17:14 ***“And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure. They are satisfied with children.”***

Spurgeon’s comments are particularly appropriate here. *“God gives to these swine the husks which they hunger for. A generous man does not deny dogs their bones; and our generous God gives even his enemies enough to fill them, if they were not so unreasonable as never to be content. Gold and silver which are locked up in the dark treasuries of the earth are given to the wicked liberally, and they therefore roll in all manner of carnal delights. Every dog has his day, and they have theirs, and a bright summer’s day it seems; but ah! how soon it ends in night!”*

3. The total emptiness of what they have accomplished is seen in the last phrase of verse 14.

“And leave the rest of their possession for their babes.”

Everything they work for, they cannot keep. Someone else enjoys the benefits or squanders the wealth of the ungodly.

II. The Greatest Blessing of All! (v. 15)

Psalm 17:15 ***“As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”***

A. With the phrase, ***“as for me,”*** David contrasts his incomparably greater prosperity over the best blessings of his enemies. In righteousness, he will behold God’s face.

v.15 ***“As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness.”***

1. David wrote, my future is not something that I have to leave to my children when I go to my grave, my future will be a present reality. I am going to see God.

2. David understood that the basis of his hope was righteousness, but clearly, not a righteousness that he worked up. His righteousness was a righteousness that comes from God Himself. Jesus promised in the Sermon on the Mount. ***“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)*** Our problem is we are not pure in heart. Our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. How then can we be pure in heart? God transforms our heart when we by faith appropriate the

righteousness of our Savior. When we believe on Him and receive Him into our lives, He declares us righteous. This is in this righteousness which allows us to see God.

B. The second part of the blessing has to do when the Psalmist awakens.

v.15 *"I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."*

Is this resurrection in the Old Testament? I know that some say there was no resurrection in the Old Testament. Still, there are some scholars who believe the Hebrew Bible taught resurrection.

Isaiah 26:19 *"Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."*

Another verse which shows resurrection is **Daniel 12:2;**

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt."

C. Thinking about this vision and its inevitable result David adds one last thought. ***"I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."*** This could be translated *"with your likeness."* To say it differently, *"I will awake to see Your likeness."*

D. This all sounds like what could be my favorite passage in the New Testament.

1 John 3:1-2 *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."*

Is this our hope? Is this everything to us? If it is, John says it will change us later, but it should also start changing us now.

Hymn #237 We Shall Behold Him