

Series: Psalms

Title: Teach Me Thy Way

Text: Ps 86: 8-17

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Psalm 86: 7: In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

God is willing to answer the prayer of those who come to him in his Son. But is God able? Absolutely! This is David's praise of God. But this is the praise and confidence of every child of God who God has called by his power and grace.

Psalm 86: 8: Among the gods *there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.* 9: All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. 10: For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things: thou *art* God alone.

Concerning idol gods of men's minds—man-made gods of superstition—*among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.*

Idol gods are like the men who imagine them—no more powerful than men who made him. Man never attributes to their gods the works that God alone works. What have the false gods ever created anything? When did they say let there be light and there was light?

Every knee shall bow and glorify Christ in the last day. But it is God's very person revealed in Christ—his wondrous works for sinners like us—that bring his people out of every nation to bow before him in faith, glorifying his name.

Isaiah 45: 23: I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in righteousness*, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. 24: Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him [to Christ] shall *men* come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. 25: In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Psalm 86: 11: Teach me thy way, O LORD. I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. 12: I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. 13: For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

David is cast down. He is asking God to show him one more time—*Teach me thy way, O LORD*. Give me one more glimpse of your wondrous person and works of grace and mercy and love in Christ toward me. This is how God will work wondrously in David's heart and make David walk after God. A renewing of his heart will unite David's heart to fear God rather than fearing the proud who are risen against him. He is asking to behold Christ thy way. The result God works will be to walk by faith in Christ, fearing God's name and praising God for his great mercy. Then David contrasts God's dealing with him with the proud.

Psalm 86: 14: O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent *men* have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them. 15: But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. 16: O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. 17: Shew me a token for good ; that they which hate me may see *it*, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Proposition: Our Savior is the great God—his name is Wonderful and all his works are “wondrous”. It means marvelous, surpassing, extraordinary, separate by distinguishing action.

David is asking God to show him his way, his truth—his great mercy in redeeming his soul from hell in Christ. Unite my heart to fear thy name by showing me one more time how thou “*art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*” Christ is God's strength to save him. Christ is the token for good—the one sign—Christ our Redeemer. Christ is God's help and

comfort of his people. David said, “Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people” (Ps 96:3).

That is what I want to do. I want to declare some of God’s wondrous works. My prayer is that God might show us his Way. May God strengthen and save and comfort us thereby. We cannot begin to plumb the depths. God’s wonderous works are mysteries incomprehensible to us. They must be received by faith. The very fact we believe God is, itself, one of his wondrous works.

WONDROUS LOVE

It is wondrous that God loved his people from eternity and entered counsel with himself to save us in Christ. The whole purpose of God in creating the world was to save a people for his glory in Christ. His counsel was with himself. But the heart of that counsel was in love to his chosen people.

Psalm 139:17: How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

It wonderous that he thought upon us but even more so that his thoughts were thoughts of love. Eternal sovereign love of God in electing his people unto salvation is wondrous. It is by the great God who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working.

Our God is like no other because of his immutable counsel. Since the day he called us by his grace there has not been a day that we did not prove the immutability of his love by our doubts and fears and feeble faith. Never has the Lord changed in his love toward his people in Christ. As it is said of our blessed Redeemer, “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” (Jn 13: 1).

WONDROUS COVENANT

It is God’s wondrous work that he made with himself an everlasting covenant of redemption and came and fulfilled all for his people. This is God’s way that David prayed to be taught one more time—

“Teach me thy way, O LORD”—and what will a renewed view of Christ crucified do by God’s grace? “I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.”

Here is God’s way, here is God’s truth, which God reveals to continue uniting our heart to fear his name, *“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.”* The proud rose up against David as they did our Redeemer. *“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”*

All this wondrous work is sure because it has been accomplished in the wonder of all wonders, God’s own only begotten Son, whose name is Wonderful! What wondrous work, God was manifest in the flesh! What vain god ever gave such a wondrous gift? What idol god ever worked such a wonderous work? God was manifest in the nature of his brethren without sin to redeem us from all sin.

What wonderous work! “He hath made him sin who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21) Angels never cease looking into this wonder! God, the Word, made flesh! The Lawgiver made under the law. The sinless made sin for his people. His sinful people made the righteousness of God in him. Free pardon, free justification, free sanctification, eternal life—wonder, wonder, wonder, wonder!

Christ crucified is God’s Way. The Truth makes his child walk by faith. The Way continues to unite our hearts in fear. The message is how Christ by his blood has delivered us from the lowest hell in plenteous redemption. God’s Way in Christ is his wondrous never-ending, compassion, grace, longsuffering, mercy and truth in Christ, by Christ and for Christ’s sake. None but God can make mercy and truth meet in harmony!

Now, beholding Christ in this Psalm, we see the assembly of proud religious men gathered around him as he hung upon the cursed tree. What angered the proud so that they nailed Christ to the cross? God’s Way of salvation. Salvation by grace. Salvation by Christ’s righteousness imputed freely through faith apart

from our works. They were angered at God's Way receiving sinners and saving us freely by his compassion and grace. It angered them that God's Way suffered long with us. God's truth is to show mercy justly due to Christ making mercy and truth meet in harmony.

This angered the proud because the proud lust to put on a fair show in the flesh. The proud lust to use the bit and bridle of the law to constrain others that they may glory in their flesh. But God's way of uniting our hearts to Christ to keep us walking by faith is his endless compassion and wondrous longsuffering and plenteous mercies to his child in Christ for Christ's sake.

That confounds the proud. It is a paradox unregenerate religionists do not understand. To hear that God's abounding love and free forgiveness will constrain sinners to walk in his truth and unite our hearts to fear Christ more than men is a dilemma for proud religionists. When we declare that God makes us give all praise to God, glorifying his name it angers men who want the glory. God does all this work in the hearts of his people without the heavy hand of proud men. This only stirs up enmity in the natural heart.

John said, "Little children these things write I unto you that you sin not." What is the message the Lord gave him with that exhortation to makes our hearts willing to obey? "And when any man sin we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous and he is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2:1-3). Natural religion does not understand how God can command a sinner not to sin then tell him that when he does sin his sin is already forgiven. But God's way is compassion toward his frail children in Christ our Advocate. His way is longsuffering toward us for Christ's sake. His way is plenteous mercy and free forgiveness because Christ has satisfied divine justice for us. His love constrains us walk in his way in our dealings with brethren.

Christ is our wondrously good Shepherd. He leads us to the green pasture of his love and grace so good and green that we do not need a fence to keep us united to him. His sheep long to be with the Shepherd. That is his wondrous person and work.

WONDER OF REGENERATION

God's wondrous work is that he regenerates and reveals Christ in our hearts. When Christ made this petition to God our Father, God was so well-pleased by his Son's faithful obedience in fulfilling justice that he raised him from the grave and gave him all power as the GodMan Mediator to be Head over all things to the church that he might fill all in all.

Sinner, do you believe Christ is the Son of God? Is he your hope seated there at God's right hand? Then the only way Christ is all your confidence is because God has worked wondrously in us? We were dead, he made us live. Our hearts were stone, he gave a heart of flesh. We were lepers, he made us whole; blind, he gave us sight; lame, he made us leap; prisoners, he set us free; condemned, he justified us by his grace.

Someone said, "the wise man only wonders once in his life but that is always." That is never truer than in the sinner that God has made wise unto salvation. What a wonder that a sinner like me believes on Christ and continues walking by faith in Christ alone! History teaches us there are 7 wonders of the ancient world. I can show you far greater wonders of God's grace right here in every sinner saved by God's grace.

Job 9:10: [Our God] doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

David marveled at the wondrous covenant God had made with him in Christ. So do we. God made with David an everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure in Christ his Surety! God promises the believer never-ending, unchanging compassion, grace, longsuffering, mercy and truth for Christ's sake. That covenant promise was all David's salvation and it is all ours.

What a wondrous work that God has confirmed his covenant by his oath, sealed it by his blood, that in blessing, he will bless us and glorify his Son in us—and revealed it in our hearts. This is the law written on the believer's heart by the Spirit of God.

David asked to see Christ one more time. One more time he asked God "*show me thy way, Lord.*" Show me thy compassion in Christ toward me, thy longsuffering in Christ toward me, thy mercy in truth toward me in Christ—thy covenant mercies! That is what Moses was asked to see when he said, "How is it that

we shall be thy people separate from all other people? Is it not that thou goest with us. Show me thy way Lord. Shew me thy glory.”

God taught Moses his way when he showed Moses his glory in the cleft of the Rock. When we read what God declared to Moses it is the same glory David asked to behold here—“*compassion, gracious, longsuffering, plenteous in mercy and truth.*” That is God’s way revealed to David and you and me when he reveals his glory in the face of Christ Jesus.

God’s glory in Christ’s fulness shall preserve his redeemed, bringing each one to himself and losing none. He swore with an oath and sealed it with his blood. Christ promised “I give unto my sheep eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand.” The Lord promised, “Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation, they shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.” “Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”

What a wondrous work of our God! He has given us the privilege of being his children—“I will be a Father unto them, and they shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord God Almighty.” He did not chose angels. He chose us frail children of dust. What a wonder to be given the Spirit of adoption that gives us the privilege and spirit to cry “Abba, Father!” That is what David was crying for—the strength and comfort and token for good—one more glimpse of my Surety, crucified and risen victorious, seated at God’s right hand, my Life and my All!

Doing so God renews the heart reminding us “Ye are complete in him!” Reminding us “All things are yours, and ye are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” Reminding us he is working “All things together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose.”

Believer, the evil and the good has all goodness and mercy in it more wondrous than we perceive right now! In due time we shall behold the wisdom of God. For now do what God told Abraham to do: lift up your eyes to the north and the south, and the east and the west, for all this hath God given thee in his Son. Angels are protecting us and bearing us up. He has and is and shall deal wondrously toward us.

He is not done yet! He will work that great and final wonder when he presents us to himself without spot and without blemish! Keeping looking to the Ark. He will soon dry up the Jordan and welcome us into Canaan. Then we will know his wondrous works in perfection. We will spend eternity praising him for them.

There is not one whom his eternal purpose has failed to save and never shall. Not one whom electing love has not conquered and never shall. “The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.”

Believer, in great trouble expect great wonders!

Does someone here see their sinfulness and think it would be too great a wonder if God saved you and forgave you? “The Lord is a God of wonders: he only doth wondrous things.” Cast yourself on his mercy. He is good; and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy.

Amen!