**"THE BOOK OF PSALMS"**

**Book III (73-89)**

**Psalm 86: A Prayer of David**

**April 14, 2021**

***Introduction:*** *This is the only psalm associated with King David in the third division of psalm. It is and individual lament. His plea for mercy is based on his own needs, the Lordship of God, his unique status as God’s servant, and the nature of God. The title of this psalm is simply***A Prayer of David**. *We can’t place it at a specific time in David’s life, because there are too many possible points where this could connect with his general circumstances. This psalm is notable because David uses the Hebrew word Adonai (“Master”) seven times when referring to God. “There are four other psalms each called by the name Tephillah, or ‘prayer,’ but this deserves to be distinguished from the rest and known as ‘the prayer of David,’ even as the ninetieth Psalm is known as ‘the prayer of Moses.’ It savours of David. The man of sincerity, of ardor, of trials, of faults, and of great heart, pleads, sobs, and trusts through all the verses of this psalm.” (Charles Spurgeon)*

**Outline:**

1. Prayer for Mercy and Confession of Confidence
2. Prayer for Mercy
3. Hymn of Confidence in the Lord
4. Anticipation of Deliverance
5. Prayer for Deliverance

**Verses 1-7**: Our poverty and wretchedness, when felt, powerfully plead in our behalf at the throne of grace. The best self-preservation is to commit ourselves to God's keeping. I am one whom thou favors, hast set apart for thyself, and made partaker of sanctifying grace. It is a great encouragement to prayer, to feel that we have received the converting grace of God, have learned to trust in him, and to be his servants. We may expect comfort from God when we keep up our communion with God. God's goodness appears in two things, in giving and forgiving. Whatever others do, let us call upon God, and commit our case to him; we shall not seek in vain.

**Verses 8-17**: Our God alone possesses almighty power and infinite love. Christ is the way and the truth. And the believing soul will be more desirous to be taught the way and the truth. And the believing soul will be more desirous to be taught the way and the truth of God, in order to walk therein, than to be delivered out of earthly distress. Those who set not the Lord before them, seek after believers' souls; but the compassion, mercy, and truth of God, will be their refuge and consolation. And those whose parents were the servants of the Lord, may urge this as a plea why he should hear and help them. In considering David's experience, and that of the believer, we must not lose sight of Him, who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich.

**Conclusion:** God is God of individuals. He is longsuffering and full of mercy. He will forgive and deliver all who call on His name.

**Questions and Reflection: Re-read Psalm 86 in at least 2 different translations.**

1. What does verse 16 mean to you? V16. “But You, O Lord, *are* a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.”
2. What type of psalm is Psalm 86 and who is the author?
3. What are some of the benefits of God?
4. What does it mean to “cry to the Lord for mercy”? What does it mean to you personally?
5. What division of the book of Psalm is Psalm 86?
6. Why did the Israelites, more than anyone else, know how forgiving God is?
7. What does supplications, in verse 6, mean?
8. What one word, from verse 6, lets us know David's prayer was spoken aloud?
9. Why is gods, in verse 8, not capitalized?
10. How long does God's mercy last?

**Next study is Psalm 90.**

