

Poured out on the Cross (Slide 1)
Psalm 22

Reading: John 12:20-36

Just as a reminder. There certainly are similarities in the life experiences David had that helped him record very descriptive regarding Jesus and His suffering on the cross. However, He truly is writing prophetic statements surrounding the death of our Lord.

Psalm 22:14-15 (Slide 2)

***¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.***

***¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.***

"I am poured out like water" as it relates to life and death.

What I understand from this message is that a person recognizes the end of life is near. Death is not always swift but seemingly people who are near death often see it coming. Precious moments are spent in reflection.

I associate those reflective moments with the lyrics of:

Precious Memories (Slide 3)

*Precious memories, how they linger
How they ever flood my soul.
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious sacred scenes unfold.*

Apostle Paul tells the young evangelist Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:5-6 (Slide 4)

⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Apostle Paul tells Timothy to continue the work. It's going to be difficult because people won't listen to sound doctrine, they are going to follow their own desires.

Some people are going to search to be religiously justified (some simply won't care at all) but those who do search will be looking for what they want to hear and will have little regard for the truth.

And Timothy, ***"the time of my departure is at hand."*** I'm not going to be here to help you.

Jesus knew that He would die on the cross. He knew the time of His death was near:

John 12:23-24, 27-28 (Slide 5)

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

His death produced an opportunity for eternal life to all who will call His name. He knew death was near but He also knew what it would mean for mankind.

I personally believe for everyone, death is always near. Life is precious but it is also very fragile and can be taken in an instant.

(Slide 6) **²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name."**

After His resurrection, Jesus transferred the responsibility of preaching the Gospel to His disciples as did Apostle Paul just before his death, to the Evangelist Timothy.

To the believer, the Bible itself transfers the responsibility of preaching and teaching the Gospel to the lost today.

"I am poured out like water" is also a declaration of a life centered on the cause of Christ. A goal that every believer should have while alive to the point of reflection as we understand the nearness of death.

John 9:4 (Slide 7)

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

In essence, the pronoun ***"I"*** is a substitution for a person's name. In this case, Jesus. It is also a transferable directive that means we: ***"We must work while it is day!"***

As the Apostle Paul passes the torch to Timothy he states:

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (Slide 8)

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Apostle Paul can look back from the time of his conversion and say ***"I faithfully devoted my life to the cause of Christ."***

I am convinced that his final reflections were on emptying himself, devoting himself to Jesus.

Notice what he doesn't reflect upon. He doesn't look at his failures, primarily the persecution of the church. That life before repentance no longer matters.

Apostle Paul had a faith strong enough to know assuredly, without doubt, that his sin was ***"forgotten.....because it was forgiven."***

I personally desire faith that is that strong.

Some say that the Apostle Paul skipped the ***"step"*** of repentance ***"as we have seemingly reduced salvation to a series of steps."***

Acts 9:18 (Slide 9)

Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

Yes, he arose and was baptized after he knew to repent. What occurred immediately was the regaining of his sight.

I don't think the Apostle Paul would speak of repentance if he didn't repent himself and didn't feel it necessary.

Acts 17:30 (Slide 10)

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent

Acts 20:17-24 (Slide 11)

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, (Slide 12) with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, (Slide 13) repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

(This coincides with what Jesus told Ananias in Acts 9:16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.)

(Slide 14) ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Read the entirety of Acts 20 and you will see that Apostle Paul's life was never about him but sacrifice, loyalty to Christ Jesus and devotion to preaching and teaching the Gospel.

As I stated before, the words of Apostle Paul lead us to the second message of ***"I am poured out like water."*** It is a declaration of a Christ centered life. A life well lived in serving God.

Philippians 2:12-18 (Slide 15)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

(Slide 16) ***¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (In today's society, the righteous stick out, as the old saying goes: "Like a sore thumb") (Slide 17) ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.***

¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Brethren, we run in vain if our life and all that it entails is not centered on Christ.

We run in vain if we are not an example and an influence for good for all those about us.

We run in vain if we have the Gospel message in our heart but don't share it with others.

David wrote about Jesus in Psalm 22.

***¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.***

He is describing the total collapse of Jesus' body on the cross as life drains away. The weight of His body becomes a burden as gravity pulls Him downward, some believe dislocating His joints as He fights to hold Himself up just to breathe.

Blood flow is impeded and builds around the heart and He begins to suffocate.

David is familiar with execution but unlikely in the form of crucifixion. This among other statements he writes indicates he is clearly writing concerning the death of Jesus on the cross.

The nature of his description in Psalm 22 depicts the suffering Jesus endured because of sin that separates man from God.

The graphic nature of His death, magnifies the events that occurred immediately after His death.

***¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.***

This verse describes our Savior clinging to life on the cross. His body is suffering from blood loss, shock and dehydration ***“dried up like a potsherd- My tongue clings to My Jaws.”*** A brittle dried up piece of pottery. Moistureless and easily broken.

John 19:28 (Slide 18)

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”

It seems fitting to me that one of the consequences of those who reject the Gospel is that they should endure an eternity of an unbearable thirst.

Isaiah 53:12 (Slide 19)

***Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.***

His body draining of life, He continued to pour Himself out unto death for you and for me.

Invitation

What Jesus has accomplished on the cross is finished. If we are in Christ and have been baptized, "then our debt has been canceled."

If you have not been baptized then you are still in your sin. You have debt that will be paid in separation from God unless you repent, confess and are baptized into Christ. Why delay? Do it today!

If you are in Christ, know that living faithfully is an enormous challenge. If you have in your heart a burden that has strained your relationship with Jesus and God the Father, please let us know so we may pray for you and help restore that precious relationship.

Please let us know how we may serve you.....

Reading:

John 12:20-36

²⁰ Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. ²¹ Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²² Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

²⁹ Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

³⁴ The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

³⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

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