

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 June.....	Psalm 001.....	The Path
2) 11 June.....	Psalm 078.....	The Past
3) 18 June.....	Psalm 023.....	The Shepherd
4) 25 June.....	Psalm 138.....	Our Response
5) 02 July.....	Psalm 084.....	His Presence
6) 09 July.....	Psalm 095.....	The Creator
7) 16 July.....	Psalm 019.....	God Revealed
8) 23 July.....	Psalm 136.....	His Love
9) 30 July.....	Psalm 146.....	His Faithfulness
10) 06 Aug.....	Psalm 051.....	The Confession
11) 13 Aug.....	Psalm 032.....	The Cleansing
12) 20 Aug.....	Psalm 141.....	The Protector
13) 27 Aug.....	Psalm 042.....	The Longing

INTRODUCTION

- Believers should seek refuge in God because He is the only one who can give them bodily, mental, and spiritual strength to resist and stand against Satan, and to flee from sin & temptation
- **Consider This.** We are never commanded to flee from Satan but to resist him (James 4:7) and to stand our ground against his plans to thwart us (Eph 6:11). We are, however, commanded to flee from sin & temptations. 1Cor 6:18; 10:14; 1Tim 6:11; 2Tim 2:22
- **Psalm of Lament.** Psalm 141 expresses David's state of despair where he cries out to God for relief. In this psalm, David also sees his need for discipline and accountability before man & God.
- **Special Notes.**
 - 1) Observe all the physiological allusions: My Voice, My Hands, My Mouth, My Lips, My Heart, My Head, My Eyes, and Our Bones. And the significance of the intangibles: My Words and My Prayer.
 - 2) Also notice the actions David intends to do and the actions David asked God to do.

Passage	Comments
Psalm 141:1	1 «A Psalm of David» O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desperation seems to be key to effective praying. How often does God put you in desperate times – and for how long? • Consider this. The only time believers need to pray is during our sojourn here on earth. There is no reason to pray once in Heaven • David asked God to hasten to his rescue. We know that David spent years in the desert running and hiding from King Saul. Why does God wait so long to answer prayers for His godly ones? • Also, Consider this. Once, before providing water to Israel, God waited till their tongues cleaved to the roof of their mouths. IOWs, they were parched, dehydrated, and near certain death. Why did God wait so long? So, they could not claim coincidence, but they would “see, and know, and consider, and understand” that it was definitely God who came to their rescue Isaiah 41:17-20
141:2	2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God always hears the prayers of His righteous onesPs 34:17 • BUT, they may not get answered as expected or desired. Even Jesus didn't get all of His prayers answered the way He initially wanted them to be answered – Father, remove this cup....Mr 14:36 • God sees righteous prayers as a sweet aroma Rev 5:8; 8:3-4 • God refuses to listen to prayers of unrepentant sinners Is 1:15
141:3	3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David wants God to perform this action. But aren't we responsible for what words we speak? How does God guard one's mouth? • Consider this. What words proceeds out of our mouths defiles us (Mt 15:11). We are to avoid abusive speech (Col 3:8). We must think before we speak (James 1:19). Yet God is able to seemingly give us words and wisdom to speak when persecuted (Lu 21:15)

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also, Consider this. Sometimes it is wise to say few words or no words. When David's oldest brother wrongly scolded him for being out of line, David asked him 2 simple questions and turned away from him (1Sam 17:28-30). Even Jesus opted to be silent at times. • Finally. It is God who enables us to do right... Ph 4:13; Col 1:10-11
141:4	4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice deeds of wickedness with men who do iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did God answer this prayer when David sinned with Bathseba? • Begs the question, was this prayer meant to be effective for the rest of David's life? • Consider this. In the Lord's prayer, "Lead us not into temptation," should be invoked on a daily basis and not once in a life time. • What should be our minimum requests each day? <input type="checkbox"/> For protection? <input type="checkbox"/> For provisions? <input type="checkbox"/> For opportunities to serve? <input type="checkbox"/> Others?
141:5	5 Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; It is oil upon the head; Do not let my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against wicked deeds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David recognizes the significance of ACCOUNTABILITY. • Who are we accountable to? Who looks to us for accountability? • Another aspect on prayer. We should have an active role in contending with the wicked (Prov 28:4); Yes, praying for their salvation, but not afraid to pray they will succumb to their own devices if they refuse to repentPs 5:10; 9:16; 81:12; Prov 1:31
141:6-7	6 Their judges are thrown down by the sides of the rock, and they hear my words, for they are pleasant. 7 As when one plows and breaks open the earth, our bones have been scattered at the mouth of Sheol. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commentaries see this as a difficult passage to interpret. • Though, not very politically correct, the sense of this passage seems to be captured by the Message Bible: "Oh, let their leaders be pushed off a high rock cliff; make them face the music...let their bones be scattered at the gates of hell."
141:8	8 For my eyes are toward You, O GOD, the Lord; In You I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When trouble comes our way, what are we focused on? How big the problem is or how big our God is?
141:9-10	9 Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me, and from the snares of those who do iniquity. 10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets, While I pass by safely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does God do this for us? Supernaturally? Providentially?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

Just like what we see in this psalm, God may allow some of His children to suffer at the hands of the wicked and yet be rescued eventually. Do we have the perseverance, the mindset, the fortitude, IOWs – the faith to endure and to trust God as our rescuer, our refuge, our very present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1)? However, if we faint when things get tough, our faith is small.Proverbs 24:10

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 42. The hope of God's presence serves as encouragement during discouraging times.

