

After our marriage, Karen and I now have six grand children, four of them are older, but we have two that are still little, Dalton is four and Colbie is three. One of the things I have always really enjoyed about small children is the absolute innocence and trust that they have. There is no reservation in the love they offer. And if you are ever feeling down, let a small child crawl up into your arms and snuggle into your lap while you read them a book or watch a show with them or just take a nap. If that doesn't cure what ails you, I'm not sure what will. When I consider the dynamics of that, I'm not sure I fully comprehend what is going on. What makes holding a small child so comforting? Why does a child find such comforting security in the arms of their parent or grandparent? Just a week or so ago, we were watching Colbie and Karen turned on the Little Rascals movie. Colbie was pretty adamant that she didn't like it and didn't want to watch it, but snuggling up to Karen on the couch with a blanket she was soon giggling and laughing at it and they now have their own "OTAY" wave that they share. In...

**Mark 10:14-16**

1

**14** "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **15** "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all." **16** And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.

There is an old song that we sing called "Safe in the Arms of Jesus", The premise of this song is that we have a refuge to which we can go, a haven of rest, arms of security that long to hold us.

While on the cross, Christ made a famous statement, "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthanai", "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" this is a quote from Psalms 22,

**Ps 22:1-2**

2

**1** My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. **2** O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer; And by night, but I have no rest.

In this Psalm, David is in the throes of his despair, some scholars think he was at Mahaniam when this was written. Mahaniam lay to the east of the Jordan river on the border of Gad & Manasseh (Josh 13:26,30). It is thought to have been a city of strength as Abner designates it to be the capital of Ishbosheth's kingdom. It was to the fortress at Mahaniam that David fled, seeking refuge, during the rebellion of his son Absalom (2 Sam 17:24). Have you ever been in such despair, such fear of the future, feeling so alone, that you felt there was nowhere to turn? The cares of this world can feel so overwhelming at times, and lets not forget that old roaring lion Satan, who wants nothing more than to entice us away from God any way he can. It might be through the desires of this world and life or it might be by knocking us down to the point that we just quit trying. He doesn't care what our motivation is, because either way he wins. Most of us have felt this way, if you haven't, thank God and pray that you never do. David knew what it felt like. He is feeling this way in Psalm 22. We understand the dynamics of the feeling, but the real question is, what is the solution? How can we cope with those feelings and emotions, when every fiber of our being is screaming for us to quit? Where do we go for help, when we feel so alone? For a moment lets look at the despair of David...

**Ps 22:6-7**

3

**6** But I am a worm, and not a man, A reproach of men, and despised by the people. **7** All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head,

**Ps 22:11-18**

**11** Trouble is near; For there is none to help. **12** Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. **13** They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion. **14** I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. **15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And Thou dost lay me in the dust of death. **16** For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. **17** I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; **18** They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

The despair that sin and the cares of this world bring upon us can make us want to quit. Quit trying, quit caring, quit believing, ultimately quit living. And what happens when we quit living? We start dying. How you ever met someone who, in their perception, have nothing left to live for? They are slowly dying, missing the best parts of what this life has to offer, not to mention missing out on the only reason to live now, and that is to find a life afterwards, an eternal life in heaven.

How do we fight what we can't see, resist ourselves and our emotions, where do we go for refuge.

We've looked at David's despair, now let's look at his solution.

**Ps 22:3-5**

**4**

**3** Yet Thou art holy, O Thou who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel. **4** In Thee our fathers trusted; They trusted, and Thou didst deliver them. **5** To Thee they cried out, and were delivered; In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed.

**Ps 22:8**

**5**

**8** "Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."

**Ps 22:9-10**

**6**

**9** Yet Thou art He who didst bring me forth from the womb; Thou didst make me trust when upon my mother's breasts. **10** Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been my God from my mother's womb.

**Ps 22:19-21**

**7**

**19** But Thou, O LORD, be not far off; O Thou my help, hasten to my assistance. **20** Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog. **21** Save me from the lion's mouth; And from the horns of the wild oxen Thou dost answer me.

**8** David knew how to overcome despair, he didn't quit and he didn't stop trying. He turned to the only source of help there is when we are battling Satan and his minions. David looked to God. He understood that ...

**9**

Vs. 3 Those that trust in God are Delivered

**10**

Vs. 8 Commit to God, He can and will rescue you, because He Loves You

**11**

Vs. 10 I understood as a child that you were God, and you are still there for me, even though I have turned from you.

Children, while they may not understand, have an inherent nature to know God. He is in our hearts and as children we instinctively know that there is a God. It is only after we get older, smarter, more wise in the ways of the world, that we drift away from believing.

Vs. 19 God is not far away, we have only to ask for Help

David knew this and even in his despair he turned to God for his solution. In...

**Ps 56:8**

**12**

**8** Thou hast taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Thy bottle; Are they not in Thy book?

David knew that God was watching him and was watching over him. So he asks God to put his tears into God's bottle. This is an interesting statement. The idea comes from an ancient custom that was common among many cultures including both the Greeks and the Romans, where, when in mourning the loss of a loved one or dear friend, you would catch your tears in a jar called a lacrymatories or urnae lacrymales and at their funeral the jar would be left in the tomb as a sign of the great love that was felt for the deceased. David is asking God to remember what he, David, has and is going through, and note the last part of the passage, "Are they not in Thy book?". David is asking God for help, seeking refuge in His power and glory.

**Ps 3:3-4**

**13**

**3** But Thou, O LORD, art a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head. **4** I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain.

**14** David, in the depth of his despair and the weight of the world crashing down on him, saw God as having forsaken him. He almost quit, but he realized that God was not far away and turned back to him as his savior and deliverer.

There is another aspect to the passage in **Psalms 22**. We have looked at it from the application of the context being about David and his trials. There is also the application that can be applied to Christ. Lets look again at the passage from Psalms where David expressed his despair to God, only this time from the perspective that it is talking about Christ.

**Ps 22:11-18**

**11** Trouble is near; For there is none to help. **12** Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. **13** They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion. **14** I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. **15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And Thou dost lay me in the dust of death. **16** For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. **17** I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; **18** They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

It is very easy to see the application to Christ and what he went through in this passage. Christ was physically abused and tortured, He paid the price that the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden, demanded, Physical death. He also paid the price that sin demands spiritually, separation from God. In...

**Matt 26:36-46**

**36** Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." **37** And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. **38** Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." **39** And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt." **40** And He came to

the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? **41** "Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." **42** He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done." **43** And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. **44** And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. **45** Then He came to the disciples, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** "Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

**15** Vs. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

**16** Vs. 39 "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

**Heb 4:15**

**15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Christ understands our weakness and frailties, He has been tempted in all things like as we. "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me". God had not forsaken His only begotten Son, but provided an escape for Him and raised him from the dead. Christ found the refuge and solace in the arms of His Father.

Where do you go for security, comfort, solace? Where is your REFUGE? If it is not in God through Christ, it needs to be. No one can come to God except through Jesus Christ His Son. God gave Christ comfort when He asked for it....

Note David's comments...

**Ps 22:22-24**

**17**

**22** I will tell of Thy name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise Thee.

**23** You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. **24** For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Neither has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

He will do the same for us.