CLOSE TO THE BROKENHEARTED
PSALM 34

Main Thought – In this individual praise psalm (21 of them), David EXHALED using his own EXAMPLE of deliverance to EXHORT others to trust God.

INTRODUCTION – This is an one of seven acrostic psalms (25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119,145; also Lamentations) with each verse beginning successively with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It is thought to be a memorization (mnemonic) aid.

DAVID’S EXHALE – WHEW (1-3)!
- David praises his deliverance from a dangerous time in hostile enemy territory of the Philistines as he fled from murderous Saul (1 Sam. 21:10-15).
- Upon his return to his band of 400 men at the cave of Adullam, his brothers and family from Bethlehem came to rejoice with him (1 Sam. 22:1-2).
- Notice the many synonyms for David’s expression of relief from mortal danger – EXTOL, PRAISE, BOAST, GLORIFY, EXALT. This is to be done at all times under all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18).

DAVID’S EXAMPLE (4-7).

His Condition – fearful, face covered in shame, poor, troubled.
His Response – ANSWERED (Elijah – 1 Kings 18:37), DELIVERED (David – 1 Sam. 17:37), HEARD (exiled Israel – 106:44), SAVED (Charles Spurgeon – Isa. 45:22).
His Guardian Angel (35:5-6; Matt. 18:10; Heb. 1:14).

DAVID’S EXHORTATION (8-22).

What you do (8-14).
- TASTE AND SEE (1 Pet. 2:3; Heb. 2:9) – the Lord is good and sweet (119:103).
- TAKE REFUGE in him (22; 36:7; 46:1).
- FEAR (4x) THE LORD (36:1; Eccles. 12:13) – you will lack nothing (Matt. 6:33).
- SEEK THE LORD (Isa. 55:6) – you will lack no GOOD (4x) thing (Phile. 6).
- LISTEN TO ME (Isa. 55:2-3).
- TURN FROM EVIL (Ezek. 33:11) – keep your tongue from evil (Psa. 141:3).
- SEEK PEACE (Matt. 5:9).

What he does (15-22).
- SEE (Psa. 121:7-8) and HEAR (Isa. 65:24; Dan. 10:12) – he will fight for you (Ex. 14:14).
- BE CLOSE TO and SAVE those who are in trouble (Job 5:7; 14:1), brokenhearted (51:17; Luke 4:18), and crushed in spirit.
- DELIVER and PROTECT all his bones (John 19:36).
- REDEEM his servants (Rom. 8:35-39).