

# Peace in Adversity

Psm 31:7, 8

## INTRO

- **Character** { *thing we'll take to Heaven* } is best shown when we experience **adversity**
  - Webster defines **adversity** as: misfortune, calamity, distress, pain, or grief
    - Because of **sin** ... **adversity** *in its many forms* ... is our the daily situation in life
      - Seems like at any given moment we're either **heading into** adversity ... **or** ... **coming out** of adversity
  - When **adversity** shows up unannounced on the **doorstep** of our life ...
    - What are **we** going to do ~ ~ where are **we** going to go
      - We can take comfort in the assuring words of the David ~ **Psm 31:6 b - 8**

## BODY

- The first thing I want us to notice in this passage is: **Joy Pre-meditated**
  - **V 7** ~ I **will** be glad and rejoice in Your mercy... { Like **Daniel** who **purposed** in his heart [Dan 1:8] ... **he made a choice** }
    - We know how to act when life is **going well** – **happy** and **jubilant**
      - But what @ when life gets **turns upside down**
  - Pretty sure God wants us to take a cue from **David's** counsel in **V 7**
    - " I **will** be glad and rejoice " ~ we too can make that **decision**
      - No matter what comes – we can decide to **focus on God**
- **Why** should we premeditate joy ~ ~ look again at: **V 7**

- **ANSWER:** God has “**CONSIDERED**” our trouble
- Hebrew word translated “considered” in the NKJV literally means, “**to see**” ... but it means **more** than simply observing
  - Visual perception ~ God **sees** our distress
  - Auditory sensitivity ~ God **hears** our cries ... even those *silent* ones
  - Physical connection ~ God **feels** our pains
  - It’s an emotional understanding – God **empathizes** with our pain
- We need to realize ~~ **God is a specialist** at seeing and considering our troubles
  - When **we** experience trouble for a while ...
    - **Time** medicates our grief ~ **Time** eases the pain ... **Time** heals any wounds
  - But **God** has been considering trouble since the day **sin** entered His creation
    - Not a day goes by when He is not grieved and pained by what He sees, hears, and feels
      - In any court of law, God would be an *Expert Consider - er*
- **David says,** I premeditate joy - “For Thou hast considered my trouble” ~~ **YES ...**
- 1. God **sees** all of our troubles ... then
- 2. He carefully **considers** each one of them ... and ...
- 3. Based upon His infinite wisdom ... He’s **determines** the best way for us to deal with them

**TRANS:** We should **premeditate joy** because **God** has considered all our troubles ...

David also demos **how** to go about premeditating Joy ~ just follow his example:

## He premeditated Joy because a long time ago, he fixed his heart towards God

- As a youth David “**fixed**” his heart on God ~ **David & Goliath (1 Sam 17:37)**
  - Then as a mature man ~~ we see his confession of faith throughout the Psalms...
    - Here are a just a couple to consider:
      - **Psa. 57:7** ~ **Psa 112:7, 8**

The **Hebrew word** translated “**fixed**” literally means: “**to fasten - by nailing firmly**”

- If we take the time to reflect ... we'll remember that God has done the **same thing** for **us** ... that He did for David
  - Small successes **build trust** so we're ready for the big test when it comes

**Unfortunately** ... we live in a world where humans often **fixate** on the **wrong** things ...

- Some fixate on their financial status ~ they don't think they have enough money
- Some fixate on their material status ~ their **wants** aren't being met
- Some fixate on their social status ~ haven't climbed the ladder high enough
- Some fixate on their **pastor** ~ he doesn't do what they want ...
- Often **we overlook** the most important thing: our own **heart** ~ **Psm 51:10, 11**
  - When our heart is right with God ... the compass needle always points north ~~ no matter the time of day, weather, season of year, or direction our life turns
  - When our heart is right with God ... and remains in that loving relationship ... then we are **FIXED** and can **premeditate Joy** no matter what might come

**TRANS:** How do have Peace in Adversity ... we learn from David ...

**I. Premeditate Joy / Determined now to choose Joy ... regardless of what comes**

**Second**, we see in our Scripture text ...

## II. God Is Intimately Associated **Psm 31:7**

- As humans ~~ we are really good at deception ...
  - We're good at hiding pain ... but we have a God who is **closely associated**
    - He sees through the **facades** we put to disguise our discomforts
  - We have a God who is **closely associated**
    - He illuminates the shadows we create to try to conceal our inmost beings ... where we try to hide our deep/dark secrets
- In **V 7** ... "*You have known my soul in adversities*"
  - The "**soul**" here refers to our **real**, true, **genuine**, undisguised self
- **When others** see our smiling faces ...
  - God sees our very soul for He is **intimately associated**
- **When others** hear our brave and courageous words ...
  - God sees our very soul for He is **intimately associated**
- **When we** fulfill our duties and responsibilities and people congratulate us ... **all the while** our world is careening out of control ...
  - God sees our very soul for He is **intimately associated**
- **Secular Psychology** says: **"Man, know thyself"**
  - **God's Holy Book** says: **"Man, you are known by God"**

TRANS

**TRANS:** How can we have Peace in Adversity

**I. We can choose "Joy" ... Premeditated**

**II. We have a God Who's Intimately Associated ... *and* ...**

**III. There's a Refuge Close by**

○ **Re-READ ... Psm 31: 7/8**

○ **Two places** ... in ancient Israel could be thought of as having a ... " **large room** "

- The Tabernacle - Temple
- The Palace

○ These two places ... **on Earth** ... were supervised by **different** people

- The large room of **the tabernacle** was managed by the **priest**
- The large room of **the palace** was managed by the **king**

○ In **God's Kingdom** ... these 2 rooms are one and the same

1. Remember the beloved disciple **John** was in some trouble on the Isle of Patmos

2. He had been was arrested, tried, and sentenced there to serve his time ...

- He was **facing adversity** ~ physically he was in the grip of the enemy
  - NONE the Less ~ John had a refuge close by: **Rev 4:2**

○ **In Christ - we** to have access to the **same refuge** which John used

○ When we experience adversity ... we too have a **Refuge Close by**

Let's look at this refuge ~ this special **large room** ... it contains a **throne**:

- It's **The Throne** of the universe
- It's high and lifted up
- It's above the grasp of any **adversary** ... and beyond reach of **every adversity**

- There is more **good news** ... that throne in God's large room ~ **it is occupied**
  - Our Refuge ~ close by is **occupied** ~ and **God** doesn't occupy as man does
  - Maybe you recall the recent occupation of the **Hong Kong airport** ~ **PP Slides**
    - Most often in the earthly **occupations** when the police come with tear gas ~ batons ~ and rubber bullets ... the "occupation is over..."
      - ... because the people have **no authority** to occupy those places

But ... God doesn't need anyone's **permission** to occupy **His** throne

- Look with me at ~ **Matt 28:18**
  - Our Savior has **all** authority and is **always** w/ us ... even in our **adversity**

**In the days ahead** ... we'll continue to face adversity ... until **Jesus comes** in the clouds

1. **Loss of jobs** – God will manage our financial needs ... His throne is **occupied**
2. **Grave illnesses** – God will manage our health care needs ... His throne is **occupied**
3. **Unexpected death** of a loved one ... His throne is **occupied**

We can have **Peace in Adversity** for our God has **all things** well in hand

- I.** We can choose **Joy** ~ **pre-mediated**
- II.** We have a **God** ~ **intimately Associated**
- III.** We can seek a **Refuge** ~ **closely Situated**

- Will **close** with what I hope is a very familiar passage ~~ **2 Pet 3:17, 18**