Light and Life Class (June 2, 2019)

Psalm 124: “Our Help Is in the Name of the Lord!”

Goal: that God would use Psalm 124, by his grace, to increase our gratitude for and celebration of his victories in our lives

Title: of David, perhaps written after God’s deliverance described in 2 Samuel 5:17-25, but general enough to apply to any act of deliverance by the Lord

A Caution: victory not always a sign of God’s favor (Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address; Eisenhower’s address to the troops on June 6, 1944)

Application: This psalm arises from a victory given by the Lord in battle, but it means to stir us up with gratitude for all of God’s victories. What are some of the others?

Outline

A. vv. 1-5: What if the Lord had not been on our side?

1. Do we recognize the grace of God alone in our victories?

2. Why would he be “on our side”? See Romans 8:31.

3. What do our circumstances look like when God is “on our side”?

4. See David’s images of what the situation would have been if the Lord were not on the side of Israel (swallowed up as by a wild animal, deluged as by a raging flood of water).

B. vv. 6-7: We must praise the Lord.

1. One reason to “bless” God is because he “has not given us as prey.”

2. A second reason to “bless” God is because “the snare is broken.” (Note the use of the passive voice.)

C. v. 8: Our trust is in the Lord.

1. John Calvin wrote a worship service that begins with v. 8.

2. Cf. Psalm 121:1-2.

3. Note again the creation theology.

a. The Creator has immense power.

b. The Creator is the Ruler.

c. The Creator is YHWH, our covenant God.