

Series: Psalms  
Title: Commit it to Him  
Text: Psalm 17: 1-15  
Date: December 8, 2013  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Psalm 17 is a Prayer of David. Now, Christ teaches us, who believe, through the Holy Spirit, through the apostle Peter, to do as Christ did when he suffered and redeemed his people on the cross:

1 Peter 2: 20:...when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:...3: 12: For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

**Proposition:** We see in this prayer in Psalm 17 what it is to commit ourselves and our cause to him that judges righteously.

**Title:** Commit it to Him

**I. FIRST, TO COMMIT OURSELVES AND OUR CAUSE TO GOD IS TO COME TO GOD WITH A TRUE HEART, ASKING GOD TO HEAR CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF—Psalm 17:1: Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, *that goeth* not out of feigned lips.**

**“Hear the right, O LORD.”**

David is a type of Christ here. So we can look at this as the prayer of Christ when he himself committed his cause to him that judgeth righteously. We can look at this as the intercession Christ makes for us when we come to God the Father through Christ our Intercessor. But let’s begin with our prayer to God through Christ.

**“Hear the right, O LORD”** means “hear the righteous.”—Christ is the Righteousness of every who believes. We come to God asking, “Hear the Righteous, O LORD, hear Christ.” We ask, “Attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer”—by hearing Christ my Righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit has regenerated us, given us a true heart before God, (which is the only way we can truly come to God in prayer) then we can say that our prayer, **“goeth not out of feigned lips.”**

Still, our prayers are full of unbelief, full of sin. That is why we ask God the Father to hear Christ our Righteousness; that is why we ask him to hear us by hearing Christ. Now, between the believer and God the Father is Christ Jesus our Advocate with the Father. When Christ, who is Righteous, presents our petitions to the Father, he is able to say of himself on our behalf, **“Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto MY cry, give ear unto MY prayer, *that goeth* not out of feigned lips.”**

Application: So first of all, to commit ourselves and our cause to God is to do so with a true heart, asking God to hear Christ on our behalf.

**II. SECONDLY, TO COMMIT OUR CAUSE TO HIM THAT JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY IS TO HAVE A HEART CONTENT FOR OUR SENTENCE TO COME FROM HIM—Psalm 17: 2: Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.**

David appeals to the LORD as a Judge. God our Savior sits in heaven upon his sovereign throne judging right. Rather than opening his mouth against his adversaries, David is committing his cause to the LORD to litigate between him and his adversaries. Asking God to give the righteous sentence.

That is what Christ Jesus did when he opened not his mouth before his adversaries. 1. He committed himself and his cause to him that judgeth righteously, saying, **v2: Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal. 3: Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.**

God the Father had proved Christ's heart.

- **God visited him in the night and tried him**—at all times Christ was proven faithful.
- **God found nothing in him**—“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”
- **Christ was purposed that with his mouth he would not transgress**—he opened not his mouth.

Instead he said, Isaiah 50: 8: He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me?

And God judged righteously!

Psalm 9:4: For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

In due time, when Christ had satisfied God and his justice--the sentence came forth from God—God raised him from the dead declaring him just and the Justifier.

Ro 4:25: Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

1 Timothy 3:16: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The GodMan highly exalted God and God highly exalted the GodMan. And he raised all his people, justified, in him.

With Christ formed in David's heart, in the heart God made and tried, David was as satisfied with Christ as God his Father was. When that is our case then we are made willing, content to commit our eternal well-being into the hand of Christ who Judges righteously.

Job 13:15: Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:

And when our adversary the devil rages against us and wicked men revile us, when Christ has made us to cast all our care into his hand, then we are content to commit each earthly cause to him. **v2: Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.**

Now, what David is saying here about his heart is not that he is without sin. David knew that in his flesh dwelt no good thing. He is saying, “Lord, you know my heart—you know the heart that you have created in righteousness and true holiness!” **v3: Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing;** [nothing good except your presence dwelling in me. That is why] **I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.**

Illustration: Peter had boasted that he wouldn't forsake the Lord. So the Lord proved Peter's heart. He proved Peter's heart to Peter. When he came to Peter later, he asked him three times, “Peter, Lovest thou me?” Peter answered, “Lord, thou knowest all things;--you know there is nothing good in my heart of flesh, only your presence in the new heart is how I'm kept. He said, “thou knowest that I love thee. That's what David is saying here.

Application: So first, to commit ourselves and cause to God is to do so with a true heart, asking God to receive us and to hear Christ our Righteousness on our behalf. Secondly, it is to have a heart content for our sentence to come from him that judges right. Are you content that the God of heaven and earth will judge righteously for you? Commit yourself first and your cause unto him.

**III. THIRDLY, IT IS TO DO SO WITH ALL CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL BE BY HIS WORD THAT HE KEEPS US—V4: Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept *me* from the paths of the destroyer. 5: Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.**

The works of wicked men and the paths of the destroyer, Satan, are one and the same. Men will judge for you and give you all kinds of advice but the end thereof are destruction. But the word of God's lips will keep you from the paths of the destroyer. For the true believer born of the living Word, the words of this book are the words of God's lips. His word really is our only rule of faith and practice. How do we know and recognize the path's of the destroyer—read v4 without the italicized words—**V4: Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept** [recognized OR marked] **the paths of the destroyer.**

Illustration: To recognize a crooked stick lay a straight one down beside it. This written word is the straight line that exposes the crooked.

But we need his word to be made effectual in our hearts by him speaking his word into our hearts. So he asks, **v5: Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.**

Jeremiah 10:23: O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

This is our need continually—

- **Hold up my goings IN THY PATHS**
- **that my footsteps slip not.**

Application: We know the scripture that says, “let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor 10: 12) But we really do get to thinking we can stand. It is only when our footsteps slip that we learn that we need our Savior to hold us up in his paths. So from time-to-time he sends the devastating news! The hard trial.

The Psalmist said, Psalm 72: 2: But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped... 17: **Until I went into the sanctuary of God;** then I understood...He went to the house of God, where the Word of God was read and preached, then God by his word, made him to understand and held up his goings in God's path so that his feet slipped not.

Application: Our trials are always to remind us that we need his gospel, we need Christ, we need his effectual power to hold us up, we need our brethren. It is to keep us compacted together committing our cause to him. He will hold us up by his word—through the gospel. So when he gives us a word in season then we need to heed his word. We will when he speaks into our hearts.

So first, to commit ourselves and our cause to God is to do so with a true heart, asking God to receive us in Christ our Righteousness on our behalf. Secondly, it is to have a heart content for our sentence to come from him that judges right. Thirdly, it is to have confidence in his word to keep us and to heed his word, to mark the path of the destroyer, to stay in his paths.

**IV. FOURTHLY, TO COMMIT OUR CARE TO HIM IS TO DO SO BELIEVING HE WILL HEAR US AND WILL SAVE US THROUGH CHRIST—V6: I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, *and* hear my speech. 7: Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*.**

Believer, are you weighed down with a heavy trial? **He will hear!** He will have us to ask him—**“O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech”**

Illustration: I noticed when I was home, my dad, my mom, my grandmother—they delight to hear their children and their grandchildren ask them for anything. God our Father does, too.

Mic 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, **because he delighteth in mercy.**

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

What do we ask him for? Well the scriptures say,

1Jo 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Here is what God wills to show, this is God’s delight. This is what we are sure to receive so long as we ask in faith in him—**v7: Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.**

Ask in faith to see his marvelous lovingkindness and you are asking according to what God is willing to show. The thing that makes his lovingkindness so marvelous is that it never changes toward those he loves.

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an **everlasting love:** therefore **with lovingkindness** have I drawn thee

Application: Have your sins risen up against you? Satan or wicked powers? What about your flesh—disease, weakness? Believer, it is to have you, his dear child draw near and ask, Abba, Father, **v7: Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.**

**His Right Hand is Christ Jesus.** Has he saved you from your sins by his Right Hand? Has he justified you by his Right Hand? Has he quickened and called you by his Right Hand? Has he drawn you by his Right Hand? “Then shall he not with him freely give you all things?” So we ask him in faith, believing he will hears us and save us by Chrsit his Right Hand—**v8: Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, 9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about. 10: They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly. 11: They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth; 12: Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. 13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword: 14 From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.**

Application: So first, to commit ourselves and our cause to God is to do so with a true heart, asking God to receive us in Christ our Righteousness on our behalf. Secondly, it is to have a heart content for our sentence to come from him that judges right. Thirdly, it is to have confidence in his word for him to keep us by his word Fourthly, it is to ask him in faith believing he shall hear and save us by his Right Hand, by Christ. Remember, to commit it to him is be content with his sentence. It is to rest content that however he shows his lovingkindness, however he saves me, it will be right, for his glory, for my good, for the good of my brethren.

**V. LASTLY, TO COMMIT ALL TO HIM IS TO DO SO SATISFIED WITH NOTHING ELSE BUT HIM—V15: As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**

Brethren, he has saved us—

- From our sins and our flesh
- From the curse of the law
- From the dominion of sin, all condemnation

We rejoice. That is a great salvation!

Brethren he is saving us—

- From trials, from our enemies
- From our unbelief, Often from sickness

That is a great salvation!

But brethren one day he shall save us for good—I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. **THAT WILL BE THE GREATEST OF ALL!**

1 Peter 5: 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:  
7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you...10...the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

**Amen!**