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Psalm 27:1-14

1. “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?

2. When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

3. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in *spite of* this I shall be confident.

4. One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.

5. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.

6. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

7. Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me.

8. *When you said*, ‘Seek My face,’ my heart said to You, ‘Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.’

9. Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!
10. For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me up.
11. Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a level path because of my foes.
12. Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence.
13. *I would have despaired* unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
14. Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.”

David, the man God chose to write this Psalm down, really went through it in his life. The Lord's appointed, King Saul, tried to kill him many times. Jonathan, his closest friend, was killed in battle while still a youth. His first baby by Bathsheba died seven days after birth because of David's sin. According to verse 10 of Psalm 27 David's own father and mother had forsaken him. His son, Absalom, rebelled against him--taking the kingdom and David was forced to flee and hide to save his life. And in David's later days, God refused to let him build the temple, which was David's heart desire, because of the bloodshed on his hands.

Nevertheless, David writes in verse 13, “*I would have despaired* unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD, in the land of the living.”

These words are so very encouraging to me, and I hope they are for you also this morning. The New Testament promises that “indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” according to II Timothy 3:12. One preacher puts it this way, “Life trials for the Christian are like being pulled through a knot-hole, sideways: you never come out the same on the other side.”

From what I’ve seen and experienced, life either makes you better, or it makes you bitter. Psalm 27 is written to produce an attitude in us which will make us better. And thereby triumph over the circumstances of this life.

Life is a test. And it is deliberately unfair in many ways in order to secure and galvanize godly character in those who will inherit eternal salvation. Everyone gets to taste a little bit of heaven and a little bit of hell down here on earth. And each person chooses, by what he does, which one he will receive, in full, for eternity.

As David concludes in Psalm 27, “Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.”