

September 16, 2012  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Psalm 34

**“Taste and See that the Lord is Good”**

**Background:** Acrostic Psalm (cf. Ps. 25).

- Cf. 1 Sam. 21:10-15 (Abimelech or Achish?)

**I. Extolling the LORD (vv. 1-3)**

- A. Continuous – v. 1
- B. Contagious – v. 2
- C. Corporate – v. 3

**II. Experiencing the LORD’s Deliverance (vv. 4-7)**

- A. Sought...answered – v. 4
- B. Looked...radiant – v. 5
- C. Cried...heard / saved – v. 6
- D. Fear...rescue – v. 7

**III. Exhorting the Godly (vv. 8-14)**

- A. Taste / See
- B. Fear
- C. Seek
- D. Come/listen
- E. Keep
- F. Depart / Seek

**IV. Encouraging the Righteous (vv.15-22)**

- A. Deliverance
- B. Protection
- C. Justice
- D. Redemption

### Discussion Questions:

1. The title to Psalm 34 says “A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.” Read 1 Sam. 21 for the background to this Psalm. Who is Abimelech? Why call him Abimelech when the name in 1 Samuel is Achish? How does David’s behavior in 1 Sam. 21 match with what he describes in Psalm 34? Did Achish drive David away because of the Lord or because of David’s behavior? Or both?
2. Ps. 34 (like Ps. 25) is an Acrostic Psalm. Both of them follow an interesting pattern of not using the Hebrew letter Waw but then using the letter Peh twice (once in the normal position in the alphabet and once at the end). What is the advantage of an Acrostic Psalm? What does this encourage us to do with the Word of God?
3. Read v. 1-3. Note David’s example to us of a true worshiper. List as many principles as you can from these verses and then discuss how you can apply them to your life.
4. In v. 4-7 David bears testimony of how the Lord delivered him (and others) from very fearful situations. The specific Hebrew word for “fears” (v. 4) is only used here, Prov. 10:24, and Is. 66:4. A closely related word is used in Ps. 31:13; Jer. 6:25; 20:3, 10; 46:5; 49:29 referring to “terror.” After reading these verses what kind of “fears” do you think David is talking about? What are some examples of those fears in our lives today?
5. In v. 4-7 what is man’s part in the process? What does it mean to seek, look, and fear? What does this look like in very practical terms? Give some examples of when you did this during a very fearful time.
6. Who is the “angel of the LORD”? (See Ps. 35:5-6; Gen. 16:7, 11; 22:11-18; 31:11-13; Ex. 3:2-5; Num. 22:22-35; Judges 6:11-23; 13:2-5; 1 Kings 19:5-7) How encouraging is it to know that the angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them?
7. In v. 8-14 there are exhortations to the godly. How many exhortations can you find? What are the promised blessings for the person who carries out each of these exhortations? What are some practical ways you can carry out each of these exhortations?
8. In v. 15-22 David encourages the righteous. What are the things the LORD does for His righteous children that are so encouraging? List all of the attributes and actions of the LORD that you can find.
9. What does it mean to be brokenhearted and crushed in spirit (contrite)? What does Ps. 51:17 and Is. 57:15 say about God’s attitude toward people who are like this?
10. Ps. 34:19-22 speaks of the difficulties the righteous will face (many afflictions, evil people who hate them, etc.). How does this Psalm help the righteous persevere in a world where they are hated, attacked, maligned, and condemned? How does it impact your attitude / perspective about life in an evil world?
11. Memorize Psalm 34:8. Bonus points for memorizing the whole Psalm! 😊