SCC MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

September 21, 2024 7:30 AM – Psalm 74-75

Psalm 74 is a communal lament, expressing sorrow over the destruction of the Temple and the desecration of holy places by enemies. The psalmist pleads with God to remember His covenant and to act against those who mock and destroy. It recalls God's past acts of salvation, to inspire hope and trust in God's power. Psalm 75 emphasizes God's role as the righteous judge who exalts and brings low. It speaks of God's timing in judgment and His ability to bring justice to the earth. It contains a strong message against arrogance and pride, warning the wicked not to boast.

**What's There? - Searching the Scriptures**

**Psalm 74**

1. Only thirteen of the Psalms are called “maskils, used for Psalms 32, 42, 44–45, 52–55, 74, 78, 88–89, and 142, and of that only two of Asaph’s are attributed that way. This one and Psalm 78. The term is translated: “artistic, instructive, didactic, contemplation”. The reason this may be important is that what the Psalm seems to describe is the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem which took place hundreds of years after Asaph lived. Looking at it this way, why do you think this Psalm could be reflective of “the spirit, style and tone” of Asaph? (NOTE: if you answer question B first you may find an insightful answer to this question)
2. Look ahead at Psalm 78:58-62 (another maskil) which is describing an event in 1 Samuel 4 about the Sanctuary at Shiloh and the capturing of the Ark of the Covenant. This happened prior to the appointment of a king over Israel, and this maskil details events up to through time of David. How does this second maskil attributed to Asaph help inform the lesson we are to get from Psalm 74?
3. What was the psalmist’s purpose in reminding God of His past faithfulness to them (verses 2, 12-17)? Why do you think the writer also recounted the actions of those who had destroyed the Sanctuary?
4. What is the value of openly expressing the things that grieve you before God (See verses 10-11)?
5. Why was it significant that those who attacked Israel did not just mock the people, but God Himself? (see verse 18)
6. Why is it important that we remember God’s covenant power and might in moments when we may not feel His presence?

**Psalm 75**

1. How are the words spoken by God in verses 2-5 both a warning and a comfort?
2. How was God’s warning of the wrath to come a means of grace, even to those who opposed Him? How is this still true today?

**So What & What Now? - Applying the Scriptures**

1. How can you seek to remind others who are facing spiritual battles of the power and might of the God we serve?
2. Where do you currently feel as though evil and suffering are winning out? How are you encouraged by these Psalms?

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