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## ***Our Only True Deliverance © 2010 Shelli Prindle***

- Paul writes Ephesians from a Roman prison. He instructs in righteous living, including proper relationships in the family and the workplace (Ephesians 6:1-9).
  - Paul reminds slaves and masters that our work done here on earth is really work done unto the Lord, and God Himself will reward us. Thus, Paul is linking the tangible works on earth to the spiritual realm.
- Paul emphasizes the need to be strong *in the Lord*. He informs us that we need to wrap our strength in the strength of the Lord (6:10). We as humans do not have the strength to overcome sin on our own. For the battle, we need the Lord's might.
- Paul tells us that the devil brings schemes against us (6:11).
  - We see clearly the type of thinking the devil encourages by his work in the Garden of Eden. Satan longs to make us believe the following: God does not really mean what He says, God does not define the parameters of living, and God does not have our best interest in mind.
  - Satan attacks us by motivating the false worldviews and thinking patterns that so pervade the godless culture.
- Even though Paul is in a real prison in Rome – soon to be martyred for his faith – he boldly proclaims that our real struggle is not against flesh and blood. Our real battle is against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places, i.e., the spiritual realm (6:12).
- Paul's reminders in Ephesians go hand-in-hand with David's situation in Psalm chapter 3.
  - King David was a man who loved God; but he did commit adultery, polygamy, and murder. God forgave David because he was genuinely repentant. Note Psalm 51. However, David's sin had consequences; we see some of those consequences in his son Absalom as Absalom sought to usurp the throne of his father.
- Reflecting on the time of Absalom's revolt, David wrote Psalm 3. David notes how the number of his adversaries seems to be increasing.
  - How often do we feel that way? We battle ourselves and our own flesh, we battle situations and circumstances, and we battle the spiritual forces of darkness that seek to separate from God. Recall Ephesians 6:12.

- David realizes that his enemies' taunt accuses that there is no deliverance for David *in God*. What an ironic claim! The only place we truly find deliverance is *in God*.
  - The powers of Hell would have us believe that we have to race frantically trying to work on all the scattered circumstances of life that our enemy attacks: emotions, relationships, finances, career, health, etc.
    - Maintaining and triumphing in all areas of life is impossible for a limited human being.
    - However, Jesus said that if we come to Him, He will give us rest (Matthew 11:29-30). When we come into relationship with Jesus Christ and honor Him, He causes everything else to fall into place. We no longer have to frantically chase all the details of life. Remember, God is all-powerful and all-knowing; He can handle it all (Ephesians 1:11). Our responsibility is to come to Him.
  - The actual reason we have this grand deliverance is precisely because there *seemed not to be deliverance for Jesus*.
    - While Jesus was on the cross, His enemies said, "He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, *if He delights in Him*."
      - Jesus' enemies thought God was not delivering Jesus. They could never imagine that the Father, in fact, was pleased with Jesus.
      - Isaiah 53:10 tells us that God the Father was pleased to crush Jesus. Why? Because in dying on the cross, Jesus bore our sins (Isaiah 53:11).
      - The death and resurrection of Jesus has provided for us the deliverance we need. It is through Christ that we may enter into relationship with God.
      - As was the case with Jesus, at times it may not seem God is pleased with us or going to save us. Remember that the Resurrection followed Calvary!
- David boldly proclaims that the Lord is a shield *about him*. As Psalm 3:6 reminds us, our enemy attacks us from all sides. We must deal with temptation of mind and body, false worldviews, discouragement, physical distress, financial needs, relationship problems, and many more things. We need not only a shield, but a shield that is all around us. God is this shield. He knows exactly what we need in every part of life, and He is *able* to take care of it all at all times.