



**Studies in Psalms** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 31

10/29/12

Vs. 1-8 have David praising God for delivering him from his enemies;  
Vs. 9-18 continue to send the distress signal to God that He, only can help;  
Vs. 19-24 reaffirm that the goodness of God outlasts the "badness" of mankind.

In **verses 1-8**, David describes the total confidence he has in God. He trusts God to be his security or safe place when enemies are after him. God is David's "rock of refuge," "fortress of defense," "escape from their "net." So safe is David that he expresses it thusly: "Into Your hand I commit my spirit." As Jesus Christ launched from His cross, leaving the land of the living, He quoted this expression of confidence that He, too, trusted God's "righteousness:" "And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last" (Luke 23:46). One trusted God's care through life, the other through death. There is never a time, in the life of those who are led and guided by God's will, that God cannot be trusted to act in their best interest! That God had set David's feet "in a wide place" showed his liberation to move about.

With **verses 9-13**, David's attention turns to his attrition cause by his enemies: "my eye wastes away with grief," "my years [spent] with sighing," "strength fails," "bones waste away." The he mentions the tactics they use: "reproach," "repulsive," "flee from me," "forgotten," "slander," "fear."  
But David maintains unwavering confidence in God in verses 14-16. "But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, 'You *are* my God.'" David trusts the punishment of the wicked into the hands of God in verses 17-18.

God's wonderful reward for the faithfully obedient is discussed in **verses 19-24**. The bliss is captured in the statement: "Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! *For* the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person."  
Those who fear God ("and keep His commandments," Acts 10:34-35) will be protected "secretly in a pavilion," also referred to as "a strong city." The point being, God will protect His people, and punish the persecutors. Today, the church of Christ is such a "refuge," for Jesus Christ is "the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18). Only those buried by baptism into the death of Christ (Romans 6:3-4) could be described thusly: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4).

**Verse 22** should remind us to not draw final judgments too quickly. David had judged himself separated from God, while God responded to David's request, thus showing David's assessment had been wrongly made.

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**All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.**