

BLESSINGS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Psalm 37:25 ... "I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken..."

I have been waiting my entire life to recite today's verse from personal experience. When I was young, the verse represented an amazing promise. When I was middle-aged, I had seen enough to know that the promise was genuine. There was a popular Christian song in the 80s that proclaimed this promise and reminded us of the hope found in it. Now that I am in my sunset years, I can honestly say like the Psalmist, "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken." What a joy to say those words.

This Psalm was written by David, king of the Jews, approximately 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, who is the last and current king of the Jews. In the days of David few people had a truly personal relationship with God. He chose to communicate with man through prophets and priests. Living righteously in those days required people to obey God and the Jewish laws, to make costly sacrifices for their sins, and to assemble at the temple periodically to honor God through special festivals and ceremonies. It was pretty difficult to be righteous in those days, which is why God sent his Son to be the last sacrifice for our sins. Today, when you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, he declares you to be righteous and you will live under his grace, which includes mercy and forgiveness for your mistakes.

David's proclamation via this verse, must have made the people of that day shake their heads and wonder if they could ever be righteous enough to enjoy the promises of God. It may have been a discouraging verse for them. Yet David was an eye witness to the goodness of God, allowing him to state as fact, that God would never forsake the righteous. Although it was a tall order to live as a righteous child of God 3,000 years ago, David knew the promise was true, as do I, in my 65th year of loving and serving God.

Today, having been declared righteous by Christ through your acceptance of his death as payment for your sins, you can count on this generous promise and tell others that "I have never seen the righteous forsaken." Include this promise in your testimony so that when you share Christ with others, you can declare from personal experience that God will not forget or forsake his followers. And when you are facing hardship, grief, sorrow, sadness, confusion, or persecution, recite: "I have never seen the righteous forsaken," as hope for yourself.

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