

THE LORD'S EYES AND EARS

Psalm 34:15 ... "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry."

Do you know what false hope is? False hope is something you want to believe in, but in which you have no right to believe because it is either against God's will, or irreversible decisions (such as the passage of laws) have already been made. For instance, if you lie to a friend or steal from your school, you may have false hope that you will not be caught. But our sins always find us out, making your hopefulness false. False hope can also arise when people deceive themselves into thinking that good will come of bad circumstances that they created through crime or unrepentant sin. Today's verse makes it clear that God watches over the righteous and hears calls for help from the righteous. What about the unrighteous? What about you? Are you righteous or unrighteous?

Remember, righteousness cannot be earned. There is nothing you can do to become righteous, but there is no way you can enter heaven if you are not righteous. That sounds like a terrible dilemma. You can live your entire life in a monastery or convent, spend ten hours a day on your knees praying, consume only water and plain rice; never smoke, cuss or lie; never have a bad thought; read the Bible from cover to cover every month of your life and attend mass or church twice a day. None of those things – even all of them together – will make you righteous. You and I were both destined to go to hell unless we accept the blood of Jesus who died in our place. If not for our repentance of our sins and the acceptance of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, that's exactly where we would end up. Only when God forgives us of our sins and declares us righteous, is heaven available to us.

However, if you have not created a personal bond with Jesus by accepting his death for your sins and have not repented of your sins, you are not righteous nor able to enjoy the privileges of the righteous. And that, which is implied in today's verse, means you are not under the protection and watchfulness of God; God does not hear your cries for help. We live in perilous times. The enemies of God surround us. Believers around the world are dying every day for their faith, knowing that their place in heaven is secure. Is your place in heaven secure? Is your hope justified, or is it false? Do you qualify to be called righteous? If not, your future may be worse, far worse than both your past and your present. And, be warned: It does no good to call yourself righteous. Only Christ can declare you righteous and give you positive, true, and authentic hope.

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