

I will love You, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and
my deliverer; my God, my strength,
in whom I will trust; my shield and the
horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be
praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:1-3

Keeping First Things First

From last week...

Keeping First Things First

From last week...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,

Keeping First Things First

From last week...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
but it's the ever-diminishing light.

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Or, to put it another way...

Keeping First Things First

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The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
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Our enemy is not too big

Keeping First Things First

From last week...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
but it's the ever-diminishing light.

Or, to put it another way...

Our enemy is not too big, but our God is too small.

Keeping First Things First

From last week...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
but it's the ever-diminishing light.

Or, to put it another way...

Our enemy is not too big, but our God is too small.

And we make Him small by our doubts, fears,
insecurities, and lack of faith.

Keeping First Things First

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The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
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Or, to put it another way...

Our enemy is not too big, but our God is too small.

But all of that can change...

Keeping First Things First

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The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
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But all of that can change... today!

Keeping First Things First

From last week...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
but it's the ever-diminishing light.

Or, to put it another way...

Our enemy is not too big, but our God is too small.

But all of that can change... today!

All we need is to see Him for who He really is.

Keeping First Things First

Keeping First Things First

David has some problems.

Keeping First Things First

David has some problems.

Probably much bigger than the problems we face.

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Psalm 17 – Lament

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Personal – They (Him) – Personal

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Personal – They (Him) – Personal

Psalm 18 – Thanksgiving

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Psalm 17 – Lament

Personal – They (Him) – Personal

Psalm 18 – Thanksgiving

But note what comes between these two Psalms.

Keeping First Things First

Keeping First Things First

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness;
I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

Psalm 17:15

Keeping First Things First

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness;
I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

Psalm 17:15

As for me (my lot, ambition), I will see (faith)
Your face (intimacy) in righteousness;
I shall be (faith) satisfied (filled, full, to want nothing)
when (time) I awake in Your likeness (form, image,
manifestation, appearance).

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Notice how this Psalm begins.

Keeping First Things First

Psalm 18:1-3

To the Chief Musician.

A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD (not king of Israel), who spoke to the LORD the words of this song (when) on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

And he said:

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And he said:

Now, Psalm 18:1-3 and 2 Samuel 22:2-4

Psalm 18:1-3

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(PS) I will love You, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, (2 Sam) the God of my strength,

(PS) in whom I will trust;

my shield and the horn of my salvation,

my stronghold (2 Sam) and my refuge;

my Savior, You save me from violence.

(PS) I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

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Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You

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I will love You

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I will call upon the LORD

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Psalm 18:1-3

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I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be
praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies

Psalm 18:1-3

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Psalm 18:1-3

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Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You, O LORD, my strength

The LORD is

in whom I will trust

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Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You, O LORD, my strength

The LORD is my rock

in whom I will trust

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be
praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies

Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You, O LORD, my strength

The LORD is my rock and my fortress

in whom I will trust

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be
praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies

Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You, O LORD, my strength

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my
deliverer

in whom I will trust

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be
praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies

Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You, O LORD, my strength

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my
deliverer; my God

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Psalm 18:1-3

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The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior, You save me from violence.

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You

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Psalm 18:1-3

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in whom I will trust

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Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You O LORD my strength

my rock my fortress my

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Psalm 18:1-3

O Lord (*yehōwāh* – the proper name of the God of Israel, particularly the name by which He revealed Himself to Moses. The “I AM THAT I AM,” the Ever-Present One)

my strength (*ḥēzeq* – used only once in the Old Testament, means to fortify, be strong and courageous, to make firm and steadfast)

Isaiah 46:8 – “to show yourselves men”

Psalm 18:1-3

my rock (*sela'* – stronghold, cliff, stone)

my fortress (*meṣûḏāh* – a fortified defensive structure, a place of hiding in the wilderness)

and my deliverer (*pālat* – one who delivers others from pain, suffering, hardship, death, to bring to safety, to help escape, to rescue, to save)

Psalm 18:1-3

the God of my strength (*ṣûr* – refers to a large rock, a boulder, cliff, or rock wall, a mountain),

in whom I will trust (*ḥāsāh* – to take / seek refuge, seeking the shade of a tree, to find a safe location);

my shield (*māgēn* – a defensive piece of armor used to block blows or other forms of attack, means protection, or the scales of a crocodile)

Psalm 18:1-3

and the horn (*qarnayim* – represents strength and power, like that of an animal)

of my salvation (*yeša* – the act of deliverance, to rescue from harm and deliver to safety, liberty),

my stronghold (*mišgāb* – a strongly fortified military structure, a place naturally fortified and secure, a high hill or cliff, rock, a high tower)

Psalm 18:1-3

and my refuge (*mānôš* – place of escape, flight, a shelter from danger or hardship, a retreat);

my Savior (*mô·šîa'* – one who delivers and rescues from danger to a point of safety),

You save (*yāš'a'* – to save or deliver from ruin, destruction, or harm) me from violence (*ḥāmās* – implies cruelty, damage, a wrong, and injustice).

Psalm 18:1-3

I will call (*qārā'* – summon, invite, declare, invoke) upon the Lord (*yehōwāh* – the proper name of the God of Israel, particularly the name by which He revealed Himself to Moses. The “I AM THAT I AM,” the Ever-Present One),

[who is worthy] to be praised (*hālal* – to be extolled of the greatness of His works, to commend, shine, shout, exclaim Hallelujah);

Psalm 18:1-3

so shall I be saved (*yāšā* – to save or deliver from ruin, destruction, or harm)

from my enemies (*'ōyēb* – all kinds of enemies, personal, national, or an enemy of God, foe, adversary, to be hostile to).

Keeping First Things First

Faith is something that must be often rekindled.

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Keeping First Things First

Faith is something that must be often rekindled.

One way to do that is to remind yourself of what you know to be true about God and about His choice and plan for you.

And to do this often, especially as things grow darker.

Then, most important, act on what you know.

Keeping First Things First

Keeping First Things First

“Remember this, and show yourselves men;
recall to mind, O you transgressors.

Remember the former things of old,
for I am God, and there is no other; I am God,
and there is none like Me,”

Isaiah 46:8-9

Keeping First Things First

“Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times things that are not yet done,
saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
and I will do all My pleasure.’”

Isaiah 46:10

To “show yourselves men.”

Fearless, unflinching in the face of danger.

Why? Because our God is God and who is like Him?

