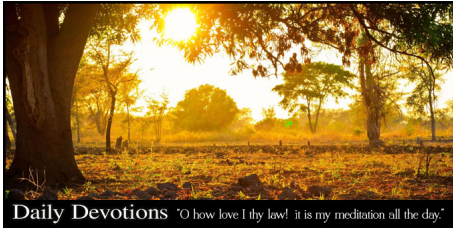


Psalm 34:19

Written by Rev (Dr) Prabhudas Koshy
Thursday, 29 June 2017 00:00



READ:

Psalm 34:19

^{19]} *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

EXHORTATION:

One's faith in God does not exempt him from suffering. The believer is subjected to afflictions that are common to man, whether it be sickness or financial crisis or relationship problems. His virtues will not shield him from losses and disappointments, slander and contempt, bad health and hardships. The godly may also be deserted by his friends, and maltreated by his enemies. Death may deprive him of those dear to him, and fill his heart with sorrow. Besides his own personal afflictions, the righteous man may further have to bear the burdens of his fellow brethren and face opposition to his faith. He may be ridiculed and persecuted for his commitment to his God. Ironically, righteousness oftentimes attracts the ire and hatred of wicked men, together with all the evils they are able to inflict. One's virtue, especially when it outshines others, may provoke their envy and resentment. Moreover, one's integrity in standing out against the unjust and mischievous actions of godless men would invariably cause bitter and vicious responses from them.

The psalmist David himself was afflicted with many problems; but he was sustained and guided by the Lord through all his afflictions. Having received the Lord's help and deliverance, he here exhorts all the suffering people of God never to lose their courage despite whatever evils that threaten them. He assures them that God is able to deliver them. Even if a thousand troubles would surround the godly man, God is able to deliver him from them all. So God's people should never give up their expectation of the Lord's help and deliverance.

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It would be of great help to observe how David clung to his hope of rescue by the LORD. Earlier in the same psalm, he tells us how he had poured out his heart's troubles to the Lord in prayer. In verse 6, he said, "*This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles* ." In verse 15, he testified, from personal experience, "*The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*" So in verse 17, he boldly declared, "*The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles* ." It was through constant pleading in the midst of his afflictions that David sustained his heart in the hope of deliverance. Let us also, therefore, hope and pray for the Lord's deliverance in the midst of our troubles.