PSALMS Book One (1-41) Psalm 17

"WATCH OVER ME LORD"

- 1. David calls out to God to hear his prayer ("just cause").
- **a.** It didn't come from mere outward religion or posing.
- **b.** David knew that God would judge him justly and that He saw and knew all (Ps 139:23).
- c. God had examined ("visited/observed/probed/proved") him and found him just.
- He had resolved that his mouth would not sin ("transgress") Ps 119:11.
- He had been kept from the ways of the violent ("breakers/robbers/murderers") by God's word.
 - * His steps had held to God's paths (Prv 14:15).
 - * His feet ("footsteps") had not slipped (1 Cor 10:12-13).

Ask God to keep you faithful. Don't "cruise" but seek!

- 2. David had called on God and God had answered he asks God again to pay heed ("incline His ear") toward him and listen. What is our confidence in prayer? (Matt 6:8, 1 Jn 5:13-15).
- a. David calls on God to show His wonderful ("set apart, unique") love ("loving kindness").
- Save those who take refuge in Him. (Prov 30:5-6).
- David asks God to keep him as the apple of His eye ("pupil daughter" that is, His focus) Ps 33:18.
- David asks God to hide him in the shadow of His wings (God is our strength & protector) from His mortal ("hateful") adversaries who assailed him and were trying to constrain him. Prv 18:10. This is not one sided Heb 12:1
- **b.** David's hateful adversaries are described:
- Their hearts were callous ("fat, unfeeling, torpid") and their mouths arrogant.
- They had tracked David down and surrounded him alert for an opening to attack him. (They were like a hungry lion watching from cover for an opportunity to pounce.)

How important is it to you to be close to your Creator/Protector?

- 3. David called on God to confront the wicked and humble them.
- **a.** To rescue him from their power (Rom 12:9-21).
- **b.** They enjoy God's bounty in this life but that is the only reward they will get (Ps 49/73).
- The wicked and their children are sated and prosperous (Rom 2:4).
- Yet David knows that he has a reward beyond this present world (Ps 49: 12-15).
- * God had made him righteous.
- * David would see God's face (Mtt 5:8).

Is God your Refuge and Strong Tower?

Another way to think of this is to ask, "On Who or what do I rely?"