

## Psalm 28 Bible Study Transcript

We continue our study of the Psalms. We're on Psalm 28. Let us hear what Luther has to say.

The 28th psalm is a psalm of prayer that David prayed against Saul and similar enemies. He prayed especially against this evil: that they spoke well to him and acted friendly at times, yet attempted to kill him—as afterward Absalom also attempted. Joab acted the same against Amasa and Abner, so that David was concerned lest God hold him accountable for this, and therefore he prayed that he might not be carried off with the godless. We can pray this psalm against the tyrants and against the rebellious spirits. For the tyrants portray themselves as friendly, yet in daily machinations they seek ways to kill and destroy. The rebellious spirits praise God's glory, Word, and worship in highest measure; they want to help all the world and are extraordinarily humble. Yet for all of that, they seek the corruption of souls and are, under sheep's clothing, ravaging wolves. This psalm belongs in the Third and Second Commandments and the First and Second Petitions.

So a lot of talk about rulers who say one thing and do another; who speak peace and then stab you in the back; who say that they are your friends, but then talk murder or sedition or other things behind you. Almost sounds like today's world as we look into it. But let us read what Psalm 28 has to say.

- <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I call;  
my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me,  
I become like those who go down to the pit.
- <sup>2</sup>Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy,  
when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands  
toward your most holy sanctuary.
- <sup>3</sup>Do not drag me off with the wicked,  
with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors  
while evil is in their hearts.
- <sup>4</sup>Give to them according to their work  
and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands;  
render them their due reward.
- <sup>5</sup>Because they do not regard the works of the LORD  
or the work of his hands, he will tear them down and build them up no more.
- <sup>6</sup>Blessed be the LORD!  
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults,  
and with my song I give thanks to him.
- <sup>8</sup>The LORD is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
- <sup>9</sup>Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!  
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

So David starts by calling upon his rock, his solid foundation upon which he stands and ask that he protect them and not be dragged down into death. He prays that God would hear his pleas and help him because he's lifted up his hands. One thing we need to do is whenever we feel that we are in trouble or when trials come our way or when frustrations and fears and anything else that causes us fear comes, then we should turn to God and seek His will and seek His protection and His guidance and His care in our lives, rather than looking to anything else for comfort. Yes, so we not be dragged off with the wicked

and the workers of evil who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts. Unfortunately, we have seen a lot of that going on in our nation today. It seems like some people ask for peace and then they create violence. Again, this is on both sides of the spectrum, all over the place. I'm not supporting any of the parties that we're talking about. We're not getting political here. What we are saying is there's a lot of people that are mad and a lot of families are being broken apart because of political disagreements. And, we as Christians, while we should be active in our politics, we should contact our government officials and let them know what we think and what we believe to be right, and how they should be voting and enacting bills and laws and things, but what we should not be doing is being evil towards one another, of speaking hatred of the other side of the spectrum. We may disagree with them. We may even think that they're sinning in what they're doing. But we as Christians are called to speak peace. We are called to be salt and light in this world. We are called to demonstrate the love of God to all people. Now that doesn't sound like a cry to take up arms, necessarily in the traditional sense. But this is a turning point in history, I think, where the church is going to be increasingly seen as very different from the rest of the nation and the people who go to church as having very different ideas and actions. Now, we can be judged as those who are judgmental and dislike everyone and condemn everyone or we can be the church that shows love and graciousness, even to those that we disagree with, even to those that we believe are in sin. Because we know that we don't need to judge the sin. We do need to declare sin as sin. We declare those things in the Scripture about living together without the benefit of marriage or homosexuality or abortion, or censorship or anything, arresting falsely or lying about somebody else. All of those things, we condemn, as we say that the Scripture condemns them. But we ourselves don't need to go on a holy crusade. That's not going to win over people. What will win over people is they will know we are Christians by our love.

Now we do ask though that those that are doing evil, that are creating divisions, that they might receive the benefit of their labors and might be found to be duplicitous. And so, give their power and their voice away because they are not speaking peace. But that's not our job, that's God's. What we do end up saying is, "Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield, in him my heart trusts and I am helped. My heart exalts and with my song, I give thanks to him." This is what we should be doing. Look to the Lord for our strength and our shield and put our trust in Him. All governments are going to fail. They are. They're full of sinners and they do sinful things. We ought not to expect anything less than that, but we can pray for them. We can turn our eyes through Christ and act in a way that is compassionate and loving and faithful to God and trust that God will silence those that need to be silenced and He will justify those that He loves. It may not be in this world. We may not see it in our time, but we do know that in the end, "Vengeance is mine," says the Lord. We can trust Him to take care of the evil in this world eventually. We can trust Him that He will give us peace even if evil continues to have its way.

"Save your people and bless your heritage. Be their shepherd and carry them forever." If God is our shepherd, we follow Him. We don't go off and do our own thing. We don't try to be something that we're not, but we trust our shepherd to take care of us.

May His grace and mercy and peace be with you always. Amen.

Now let us pray.

God of all grace, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who knows the enemies of Your Church and are able to thwart all their designs; protect us against all tyrants, heretics, and hypocrites. Hear our prayer and grant us to love Your Word, to promote Your honor upon earth, and to continue in Your service always even to the end. Amen.