

J. N. April 30, 78 AM
(Pontiac)

ESTABLISHED POWER

Psalm 62

INTRODUCTION:

We live in a world, in an age, and in a land that is power rich. You remember that this country is just plain filthy rich with power.

*H1 Bomb 100,000 times More Powerful Than A Bomb!
Hurricane lifts 60 million tons water. more wasted generally than power every 10 seconds than all
one flash lightning keep any home lit for 35 yrs.
Elect. power used in U.S. one year*

Knowledge is power. There is a school at every crossroad, and village, and town, and city. Every community has its high school. Colleges are easy to get to and are in geographical reach of all young people today. Professionals and specialized schools are on every corner. If knowledge is power, we ought to be the most powerful people that have ever lived upon this earth. The question is, are we?

Money is power. The newest U. S. News and World Report says that our government spending exceeds hundreds of billions of dollars each year. And taxing is way up in the hundreds of billions of dollars. The figures that are given to us leave us numb. We cannot comprehend them. But money is power, they say. As a nation, we have money. We have money power. We have mechanical know-how and that is power.

Jesus of Nazareth walked the 20th century disciple of Christ flies. In six hours he can go from one corner of this land to the other. It took Jesus six hours to walk from his home 25 miles up to Capernaum. We have all kinds of mechanical power. We have reservoirs of power. We have dynamite in little packages - and that is power. We have power coming down through the water and transferred

to high tension wires. As the water passes through the power house.

We have all kinds of power. Someone said that horse power was much safer. And only horses had it.

The source of power that has been established and available is found in an (inhaustible source). It never fades. If you make good connections and you make application. You read this (Bible) and if you read it through at least once a year, as long as you live - you will take a lot of it to Heaven with you in your heart.

Obedience is the great medium of spiritual power and spiritual knowledge.

We come to look at (Psalm 62). Which deals with the established power of God. There are three things I wish to point out to you from this Psalm. First, the explanation - V. 1-4. Second, the expectation - V. 5-8. Third, the estimation - V. 9-12.

These (three) words, we will try to build our idea this morning about established power.

I. THE EXPLANATION - V. 1-4

V. (1) The explanation of power is that the Psalmist places (complete confidence)

in the power of God. He said, my soul (waiteth upon) God. He is (never) in such a hurry - that he does not have time to wait upon God. Because his salvation comes from God. He has complete confidence as he explains this.

V. (2) - He tells how (complete that trust) is. God is his rock and salvation. God is the foundation of his life.

Second, (God is his defense) and it means that he is secure. He will never be moved.

He now uses, V. (3) - a military image. As he explains the power - he tells how it has been misplaced by individuals. How those who he said would plot mischief against him.

And he uses very descriptive language - that the (enemy) would like to see him first become as a (leaning wall.)

Fix that in your mind. Here is a wall. It was straight - but now he pictures it as leaning. It is caving in. You know if it is leaning - it will not stand the test of time. But ultimately, it will collapse.

The second picture he uses is a (fence that is leaning). Here is a fence that is undermined. Perhaps, some of the posts have rotted off. And maybe some

of the boards or the wires are gone. And this fence is leaning over. David says some of my enemies, as he explains power - are trying to get me like a leaning wall and a collapsing fence.

V. 4 They only consult to cast him down. They bless him with their mouth but they curse him inwardly. They are misleading. These enemies seem to think that power is theirs. And they can use it. He is explaining the situation of his enemies here.

Now a curious thing happened in a court sometime ago. A man was charged with having a short-wave radio set. And not possessing a license. He pleaded an unusual defense. That the set was really not his. That he had received it from a dealer (only on approval). And until he decided to buy it, he didn't feel under obligation to take out a license. He could not agree that he was breaking the law. The judge fined him. The law knows nothing about approval. The law is to be obeyed - pay the fine.

Now as you look at that story on the surface, that is about what David is saying about these enemies of his. They sort of take religion on approval. The power of God is something they profess only if they approve of it. They are not concerned about what the law says.

This present world in which we live in, there are people like this - who pay no attention to the Sermon on the Mount. And the moral teachings of it. They disgard the Ten Commandments and mock at all of these things. And they act as though God's law is on approval. On their own approval, they can apply it the way

they want it applied.

Now God never gave his law for human approval. He gave it for human obedience. And the Scripture never suggests that you can take it or leave it. The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul. It is sure making wise the simple. It is right, rejoicing in the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure in lightening the eyes. The fear of Jehovah is clean, enduring forever. And the ordinances of Jehovah are true and right altogether. If you break it ultimately, it will break you.

Chesterton said there was once a man who disbelieved in the law of gravity. And to prove his disbelief, he walked off the edge of a cliff. He did not prove his disbelief, he proved the law of gravity.

You can break the commandments of God and that is a tragedy of our world today. And that is the thing that is visible today - that man breaks God's law and thinks it is just on approval. Now David said these men say that they want to bless me but inwardly they are cursing me.

II. EXPECTATION - V. 5

V. 5 My soul waits thou upon God. For my expectation is from him.

attention to his expectations of God's power. Once again, he comes and says that God is my rock. He is my defense, he is my refuge. And I will pour my prayers out before him. This was the thing that kept him alive - his expectation.

Have you lost all hope. Back during the war I read a story about 31,000 prisoners of war. And of that number, 8,000 died - in a power that endures. Doubt as the old saying goes, water thy whoes. And chops down our blessings.

Wilbur Patterson editor of the old Detroit General, many years ago took interest in a young reporter. His name was Norman. Mr. Patterson was a man with keen insight. One day he called young Norman into his office. I sort of get the feeling, he said, that you have a lot of fear and anxiety in your system. You must get rid of that. Just what in the world is there to be afraid of anyways. Why should you or I go sulking through life like a scared rabbit. The good Lord told us that he will be with us and help us. So why not take that on its face value and hold your head up. And for Heaven sakes, don't be afraid of anything or anybody. Well, that is a pretty big order, said Norman. How can anyone possibly go through life afraid of nothing or nobody.

The old editor aimed his eyes at the young man and said, listen I will tell you how. Be strong and of good courage. Be not afraid. For the Lord thy God is with you wheresoever you go. Just hang on to that promise. And don't forget - it is made by somebody who never let anyone down.

That frightened, worried young man must have gotten some good out of that

conversation. Because it helped him to see something that he had never been able to visualize before. His name is Norman Vincent Peale.

Now what about you? What about you. Is your expectation from the Lord. Where he says, be not afraid. These promises of the Bible are great. But some people take them with so much suspicion.

Some people take them just like folks do babies. What some folks do to get babies to eat vegetables. Here is a little baby, and here is somebody trying to get him to eat one of those new made-up recipes of vegetables. And they say, here comes the airplane, open up the hangar. And they fly around that spoon and finally they land in the baby's mouth. The baby discovers that cargo plane has dumped a load of mashed up English peas.

That is something like Popeye eating spinach. Some people get to believe that two bites of spinach can make them go out and whip the biggest bully on the street.

You must believe the promises of God. Yes, people sitting around - you today who are living proof. There are living testimonies from people who live with danger, etc. But the Bible pictures God giving people what it takes, to live in this world.

Now David had great confidence in God. Great expectation. His story is

familiar. Perhaps there is more about him in the Old Testament than any other character. Because of these Psalms, we get a new in-sight in his pre-king days. His life was like a roller-coaster. He was from not a highly respected family. And when Jessie was order to bring the boys out to meet Samuel apparently he didn't even think about David. And when David went and won the fight over Goliath - he was an instant hero,

And as you watch him, David did not become with-drawn - the people loved him. And I imagine that all the boys wanted him to autograph their sling-shot. Yet, trouble came to David. He was treated unfairly. He had cruel problems. They sought his life. But David had an unbelievable peace in his heart. Think about it, he was running down one side of the mountain while Saul and his army were coming up the other. They were not playing tag - they wanted to kill David. And yet David said, I layed down and slept in peace and woke up safely. For the Lord watched over me. And knowing this experience, Psalm 23, that say, Thou preparest a table before me in, the presence of mine enemies. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, and when we read in this Psalm - my soul wait thou only upon God. For my expectation is from him.

Oh how that is we need that, How do we get that. Just like David. He was no super man. His sins showed us that. He was a simple man with a super-God. He had a relationship with God. And any man who has what it takes will have a relationship with God.

How that is missing today. There are foolish folks today who are trying to use God. Some have little respect for God. And some treat him like a visiting dignitary. But here is one who says, the expectation of my whole life is in him. The common mistake that we make about Christ is, we think that just to say that we believe, or we repent, or that we don't gamble or chew - or look at certain T. V. shows except Lawrence Welk. That makes us great in God's eyes. God is still dwelling among us. And when Christ dwells in you - your expectation comes from him. No longer is it - I want to drink, or take drugs, or get hooked on sex, or I want to gamble - but it is that I love him so much, that I would not do anything that would embarrass or hurt him. And I find my joy so great in him.

A great deal depends upon the company that you keep. And this is the affirmation that we find of his estimation in this Psalm - of the power of God.

Think about him - the Hymn, My Jesus I Love Thee, No. 289 in our hymnbook. It has a great meaning for each of us.

III. ESTIMATION

We have talked about David and the explanation of power, and his expectation of God's power. Now let us consider his estimation of this power - what he considers to be of value and how he reckons this power to be.

V/9 - He gives the accessment of man and his estimate of power.

V. 11 - His magnificent estimation of real power is here a quote of Job 33:12, God speaks once, God speaks twice, man does not perceive it. The power belongs to God. His estimation here is of the true personal power that comes from God. He makes the great announcement that from the throne of the universe, that power belongeth unto him. This is the aspect that appeal to the understanding and to the conscience - and hence it is the duty of everyone to portray. In other places, and in other events, David had discovered that men used power in various ways. But it equally followed here that here was a voice and the faults of men as he discharges his duties - and misses the great point.

Isa 40:15-17
2:22

There are four memorial instances in the Bible where ambassadors of God have talked about the matter of a source of power.

First, Nathan came and told a story to David and rebuked him to his face. For his adultery, for his murder, and for his wrong life. And David learned a lesson.

Second, Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar about his pride and his blasphemy.

John the Baptist spoke to Herod for his wrong living and incest. And told him that the power of God was higher than his power as king.

The fourth, was Paul who spoke to Felix about his infidelity and his

And what he says here in V. 9 is - that if you puts (man's estimation) at his power upon a pair of (scales) that it would weigh nothing. It would be like the weight of a puff of wind.

Let me illustrate this. An (atheist) one day was sleeping under an oak tree. Not far there grew a pumpkin vine. With its large swelling fruit. As he was looking toward the oak, and saw it's tiny fruit - the acorn. He said to himself, had I been the creator, - I would have hung the pumpkin upon the tall oak. A tree is more suitable to bear fruit of a large size. No sooner had he given in to his thoughts, than an acorn fell from one of the lofty bows of the tree. And hit him on the head. As he was gazing upward, he could not help but think, had it been a pumpkin, it would have not only been unwise - but it would have been unmerciful - To have caused such a lofty tree to produce such fruit. The greatest God - how infinite thou art. And how worthless we are when we think of the estimation of man's power - in contrast to God's power.

V. 10 - He takes the estimation further. He says (rely not on oppression) and then he says, and on vain extortion or robbery. He gets to the problem here and then he says (if riches increase - set not your heart upon them). In these two verses - V. 10, you are going to be weighed in the balance. By your rank, by your riches, and by your reputation. And he says - his estimate here is of the individual impossibility. The oppression and the unlawful wealth. And if you happen to get rich, set not your heart upon it - he says. There is still an estimation of power to rely upon. The assets of man is like a puff of wind - rely not upon it.

When by a single stroke - verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth.
And God's power is not put forth for sport or for happiness.

One of the lessons that the Psalmist teaches us is the vanity of ambition,
in high places.

Finally David in his explanation, expectation, and estimation of the source
of power said that the source of power belonged unto God. For thou renderest
to every man according to his work.

There are amazing, thrilling stories on the power of God today. And they
are written in the hearts and lives of people everywhere. In Ocean Springs, Miss.
a little town on the Gulf of Mexico - it was very small some time ago. With 3300
persons. It became an impressive place - it was completely sinful, lust, profanity,
and drunk - and attuned by all sorts of evils, and vices. But how is the place
transformed. God did it in the prayer room. The prayer room was a little unfurnished
place in the First Baptist Church, where W. R. Story - who came and increased numbers
of men came and poured out their hearts to God in intercession and prayer. Others
who were nominal Christians - had given up such habits as drinking, cursing, and
smoking. And as the men had experienced true conversion - they immediately went out
after their lost friends. And when possible, persuaded them to visit the place of
prayer. The records show that 95% of the unsaved invited - eventually had been won
- many upon their first visit. Not only has this quickened and taken place among
the men - but among the entire church. They had one all-night prayer meeting. 107
men, women, and children went forward and rededicated their lives for Christ. Again,
later - they had another such meeting. And 87 people made profession of faith in
Christ. Men who sold liquor, who drank, gambled, and cursed - were filled with evil

passions -- they now study their Bibles. And some of them teach in Sunday School and others lead in other organizations. And they go about their daily work in the strength of the Lord and their witnessing for him.

Their work is bearing abundant fruit and the Sunday School is growing.

The pastor will indicate the rug covered floor. Every square inch of this place he says, have been wet with men's tears. Here are young school boys down on their faces praying and sobbing for their friends and for their teachers. I doubt whether there is another place like this place in the whole world, he says.

Now times have changed, and he says even Christmas has changed in this place. Back in '49 at Christmas time - he said the old timers thought that things would not change. For on Christmas Eve men who had been converted in the prayer room - were there on their knees in prayer again. And the time honored custom at Christmas was to eat, drink, and be drunken. Christmas Eve passed, then Christmas Day, and Christmas week. He declared it to be the driest quietest Christmas in the history of Ocean Springs.

Now the prayer room had its beginning back in April, 1948. Pastor Story, burdened by the heart-breaking problems in the church, to which he had just come - came alone day after day to pray. There in the dimly lighted, unimpressive room - furnished by a table, a desk, and a single chair - he came in prayer over the multitude of problems that confronted him.

Before Easter, he invited any of the men of the church who would join him in prayer at a prayer service - to come. Six men responded. They prayed possibly 45 minutes. The spirit was deeply felt. Then the next morning, the spiritual quickening power continued. From that time, the prayer room became a power house. With an average of 18 men meeting for prayer each Saturday morning. Miracle after miracle took place.

The room is unique - it is reserved for men and boys only. Those who will gather, discuss their problems from time to time, and ask for special prayer. When someone may be on his knees - and others come in. Only one person prays a loud at one time.

Another amazing feature about its drawing power - is that during one month - 519 entered for prayer according to the records. No fewer than six have prayed in any one day since it began. And one day as many as 56 men passed through the doors.

Many of the men began their day in the prayer room, 6:30 - 7:30 in the morning. Others stop in late at night, in the quiet hours on their way home. 11 men have acknowledged that they have heard the call of God to go and preach the Gospel. And the first to surrender was the example of the power of the Gospel of prayer. This young man from a family of seven sons and two daughters had long been regarded as hopeless by his friends and his family. Of his mother, his mother said his conversion was nothing short of a miracle. He has done everything that was sinful and short of murder. He was mean to the point of abusing his wife. His change about was so remarkable, at first people thought him crazy. Shortly after his

conversion - this man dedicated himself to the service of Christ. And is now being blessed as a pastor in his native state. When he surrendered his life, he first went to his mother. And poured out both tears and prayers for him unceasingly. Now mother, you have your wish, he said. So many times have you said that out of seven sons, surely there should be one to be a preacher - and here he is. And somehow, I believe that all of your sons will be preachers. Two of them men since ordained are his brothers. Converted in the prayer room. They are now preparing for Christian service and the younger of the two - not yet 19, is being wonderfully used in the pastorate.

During the time that they have had the prayer room - it has been maturing ground for troubled Christians. To come with their problems and to go away with them solved. Some come with doubts as to their conversion - and go away with full assurance of salvation. Prayer requests have come as far as England and China. The impact of that prayer room has been felt far beyond that little location. And even pastors from neighboring towns come on Saturday evenings to the prayer meetings. And bring several men from their church - hoping to get contact with this power. The Holy Spirit has poured out upon them that marvelous power. And gracious revival has followed.

David said, power belongeth unto God. Perhaps your problem has been - you have been seeking other sources for your power.

Elmah - Fies