

PSALMS 52 and 54

As the spirit of the Christian delights in goodness, truth, and charity, so the spirit of the wicked is characterized by its love of falsehood and malice. In all dangers and difficulties, whether temporal or spiritual, the faithful sons and servants of God fix their eyes on their heavenly Father and gracious Master, as did David when he wrote this psalm. They have recourse to the divine promises, the performance of which they know to be certain, and can foresee and foretell the destruction of the wicked. When we consider what great things God has done for us, surely we will not cease to offer him our hearts, and the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

Psalm 52

For the choir director. A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul and said to him, “David has come to the house of Ahimelech.”

- 1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The lovingkindness of God *endures* all day long.
- 2 Your tongue devises destruction, like a sharp razor, O worker of deceit.
- 3 You love evil more than good, falsehood more than speaking what is right. Selah
- 4 You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

- 5 But God will break you down forever;
He will snatch you up and tear you away from *your* tent,
and uproot you from the land of the living. Selah
- 6 The righteous will see and fear, and will laugh at him, *saying*,
- 7 “Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge,
but trusted in the abundance of his riches *and* was strong in his *evil* desire.”

- 8 But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God;
I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever.
- 9 I will give You thanks forever, because You have done *it*,
and I will wait on Your name, for *it is* good, in the presence of Your godly ones.

Psalm 54

For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, “Is not David hiding himself among us?”

- 1 Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your power.

2 Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.
3 For strangers have risen against me and violent men have sought my life;
They have not set God before them. Selah.
4 Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul.
5 He will recompense the evil to my foes; destroy them in Your faithfulness.
6 Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will give thanks to Your name, O YAHWEH, for it is good.
7 For He has delivered me from all trouble,
and my eye has looked *with satisfaction* upon my enemies.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you only can subdue the unruly wills and affections of men. Keep us, therefore, from evil speaking, lying, slandering, and dishonoring your name. Put far from us all vanity and folly, and direct our thoughts and meditations to the greatness of your love and goodness to us. May we freely offer to you the tribute of a grateful heart, and magnify your glory not only with our lips but in our lives. Let us keep our feet on the paths of holiness and righteousness all our days, for we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.