

Lovingkindness

Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

Psalm 107:28

This statement is found four times in some form in this psalm. In some cases, it comes after a cycle of men following their sinful, rebellious, or foolish ways and then facing the consequences. In others, it may be a result of life in a fallen world, where troubles naturally come. In our text, it seems to be associated with natural disaster that could occur in the life of mariners. In every case there is trouble. In each instance, it describes how the LORD heard their cry and delivered them out of their distresses. We might be quick to judge the rebellious or foolish cases as deserving of their troubles, unless we are wise enough to consider our own experience and recognize our need to be thankful for God's patient lovingkindness in such instances. Thus, the psalmist concludes, "Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD" (verse 43).

The longer we live, the more we find that this life is full of troubles for each of us. Some are obviously of our own making, but others do come simply in the course of living in the global result of the curse that started in the garden. In any case, whatever the cause of the trouble, we are wise to observe these things and realize that the only recourse we have is to throw ourselves and our situation before the mercy of the LORD and remember His lovingkindness. Though He has the most and only right even to point to those situations where our trouble is self-induced, yet His lovingkindness has been shown even in those cases, as observed in this psalm. We can therefore be thankful that when we are at the end of our own devices, and actually before we ever try to exercise our own devices, our only real alternative is to cry unto Him in our trouble and remember His lovingkindness.