

Sermon Title: Psalms: From the Heart, Part XIX 6.14.2026

Themes: The Good News of the Son has always been visible in the hope and the reflection of the Father's holiness. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: For what are you searching?

Sermon Points:

1. Integrity matters.

What you are looking for affects what you see. Psalm 17 whispers the Gospel before the Gospel fully arrived. David longed to behold God's face. Through Christ, believers now can. This Psalm is not polished religious poetry read in a comfortable recliner. It is prayed by a man while surrounded, exhausted, pressured, and still refusing to let go of God. As one writer notes, this Psalm can be summarized in three words: hear (v. 1), hold (v. 5), and hide (v. 8). He who is heard, held, and hidden by God need not fear the fiercest foe. David, like Job, was not declaring himself to be pure, but his present suffering was not occasioned by his own sin. **Psalm 17:1-2.** David asks God to hear him because he is speaking truthfully and walking sincerely before the Lord. He is not claiming sinless perfection. He is claiming honest devotion. There is power in having a clean conscience before God.

2. God is the holy examiner.

Psalm 17:3-7. God examines more than outward behavior. He examines motives. Living according to God's holiness is not merely avoiding outward scandal. God searches our heart, our intentions, our hidden conversations, and our silent ambitions. Real discipleship according to God's standard happens in secret places as much as in the public square. David's reference to his heart, mouth, and feet demonstrates the relative righteousness of his thoughts, words, and deeds.

3. God protects His people.

And He does so with astonishing tenderness. **Psalm 17:8-12.** Psalm 17 contains one of the most intimate pictures of divine protection in Scripture. The "apple of your eye" refers to the pupil, which is one of the most sensitive parts of the body. David understood something beautiful: God does not protect His children casually. He guards them carefully and personally. Having looked steadily on our eternal God, the soul can look calmly on our momentary danger.

4. The world's rewards are temporary.

Psalm 17:13-15. God Himself is the believer's treasure. David contrasts himself with people whose portion is only "in this life" (v.14). Some people gain money, comfort, applause, and pleasure and never hunger for God. The believer's greatest reward is not the stuff of life but communion with God. Christian martyr, Alexander Hume, was cruelly executed in Edinburgh in 1682, leaving behind a widow and five young children. He died singing **verse 15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.** Psalm 17 points beyond David toward Christ. David was imperfect. Jesus is perfect. Many lines in this Psalm echo the experience of Christ: falsely opposed by enemies, completely pure in speech, trusting the Father amid persecution, and ultimately vindicated.

Reflection: Lord, help me to stay close and clean for Your name.