

# Psalm 31

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Like many congregations, our church service has Scripture reading at our weekly gathering. We have scheduled it between our singing of hymns and our listening to a sermon presentation.

As the pastor, I have the opportunity to schedule the verses that are read each week. Right now I am choosing verses from the book of Psalms. Although I am not scheduling a reading from each psalm (because the book has 150 psalms), I pick selections with the intent to comfort and encourage our congregation.

Even though I knew what psalm was going to be read last week (Psalm 31), I was moved as I listened to the message read in our church service last week. The words were very encouraging to my mind and heart—as we watch what is occurring in our world today.

Please let me share Psalm 31 with you.

*Psalm 31:1-2*—"In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me."

*Psalm 31:3-5*—"For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth."

*Psalm 31:6-8*—"I have hated those who regard useless idols; but I trust in the LORD. I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities, and have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a wide place."

*Psalm 31:9-13*—"Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye wastes away with grief, yes, my soul and my body! For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away. I am a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and am repulsive to my acquaintances; those who see me outside flee from me. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life."

*Psalm 31:14-18*—"But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; save me for Your mercies' sake. Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous."

*Psalm 31:19-20*—"Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues."

*Psalm 31:21-22*—"Blessed be the LORD, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city! For I said in my haste, 'I am cut off from before Your eyes'; nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications when I cried out to You."

*Psalm 31:23-24*—"Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD."