

Doctrine of Deposits: Concept in O.T., Psalm 31:19a

Psalm 31:19a - How great is Your goodness which You have stored up [*SAPAN*]
for those who have reverence and respect for you.

The word “goodness” in this verse is the Hebrew noun *tôb*. It is the same as the Greek noun: *agathos* and both mean “good of intrinsic value.” God’s “good of intrinsic value” is related to the perfection of His divine essence.

Our verse says that God has stored up His “good of intrinsic value” for those who have reverence and respect for Him.

The context of Psalm 31 shows David seeking divine protection from the assaults of a corrupt government bent on destroying his life. David never challenged Saul’s authority but instead constantly submitted to the king’s wishes. Being completely innocent of any sedition, David prayed that God would deliver him from this threat.

In Psalm 31:19 we see David’s recognition of a secret cache of “goodness” which had intrinsic value. What is the specific “value,” intrinsic to God’s essence, that is emphasized here? It is His faithfulness.

Faithfulness is the result of the interworking of two of the divine attributes: justice and immutability. Righteousness is the source of God’s perfect standards. Perfection demands perfection, therefore perfect righteousness demands perfect righteousness and perfect justice demands perfect justice.

As a result, whatever righteousness demands from its perfect standards, then justice must execute. Since mankind is a fallen creature, his point of contact with the essence of God is His perfect justice.

Whenever man complies with standards of perfect righteousness, then justice is free to bless. Whenever man is guilty of noncompliance with those perfect standards, then justice is obligated to discipline.

The attribute of immutability—the concept that since God is perfect, His standards cannot change, be altered, or compromised—linked with justice says that God is faithful to do what His perfect standards demand. God’s faithfulness means that He will, with infinite fairness, administer either blessing or cursing in accordance with His perfect standards and He will always be right and fair. This means that for David, God’s goodness of intrinsic value is stored up for his utilization under pressure.

In other words, there is a cache full of intrinsic good which God will utilize to protect, deliver, and guide the believer who places his faith in Him and His Word. When we do the right thing—regardless of the attendant circumstances or their apparent ramifications—we are able to tap the cache of God’s faithfulness.

In essence, this Psalm is David’s prayer to God for deliverance. We can see this as we review the first four verses. (Review Session Date / Number: 10-27-96A / CWL-368). David looks upon God and His faithfulness as a cache from which he can withdraw the treasures of deliverance and in which he can find refuge.