

My Rock and Redeemer

Psalm 19:12/14

Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

When we meditate on God's Word, it acts like a mirror. It shows us our sins, sins which we then confess before a merciful God, a God who forgives for Jesus' sake. Having seen the destructive nature of sin, David prays that God would watch over him, protecting him from willful disobedience. We pray similarly in the Lord's Prayer as we say, "Lead us not into temptation." David closes the psalm with a prayer that will recreate him so that his life will reflect what the Lord has taught him in the Word.

Original sin has permeated every person ever born. We see from Scripture how totally we are infected by sin from birth. I have listed some passages below:

- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5
- The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Genesis 8:21
- For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. Romans 7:18
- The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

Because of our weakness we too sometimes sin even when we know better and even when we don't want to do it. For these sins too we need forgiveness. David prays especially for God to preserve him from deliberate, malicious sins which could destroy his faith and thus rob him of forgiveness. David was guilty of such sins when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and was responsible for the murder of Uriah. Even then the Lord graciously led David back to repentance and faith. We pray that the Lord will preserve us from such sin and that he will graciously restore us if we ever fall victim to them.

David prays that the Lord will preserve him from sins of every sort. He recognizes that sin is so deeply ingrained in his nature that he often sins without realizing it. He asks God to forgive even those sins which he fails to confess because of his ignorance.

This can be very overwhelming and even depressing. HOWEVER, we have a God who is our Rock and Redeemer. The figure of the Rock was used in Psalm 18:2 in the context of describing the sovereign God of creation as the one who delivers and protects from the enemies. Modern versions tend to translate it as "my strength" alone, but the significance of the figure is broader than that because it represents God as the solid foundation of his life, his place of security and safety, and his strength.

As our Redeemer the word refers to God's protection and deliverance of his covenant people, usually requiring his taking vengeance on the enemies. Calling God his redeemer means God is a loyal protector; the one who will make things right. The combination of "my rock" and "my redeemer" provides a powerful summary of the nature and provision of God.

Prayer: "O LORD, my rock and my redeemer: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight" (v 14); through Christ Jesus. Amen. (TLSB)