

Book	Psalms – Study 2
Topic	Messiah
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Speaker	Dr. Peter Ng

Psalms 1 starts with 'blessed is the man' and Psalm 2 ends with 'blessed are all who take refuge in the Messianic King'. In Psalm 1 you have a blessed person, is the one who walks in this spiritual journey. Psalm 2 talks about our spiritual journey, having to walk and take refuge during this journey in this king. Psalm 2 talks about the coming of Messiah.

There are three sections in this Psalm:

- Verses 1-3, the futile rebellion of humans
- Verse 4-9, God response to that rebellion which is basically the Messiah.
- Verse 10-12, our response to this Messiah

This psalm should be read at two levels. It is a coronation psalm for David, so it is a Davidic Coronation Psalm. It is when he gets installed as king. On the other level, it should be read as a Messianic King, Coronation of the Messianic King. So, you actually read this psalm in two levels. On one level, it applies to David and on another level, it will apply to the future David.

A. THE FUTILE HUMAN REBELLION

Psalms 2 (ESV) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

This describes a rebellion of people trying to move away from God and if you look at Davidic Kingdom at the time, you are talking about the coronation. The most vulnerable period of a time is change of government. When we have got the new king. With the new king David coming in to be crowned king, all the surrounding nations, Arminian tribes, Amon, the Assyrians, the Phoenicians, all of them would have opportunity to come and take over Judah. So, it is a very-very perilous period of time where anything can happen. This coronation psalm is about this vulnerable period of time and during this period of time there is plotting.

Now how is this psalm interpreted?

We can see the New Testament uses this psalm in quite a number of ways. The one that comes to our attention is Acts chapter 4 and this is when Peter and apostles were captured, they were beaten.

Acts 4:23-27 (ESV) When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

Here they have just been persecuted. Their Christian movement was going to be crushed and at that time, psalms are care package. At that time, when all the whole church is being threatened, they all are to be wiped out, they had a decision to make whether they are going to preach the gospel or they keep quiet, because you cannot preach the gospel. So at that period of time, they pull out their care package and it was Psalm 2. That's how you apply it.

"Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'– 27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate

So therefore, when you attack God's people, you attack Jesus Christ. When you stop God's people and persecute God's people, you are attacking Jesus Christ himself directly. So here you have got Herod and Pontius Pilate. Here it refers to persecution of the church. The church was persecuted at that time for three reasons.

- 1) **Religious Syncretism** – That means at that time the Romans actually welcomed all sorts of gods. You got to worship the Greek god, the Phoenician god, and then you got the Assyrian god and then you have got Roman gods and they were very open society, but you have to worship all. You cannot call, you worship one God. If you worship one God, you are in deep trouble. So, they were actually persecuted for that.
- 2) **Emperor Worship** – They refused to bend their knee to the emperor.
- 3) **Rumors and Accuse** – They were persecuted for false accusations. The common accusation was that Christians are cannibals, as they are eating flesh and drinking blood. That's very common, anything goes bad in the country, the first people you always blame is Christians. It is a default mode today in our country. Everything bad happens is transferred to us.

Let's examine the words.

Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain?

The word plot in Hebrew is a same word which you use in Psalm 1:2

*Psalms 1:2 (ESV) But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he **meditates** day and night.*

Here you actually have the people of the world, meditating. Meditation is basically, whatever your heart does to any foundational principle or idea, you dwell on it. It occupies your imagination, it fuels your aspirations. Here we have a whole bunch of people plotting against God as it were, but it is not really God, it is actually trying to break what God wants for us. For example, you are plotting, I am nobody unless I make a lot of money. A lot of have this. Then you get worried, because your income source may be affected. You get angry because somebody took your business away and then you have got discouraged because this year you didn't make that much. **Why?** All these emotions actually come from the fact that I am plotting, I am nobody unless I make a lot of money. That is actually what you want to do. That is your purpose in life. But that is not what God made you to do. So, you are actually going against what God wants in your life. That's how we actually plot.

3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

The bond is like a yoke, we regard God's word and God's ordered principle in the world like a straight jacket, holding us down. In actual Hebrew, it means yoke. That means, we don't want God's law on us and I think many of us, even today, we will come to a situation you don't like God's law. There comes a time in your life where you disagree with God and you don't want to read the word. Because the more you read the worse it gets, because it makes you more guilty. And you think as if God is trying to stop you from having a lot of fun. God is trying to stop you from making a lot of money. God is trying to stop you from getting ahead, because you are going to worry about ethics, you are going to worry about integrity, you are going to worry about so many things. So it straight jackets you and we are always plotting to break, as if God is trying to hold us back. Roman say it very clearly,

Romans 8:7-8 (ESV) 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

We come from a default mode, we are like the world. The world is plotting, meditating on how to break out of God's law. They may not tell you, but their actions tell you that this is a set and we are moving away from that set. It is like man and God are enemies as it were. Therefore, we all come from the place of amenity. So, we have sex, but we use it against God. We have pornography, we

have promiscuity, polygamy and homosexuality. This is all breaking the norms, which God has set for us in our society.

For example, US supreme court, who is comprised of the so called 'cleverest persons in the world' and they have decided on June 26, 2015, to strike down same sex marriage bans as unconstitutional, effectively bringing marriage equality to all 50 states, which means that gays can get married. So they are again trying to breakthrough, the shackles which God has put in the society. In our own country, our own federal court has decided that Lina Joy cannot call herself a Christian, even though she wants to be a Christian, she comes from a Muslim background, again trying to burst through God's bonds as it were. If you look in Germany in those days. Daily life in Nazi Germany, as much normality as possible, as much war as necessary. Everybody bought in, young, woman and children on this war.

Martin Luther says,

"As the first commandment is the very first, highest and best, from which all others proceed...so also its work that is faith or confidence in God's favor at all times, is the very first, highest and best, from which all other (works) must proceed, remain, be directed and measured"

He is saying that the first commandment is though should love your God with all your heart, your soul and your mind. That is God's demand, that is God's command. That is God's bond on you and what we want to do is we are going to breakout, but that is the most important bond. Everything flows out from that. For example, we like to gossip. We gossip for all sorts of reasons, but this gossip indicates something deeper inside. We are trying to burst through these bonds. Our gossiping is basically surface sin. We have greed, pride, lust, gossip and aggression, all these are on the surface and if you actually repent of these things on their own, it will never work.

How do you know that you have these things?

You may not even know, you have got these things. You actually have got telltale emotions. Emotions are anger, fear, anxiety and unhappiness. Every time you are angry, every time you have anxiety, every time you have unhappy, ask yourself why. It is usually because you have got some sort of idol at the back and that idol is thwarted and threatened in some way. If you are actually in Christ, no matter what happens you would be at peace all the time. You didn't know that, because your salvation is eternal. God loves you to die for you on the cross. So therefore, you should actually be on the even heel, but the point is that we all struggle to burst the bonds. We have other idols and whenever we have an emotion, you better examine that underneath that emotion is some sort of idol trying to burst and come out, very important. So therefore, bursting the bonds don't necessarily apply to politics, it applies to all of us. We are all from sinful background and we are recovering

sinaholics. So therefore, it is important for us to identify our emotions and find out where they lead to.

B. GOD'S RESPONSE TO REBELLION: THE MESSIAH

How does God respond to this rebellion?

'God laughs'. Whatever you do, he is going to laugh. It is simply because,

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

God is pissed, very upset. The word is like wrathful and anger. It is like the nostrils are flared up, you are like screaming. It is really great wrath, explained in the context. So wrath and anger, you can be enemies with the lion but the lion will just kill you. There will come a time where the amenity will end and the lion will strike.

How does he respond besides the threat of judgment?

6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." 7 I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

This is important, so we are going to go and look at Hebrews chapter 1. Hebrews chapter 1 starts off with a beautiful passage on the primacy of Jesus Christ. His place in the whole scheme of the world and part of it,

Hebrew 1:3... After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

The other one is,

"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

That one comes from 2-Samuel 7.

How do we interpret the psalms?

If you look in the New Testament, when Peter was put in prison and they came out and use the psalm, they said

Acts 4:27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

So, whatever their rebellion was and in their gross rebellion, they actually killed Jesus Christ. Actually, that played into God's sovereign hand. They thought they had defeated God, but actually the disciples recognized to do whatever your hand and your plan have predestined to take place. That's why God laughs at them from heaven, because they are actually doing what he wants them to do as it were.

So, you have got this coronation psalm.

Today I will be a father to him and he shall be to me a son.

This actually comes from 2-Samuel 7:14. So psalm 2 is a reflection or meditation on 2-Samuel 7:14.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

King David. He was having a good time, building his palace and then suddenly he says

2 Samuel 7:1-2 (ESV) Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

What he is saying is that, I have got so much victory from God. I kept it all this land, I am living in a bungalow and what about God, poor thing. God is living in a tent. Then he offered God, I will build you a temple. What David is trying to do, he is thinking in his mind, he will build God a temple to make God great again. Now if God lets you build a temple to make God great again, that means God wasn't great in the first place. How can you build a temple to make God great again? I think a lot of Christians are also like that. You come to a period of our life where we think we are doing well and then you feel a bit of guilt, I better make God great again, give more tithing and money today, maybe I will do this and do that. Actually, that is stupid. You cannot make God great again. God is perfect on his own. God said, you don't have to make me great, I will make you great and that's what he has said.

Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled, and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

So instead of building a house for God, God builds him a house. A house means not a physical house, another use for house is a dynasty. So therefore, God will build him. So, this is actually taken from there. When you talk in the Old Testament, sonship is actually function. So, if I am the king and you are my son, so therefore you will also be a king. Whenever you talk about sonship in our context, it is always genetics.

Now this function is actually true for much of history, up to the last 200 years. In the last 200 years, father and son don't work in the same. If you are a farmer, your son will be a farmer. If you are a doctor your son will be a doctor. That happened until the industrial revolution and things started to change. So actually, if you say, I will be a father to him and he will be a son to me, people would have understood this a hundred year ago but not now, because we all don't do the same thing anymore. When God says, I will be a father to him and he will be a son, is basically crowning him as king. So here we have a dual track fulfilment of 2-Samuel chapter 7. The first one is

(ESV) When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

So, if God is going to make him a house, then suddenly you got this verse coming. Can Jesus Christ commit sin, you will scratch your head. So obviously this cannot refer to Jesus Christ. This part of the prophecy applies to the level of David, Davidic Kings, Solomon and ones after that, but then on another level you look here

2 Samuel 7:12-13 (ESV) I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever

This must refer to Jesus Christ. So, when you always read this prophecy, you sort of think, it supposed to apply to one person, actually it applies to two. The bottom part applies to Davidic King. This applies to Jesus Christ. There is a promise of Jesus Christ coming.

In Acts 13, Jesus Christ risen from the dead and then they says

Acts 13:32-34 (ESV) And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.” 34 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption

So here we look at Psalm 2 as a coronation psalm. The coronating event that establishes to the whole world that he is indeed the son is the resurrection. It has to be the resurrection. After making purification for sin then he sat down. How do you make purification for sin, dying and rising. You don't die and rise, how are you going to make purification for sin. So, this is a coronation psalm. Based on this psalm, we can say that Jesus is God's Messiah, Jesus is God's son and God's King who he inaugurates here.

How does God respond?

God establishes the Messiah.

What will Messiah do?

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

If you look in Revelation

*Revelation 2:26-29 (ESV) The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will **give authority over the nations**, 27 and he **will rule them with a rod of iron**, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

*Revelation 12:5 (ESV) She gave birth to a male child, **one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron**, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,*

Iron rod is used as a sign of power. In those days, what they would do, Egyptian tradition is that, they would put the name of the city into a pottery, then they take an iron rod and smash it. It means that if they want to conquer a city. That's a pictorial language. So God is going to have this Messiah come with his scepter and is going to smash all these cities and rule the world as it were. So here you actually have an original pattern where God establishes his kingdom in Eden where he actually dwells with man and the problem is the fall, we sinned and then you have got the promise of the kingdom through Abraham and then you have got through prophesy, the promise of the kingdom of God restored through David. Then the coming of Christ, first coming and second coming. So, this is kind of a pattern of what the world history will be. This is the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

APPLICATION:

How do you actually apply Psalm 2?

After they read this psalm, they prayed

Acts 4:29-31 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

They never ask God to take the persecution away. The answer lies in Psalm 2. Verses 1 and 2 says, the nations are plotting, meditating day and night trying to burst the bonds. When they burst the bonds, they are going to persecute Christians. So, persecution will be a staple of Christian life. You cannot pray against that because that is the default mode. Instead, they prayed for boldness and God answered by giving the holy spirit. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God. This is an application that we have to apply in this country as well. We cannot ask the Lord that He will take persecution away from the church, maybe a time when the church have to go underground but we must continue to speak with boldness, the word of God to everyone.

Diocletian was one of the worst Roman emperors who actually persecuted Christians very badly and he actually made a Roman coin and at the end of the coin, says, "the name of Christians being extinguished." He hated Christians. In fact, if you go to Spain, there is a statue to Diocletian and he writes there,

I. "Diocletian Jovian Maximian Herculeus Caesares Augusti, for having extended the Roman Empire in the east and the west, and for having extinguished the name of Christians, who brought the Republic to ruin."—

He was never able to extinguish the Christians, instead he extinguished. If you look in history of the last 30 Roman empires who persecuted Christians bitterly, you will find:

- One became mad soon after persecution.
- One was slain by own son
- One got blind
- One was strangled
- Another had sudden death
- Six died horrible disease
- Three committed suicide
- Five were assassinated
- Nine killed in battle or died in captivity

It doesn't look good when you persecute Christians. Because in the end, God laughs, God's king will smash your kingdom. You cannot beat God, God laughs. Humans have a limited lifespan, it will all be brought down. In spite of all the persecution, by

300 to 600 AD, they spread everywhere, over 6 million people within 300 years. It is amazing.

If we look at Syria today, God is bringing revival in Syria despite the Muslim kind of war they are fighting there. Even it is happening again, more Syrian refugees convert after seeing Jesus in a dream

If you look at Iran, being ruled by Ayatollah. There used to be 100,000 Christians in 1994, today it is about three million underground. China started a huge persecution of Christians. There is no freedom at all, they are cracking down, but it is going to get better for them if they persecute them. So, you can't beat the kingdom. Psalm 2 already tells you that God laughs and he will set his king and his king will rule. So therefore our confidence should be in him, because

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

We are glorified with him as it were, we are sitting in the heavenly places. John Newton says,

"Thou art coming to a King. Large petitions to thee bring for His grace and power are such none can ever ask too much"

So, we need to act boldly and we need to ask greatly, because we actually serve a king and Psalm 2 tells us that.

C. OUR RESPONSE TO THE MESSIAH

So, the Messiah will come, and he will rule one day. What is our response

*10 Now therefore, O kings, **be wise; be warned**, O rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

The first thing to do is to realize that he is coming, and he is going to win, you must be wise. The wise response should be

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son,

Kiss is a sign of submission

1 Kings 19:18 (ESV) Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

That means, have not submitted. If somebody kiss your hand, that means submission. So, the right response to the king is to take refuge. Blessed are those who take refuge in the son. The refuge consists of three things: submission, enjoying, rejoice and service

So, submission with humility, lest he be angry and joy with trembling. Each one of these have a degree of fear and trepidation. Because it is not triviality, it is not like Jesus is my pal, Jesus and me are very tight, we are like buddies. No, it is an awe driven respect when you are actually dealing with God.

Submission implies authority. You have to come and submit, because you have repentance as well as faith. Job suffered greatly, skin disease, loss children, his wife left him and all that and then he says

Job 23:8-10 (ESV) Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him; 9 on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him. 10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

Job is saying that I don't feel God, I don't see God and a lot of times in our lives we come to question God, because we don't see, we don't feel, we don't think he is exciting anymore, we have lost as it were our first love, we are suffering, but he is saying that I know that He knows the way I take. I don't see him, but He sees me. This is called faith. Faith is submission. Some of us demand that if God is real, I must see him today, I must feel him today. He must heal my mother of the illness. Job has everything taken away and the only thing he hangs on to, I can't see him but He can see me and if He can see me, He knows me, when he tries me I will come forth as gold. That is called submission.

The other part of submission is repentance. Martin Luther wrote, *"our Lord and Master Jesus Christ . . . willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."*

All of us are enemies of the cross, all of us want to break the bonds of God, even though you become a Christian you have vestiges of the old man and so therefore we think repentance is, 'I become a Christian, I say I am sorry God, say sinner's prayer and then give me salvation'. Martin Luther says, the whole life is a life of repentance. How are you going to grow in Christ?

You are going to grow in Christ because you repent and you are repenting all the time, because the more you repent, the more you grow. We have come to a kind of Christianity all over where everything is just 'Hallelujah and Hallelujah', you come to church and you have a one-dimensional church where everybody is Hallelujah. Nothing wrong with Hallelujah but if that's all there is then you are a cartoon.

Because all of life isn't "hallelujah". All life is mainly pain, because of our sin. So therefore, why should we also repent. Unless you learn to repent, you won't grow.

Many of us are stuck and when the 'hallelujah' ends and when God doesn't answer your prayer then you start to give up on him, because you only want God for the good times. So real Christianity is actually repentance and learning to do that. So, when we go through Psalms, we will go through some psalms that help us actually learn to repent and as we learn to repent, our intimacy with God will actually grow.

Which comes first? You repent first when you became a Christian and then you have faith in Jesus Christ or do you have faith in Jesus Christ and then you repent.

There are good reasons for both, but they are actually completely inseparable. I believe that they are together. If I am driving to Penang and suddenly they tell me in Singapore got 1 million dollars for everybody, you have to cross the crossway before 9. Then definitely I will turn to Singapore. When I turn my car around, I am going away from Penang, which is repentance, but I am turning towards Singapore, which means I am going to a place.

This is one action. So therefore, it is both the same. You must have repentance and faith, they are inseparable. If you only have repentance and not faith, we look at the parable of the sower, there is one that got faith but no repentance. Seeds grow in rocky ground, they grew up and then died. Jesus explains

Mark 4:16-17 (ESV) And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away

So here we have Christians for whom it is all joy, joy, joy and hallelujah all the time, but no repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV) For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

So you are grieving all the time but it is a proper grief, you may not last as well. So repentance and faith belong together.

If you are submitting to the king, gospel-centered religion is God-centered.

SUBMISSION

RELIGION	GOSPEL
If you are just practicing religion, it is self-centered. If you are practicing religion, you are sorry for the consequences of sin. I am sorry I got caught, sorry for the sin itself.	Now gospel centered truth, submission to God true repentance, I am sorry because of the sin, not sorry because I got caught.
I want to say sorry to avoid the punishment.	I am sorry because sin displeases God.
I want to atone for our sin. If you are having a religious kind of inclination, I have sinned. We have people in the world who beat themselves, so they feel that they can atone for sin. That again is salvation by works.	We actually only have to receive forgiveness. We don't have to make ourselves miserable and then only God will forgive you.
Life is a bitter struggle, because all the time you are trying to be morally good, but in your own nature you are not. So, you are always messed up. If you always mess up, then you will feel very-very bad all the time.	If you actually have gospel-centered faith and repentance, it is joyful, because Christ has accepted you completely.
You will find that you repent less and less, because each time it shows how terrible person you are.	If you are in Christ, you repent more and more because the more you repent, the more you see his grace. You experience his grace. You experience his forgiveness. That's how repentance is beautiful.

All of us don't want to repent or even repent to each other, why because it detracts from our self-esteem, but if you don't learn to do that, you won't grow, because you won't see the beauty of Christ. If you want to see the beauty of Christ, then you learn to repent and see how deep your sin is. So, you will know that you don't like to repent, because you are still operating under religious operating system. If it is that operating system, you want to repent more and more because the more you see his grace, very important thing to learn.

We like to smash idols. The first thing you become Christian, all the pastors will teach you the Smashing Idol Program. In fact, it was a cultural revolution. If life was so good and easy as smashing idol, I also want to do but that's not the case. The idol is outside. The major problem is the idol inside. You have got to kiss the king, the son. You have to hide in the son.

You have got your surface sins, greed, pride, lust, and aggression, the telltale emotions; anger, fear, anxiety and unhappiness. Then you have got your idols.

How do you find refuge in the idols?

You are not having refuge in your idols. You got to take refuge in the son, so therefore you exchange your idols for Jesus Christ. When you do that then your telltale emotions disappear. You get peace, joy and love, boldness and when this comes your surface sins disappear. That's how gospel deals with your life of holiness. Religion does the other way, it deals with the surface sins first and leave the thing underneath the idols empty. That's why, you are always unsuccessful.

How do we do this?

Dr Steven Chiulders writes,

Learning how to set the affections of our mind and the heart on Christ. Faith requires a continual rehearsing and delighting in the many privileges that are ours in Christ

How do you actually repent and find refuge in the king?

Identify your idol:

Respect: I want respect that's why I must go and criticize some others, I must go and say this and that. So that's why I am gossiping. How do I deal with this? You deal with this by repenting. Say, I like to gossip because I want respect. I want to feel good about myself, people to look up to me. You need to repent of this and then remind myself of the privileges in Christ.

Jesus laid aside his right for respect to be humbled to the point of death Phil 2:5-11

If Jesus can do that, why can't I do that.

I have approval of God, so do I need other people in church to see how God I am. I don't need that

I now live for the honor of Christ so no need to crave respect 1 Cor 10:31

One day I will share in glory of Christ

Now if you take all these promises there, the next time people vote against you or say something against you, you won't be affected, so actually you are taking all these promises and you are opening your care package and you are thinking like box of chocolate and you are eating it and it fills up your self-esteem. The self-esteem becomes Christ esteem and then you start to grow. Now you can't do this unless you pick out your emotion. You pick out your sin, you can't do it. If you all just sit down here and don't want to join a group, and act like you are perfect, you will never grow. So, to find refuge in him, you got to do four things:

1. Identify surface sins. For example, you scolded a fellow because you were angry. Why you were angry? So, you are looking at the surface sins and your emotion and trying to identify what your idols are. Once you do that then you worship the Lord for his victory over the idols and whatever idol you have, God will have a victory because he is the king. You are going to smash with the iron rod, he is going to rule.
2. Look for your heart idol that underpin them
3. Worship the Lord for His victory over the Idol
4. Find and rehearse the specific gospel promises you can rely on to defeat the idol

That causes you to grow. You find refuge in the king. That's called real refuge in the king.

So the other response is service. Service is direction of life. So not only you submit to the king, you basically serve him.

SERVICE	
RELIGION	GOSPEL
Self-centered,	God centered.
You service in order to gain something from God. So, I am a leader, so therefore God must bless me and do all these sort of things.	I am grateful, my service is a response to his love.
Loving a fellow man is a means to an end.	Love for fellow man, genuine love.

You sacrifice out of guilt.	You sacrifice out of gratitude.
You burn out because you are doing it out of your human strength.	You are joyful because of God's empowerment.
Your service is dependent on feedback. If they all like you and say, 'you rock'. Then you serve more.	You serve despite criticism.

Enjoying God. Rejoice in the son. That's a disposition of the heart. So again

ENJOYING GOD	
RELIGION	GOSPEL
You are dependent on blessings. You are happy when you got blessing.	You get satisfaction in glorifying him. You glorify God whether you receive a blessing or not. In good times and bad times, you stay the same.
Joy from recognition. People give you glory and you are happy.	Enjoy making a difference.
You are bitter when we do not get our way.	Rejoice even in suffering.

So that's the difference. When you are actually finding refuge in the king. So, you can either end up fighting with God, trying to burst the bonds. Or you actually see God's bonds like an exoskeleton. It is like me operating on people, I use to put up telescope and I use to teach my nurses how to assemble them. They are very-very delicate, you have to put it up people's private part and then go to the kidney and all that. They got to work very well and all the parts of this telescope, they actually fit very nicely together. Then you fit it in and click it perfectly. Off and on, you get a young nurse that comes in and try to fit it in very harshly. The telescope is around 30,000 dollar. That's what life is like. God has designed us like a beautiful telescope, when you fit the right way in and you click it, you hear the beautiful sound and your scope does what it does. We are all created by God, we will work perfectly under the guidelines he has made for us. So therefore, learn to find refuge in the son.