

Psalm 35:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

Analysis

And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long. This concluding verse of Psalm 35 returns to the personal commitment with which the psalm began. David's 'tongue'—the instrument that could have been used for complaint, cursing, or self-defense—will instead be devoted entirely to proclaiming God's righteousness and praise. The commitment is total ('all the day long') and dual-focused (righteousness and praise).

'Shall speak' (tehgeh, תְּהִגֵּה) is related to the word for meditation (hagah, הַגֵּה) used in Psalm 1:2—'in his law doth he meditate day and night.' This speaking isn't casual mention but continual, thoughtful proclamation. The verb suggests sustained reflection that overflows into speech—from inner contemplation to outer testimony. David will meditate on God's character until praise becomes his native language.

'Thy righteousness' (tzidqatecha, צִדְקָתְךָ) refers to God's just character and righteous actions—His faithfulness to His nature, His justice in judging, His covenant faithfulness in delivering. Throughout the psalm, David appealed to God's righteousness to vindicate him; now he commits to proclaim that righteousness publicly. Personal experience of God's justice becomes corporate testimony.

'All the day long' (kol hayom, כָּל-הַיּוֹם) emphasizes totality and continuity. Not occasional praise but constant testimony, not Sunday worship but Monday through Saturday proclamation. This echoes Moses' command: 'These words... shall be in

thine heart... and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up' (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Faith isn't compartmentalized but comprehensive, affecting all of life's moments.

The verse models the purpose of divine deliverance: not merely personal relief but public testimony. God saves us not just for our benefit but so we'll proclaim His greatness to others. Peter writes that believers are 'a chosen generation... that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light' (1 Peter 2:9). Testimony is the natural overflow of redemption.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, public testimony to God's acts was central to maintaining covenant identity. The exodus generation was commanded to tell their children what God had done (Exodus 10:2, 13:8), and festivals like Passover became annual opportunities for such testimony. The psalms themselves functioned as communal testimony—sung in temple worship, they reminded each generation of God's faithfulness and righteousness.

David's commitment to all-day proclamation reflects the centrality of oral culture in ancient societies. Without mass media or printing presses, truth transmission depended on spoken testimony. Elders at the city gate would recount God's mighty acts; parents around evening fires would tell children of divine faithfulness; pilgrims journeying to Jerusalem would sing of God's righteousness. This oral culture embedded theological truth in daily life through constant repetition.

The prophets later condemned Israel for failing to proclaim God's righteousness, instead speaking lies and injustice (Isaiah 59:3-4, Jeremiah 9:3-5). The tongue could be used for good (testimony, teaching, encouragement) or evil (slander, lies, gossip). James would later write extensively about the tongue's power: 'The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity' (James 3:6), yet also 'therewith bless we God' (James 3:9). David commits his tongue to its proper use—magnifying God.

Early Christians took this commitment seriously. Facing persecution, they 'ceased

not to teach and preach Jesus Christ' (Acts 5:42). Paul wrote, 'I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak' (2 Corinthians 4:13). Despite threats, imprisonment, and martyrdom, believers proclaimed Christ's righteousness 'all the day long.' Their testimony, like David's, transformed personal deliverance into public declaration that attracted others to faith.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can you devote your tongue—your words and conversations—to proclaiming God's righteousness?
2. What does 'all the day long' testimony look like practically in modern life?
3. In what ways might you be using your tongue for complaint rather than praise?
4. How does meditation on God's righteousness naturally overflow into spoken testimony?
5. What specific instances of God's deliverance in your life should you be proclaiming to others?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִלְתָּבִבְנָה לְשׂוֹנִי כָּל יּוֹם וְלִפְנֵי תְּהִלְתָּבִבְנָה
And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness all the day and of thy praise

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:24 (Righteousness): My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.

Psalms 145:21 (Resurrection): My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Psalms 145:5 (Parallel theme): I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

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