

Deliverance from Digging

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[0 : 00] Psalm 40. So we've already spent two weeks on this topic, and I think this will be the last! I feel like there's a whole other area to get into, but I don't know if we'll brush up on it tonight or how it'll go.

But let's briefly review with you the last couple Wednesday nights. Just the first two weeks ago, we looked at something called digging the pits. And the idea was the wicked dig a pit and fall into that very pit.

We saw that through several references here in the Psalms. Psalm 9 and Psalm 10. Or Psalm 7, sorry, and I think Psalm 9. And so we identified a bunch of pits that Christians dig themselves into. And the point was, it's not the devil doing the digging. It's not the world forcing you to do something. You're not trapped or you're not rather deceived about it. If you're a born-again believer, you have knowledge.

You have the Word of God. You have the Holy Spirit of God. It's your choices that are getting you messed up in things that you shouldn't be involved in. And we're likening that to being stuck in a pit.

[1 : 14] And then last week, we came to Psalm 40 because I said that I believe there's a pattern here of how to get out of that pit. And what we studied was that David got God's attention.

In the first verse, he cried unto the Lord. The Lord inclined unto him and heard his cry. And so if you don't have any desire to get out of that pit, then you're not going to get delivered out of that pit. But when you cry and get God's attention, then you're on the right track.

And we said plenty more about that last week. Then the second thought was to be patient, where he said, I waited patiently for the Lord. Because it takes some time.

When you get yourself into a situation, into a habit, you form a habit that gets a hold of your life. And something, a routine you get involved in every day of your life. You just don't break those things overnight.

And you can repent of it. You can leave it at the altar. You can shed tears over it. You can give it to God. But you're going to find out that this battle is not just won by snapping your fingers. And there's plenty of examples of this, not just in Christians' lives, but just any living creature that gets stuck, has something that's got a hold of them.

[2 : 21] It's hard to let go of it. And so the thought was, it's going to take patience. It's going to take the long view. And then the third thought was complete and total surrender to Jesus Christ.

Because in verse 2, he brought me up also out of a horrible pit. And the deliverance from that pit came from the Lord Jesus Christ. It comes from surrendering to him and allowing him to do the work that he'll do.

And you don't help him do the work. And you don't tell him how to do the work. And you don't continue digging the pit and waiting, you know, telling him or expecting him to fix it for you. So you're going to have to completely surrender to him for him to bring you up out of that pit.

Now that's where we stopped is getting delivered from that pit, what we see in verse 2. But I think there's more to it. Because for God to deliver somebody from a horrible pit like this, that's not the end of the work of God.

As a matter of fact, I'd say that's only the beginning of the working of God in this situation. His work in you is not completed when he rescues you from a pit. And now as we last week, I showed you how this is some people's testimony of their salvation.

[3 : 28] How they got themselves into a mess in life and they had no hope and no Christ and nothing to plea for their sin. And then they learn of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They get saved and they say, you know what, these verses sound just like my life. I was with no hope in a pit and he brought me out of that pit. And let's imagine that for a moment, how this applies

to salvation.

The thought being that when God delivers you from the pit of unbelief and your sin, the Lord doesn't just say, okay, my work here is done. That's just the beginning of the work that he wants to do in you.

Taking Jesus Christ as your Savior is great. Getting forgiveness of sin, wonderful. But that's not even close to the end of it. And matter of fact, he that began a good work in you, salvation, Calvary, will also perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

It's going to go for a while. And then I'd argue that the work that he began in you at salvation goes to the day of Jesus Christ. That's not going to stop there either. He's going to have you fulfill his will going all the way out into the eons of eternity.

[4 : 33] And so considering salvation, just consider it in that light that that's just the beginning, getting you out of the pit. Absolutely, literally, just the beginning.

So tonight I want to talk about the next step in here. You dug the pit. You cried out to God to get you out of the pit. And the pits, if you recall, these were things, several of them, and I gave you a few. And I want to remind you, these are kind of things that can get, like addictions you can get yourself caught up in, stubbornness. I don't even remember all the S's right now off the top of my head. There was seven of sensations, stimulation, spending, secrecy, those secret sins for another one. Oh, I just had one fly right by my head.

Stubbornness, there it is, that's another one. So these pits that we're referring to, you get yourself stuck in them by digging yourself into a pit. And then you don't want to be in there, and you see it's affecting you, and it's affecting your relationship with Jesus Christ, and maybe your brothers, and you want to get right.

[5 : 40] And so you follow this pattern, and you surrender to Christ. He brings you up out, and that's just the beginning. And so now let's look at now, not just digging the pit or delivery from the pit, but tonight let's look at delivery from digging.

That means you get out of the pit, you want to stay out of that pit. You don't want to go right back into that pit. You don't want to go back to digging another pit. You want delivery from what you were involved in, what got you in that mess in the first place.

You want delivery from digging. And I think that's a much greater accomplishment in the long term.

This symbolizes growth and victory and perfecting that which is lacking in you.

And so tonight let's take a look at this thought that God does some more work here. We stopped in Psalm 40 at the beginning of verse 2, so let's read a little bit more.

I'll start at verse 1 again. Let's pray together before we go on.

[6 : 55] And God, as we have met together tonight, I want to say thank you for allowing us to have this place, allowing the doors to be open and for each to come. I pray that you would be pleased with us here tonight and our attendance and our attention to your word.

Lord, I pray that it would have some effect here, that it would have free course, and that it would bear fruit in each heart. Lord, give us an understanding of these things where we're guilty of digging pits and getting involved in things that you would not have us involved in.

You did not lead us to them, and yet we find ourselves involved. God, give us grace, give us courage to put an end to it, and reveal to us how to do that. And so just please help us to do that from your word tonight.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. All right, so I'm going to say three things tonight from this passage, and then if time permits, kind of bring in some other thought along that will tie it together and bring it to a close.

So when God delivers His children from the pits that they dig for themselves and get themselves stuck into, the first thought I want you to see from the passage is that God gets you out, and then He leads you to a new place.

[8 : 03] It's said in verse 2 that He set my feet upon a rock. He set my feet upon a rock. Let me ask you a question.

Can you dig a pit when your feet are set upon a rock? Can you dig yourself into a pit when you're set upon a rock?

You'd have to leave that rock. You'd have to go back to the dirt that you were digging in in order to dig a pit. But where God puts your feet and sets those feet firmly, that's a rock.

You can't dig pits there. God leads you to a new place. If you want to commence digging pits, you're going to have to leave that place. And so God puts you in a place where digging pits aren't even an option.

How about that? Turn back to Psalm 31 while you're close by. This new place is called a rock. He set my feet upon a rock.

[9:04] Psalm 31. I want to read the first four verses here. In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust. Let me never be ashamed. Deliver me in thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to me. Deliver me speedily. Be thou my strong rock. For in house of defense to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress.

Therefore, for thy name's sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me. For thou art my strength. Now this is not a pit that David's stuck into in this case. But he's stuck. But he calls God his rock. Did you not see that in verse 2 and verse 3? That rock is the very presence and person of God. Look back at another Psalm 27.

Psalm 27 verse 5. Psalm 27 verse 5. Where is that rock?

[10:13] It's in his pavilion. It's in a secret tabernacle. It's in the presence of God where you're set up upon a rock. And so back in Psalm 40.

David said he brought me up also out of a horrible pit. And he set my feet upon a rock. That rock is the very presence and person of God. You're standing on him. On his stability.

On his security. It's a firm and solid place to be established. A firm and solid place to build a foundation. And to be safe.

You placed your feet upon him. The word rock. It's a worthy study to do in your Bible. You'll find out that water comes forth out of a rock in the Bible. I think you know where that's at.

Back in Exodus. That tells you of provision from the rock. The rock is likened to a fortress and a defense. Like we just read. That tells you of protection from the rock. It tells you in Matthew chapter 7.

[11:10] A place that you can build. The wise man build his house upon a rock. And it tells you of the permanency. Of being on the rock. You won't find yourself in a pit.

If you keep your feet where God set your feet. He sets them in a new place. It's in his very presence. The apostle Paul said that the Jews drank of that spiritual rock that followed them.

And that rock was Christ. In 1 Corinthians chapter 10. Christ. We sing about him as the rock of ages. We sing about him as the solid rock upon which I stand.

All other ground is sinking sand. So if you dig yourself in a pit. And it traps you. When God delivers you from that pit. He will place your feet upon the rock.

The Lord Jesus Christ. And when you're delivered. You're out of the pit. So now what? So now what? Well something else in verse number 2.

[12:07] Toward the end of the verse now. It says he set my feet upon a rock. And then it says this. And established my goings. And the second thing I want you to think on.

First he leads you to a new place. But then God establishes a new behavior. A new behavior. And I'd say that this also takes time. Just like in verse 1.

Getting out of that pit. Waiting patiently for the Lord. Establishing new goings. For God to do that. That's going to take some time as well. But with your feet firmly set upon the rock.

God establishes goings. That are acceptable to him. When Jesus Christ says follow me. He's not only going to lead you away from the pit.

He's going to lead you away from the very dirt. That you couldn't keep yourself out of. You know there's another song we sing in that book. It says away from the mire. And away from the clay.

[13:04] God leads his dear children along. Isn't that what that was in that pit? Miry clay. And so when God leads you away. He establishes goings that do not in any way resemble.

Or any way nearby to that dirt. He's going to lead you on that rock. Another word in the Bible for goings. Is the word ways. In Proverbs 5.

This is just one example. It says for the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord. And he pondereth all his goings. And those two words are interchangeable. And so when you read that he established my goings.

He's talking about the ways and the things of his life. Notice the word is plural. My goings. And I'll point this out because it's not just simply saying.

Oh you're a new creature in Christ. Old things passed away. All things become new. And it's not a reference to salvation the way we're looking at this. These are your goings. These I'd like to say are the behavior.

[14:02] The individual routines and habits of your life. Your daily routines. These are the things God establishes in you when he gets you out of the pit.

There are now to be new routines and new habits that are established by God. That are acceptable and pleasing to him. The kind of behavior that will never end you up in a pit again.

When your goings are established by God you'll not be digging pits. Not from this rock you won't be. And so if you got yourself into a pit one way or another. It's because you were fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.

But the Lord Jesus Christ does not lead you into pits of selfishness or stubbornness. Or those other thoughts of stimulation.

And I forget them all. Using those substances that we talked about. When he did not create you in Christ Jesus to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

[15:01] When he creates you in Christ Jesus a new creature. He creates you to do something else. The goings are going to look a little different now. Where do you suppose we'd find some insight as to what those goings might look like?

Where would we ever find how God would lead and direct our lives? It's not as rhetorical as it sounds. The word of God. The book, right?

The Bible. God's going to take you to his word and establish your goings based upon the word of God. Now, like where? Where do I turn to?

Or where don't I turn to? Where do you go to find out? Well, okay, well, how is he going to?

Because I feel like if I take you to one place, I'm just not doing justice to the rest of it.

But I'm also not trying to cop out and be like, oh, it's in the Bible somewhere. Just look it up, you know. So I will take you to a few or at least one to start. Look at Titus chapter number 2.

[16:05] Titus chapter 2. Get back there in the New Testament. You see a book that starts with T. Then you're close. Titus chapter 2.

Take a look here. We're looking at God establishing a new behavior when he establishes our goings.

And I'll just look at this verse to start here. Look at verse number 7. In all things, showing thyself a pattern of good works.

A pattern of good works. You're going to notice that God calls for good works from his children. He calls for goodness.

Like in Ephesians 5, the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. Look at verse number 12. 12 through 14.

[17:16] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. Do you know that you have to deny it? Denying ungodliness.

No, I will not. Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. No, I will not do that. We should live soberly. We should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Who gave himself for us. That he might redeem us from all iniquity.

And purify unto himself a peculiar people. Stuck in pits all over the place. No. Zealous of good works.

Might I add, with their feet firmly planted upon the rock. Walking in new established behavior that he designed. Good works, he calls it.

[18:16] Now, you're in Titus. So, if you look to your left in the next handful of books or so, you're looking at all these Pauline epistles. Some of them pretty short.

And as the further back you go, some get a little longer. But I challenge you right now. Right now where you're at. Could you peruse and just flip a page or two and find some form of where God is establishing something in you.

Your goings. Like, what's that going to look like? Could you find something right now? I mean, could you just flip and say, you know what? That says, right there, that tells me how I should be going.

That tells me how I should be living my life. I'm going to, I'm, I'll tell you what, I'll go to this one. Go ahead and look for one. I'm going to read a little chunk that you probably recognize. Look for something here quickly.

And if you got one, I'll have you read it. 1 Thessalonians 5. See that none render evil for evil unto any man, but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men.

[19 : 21] Rejoice evermore. There's your goings. Pray without ceasing. And everything give thanks. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit. Despise not prophesying.

Prove all things. And he goes on. There's just a little, just kind of a rapid fire of some things where you can have your goings established by the word of God. Did anybody see one?

Yeah, Robin. Read it. Amen.

And that correlates so well to the pit. We looked at this pit of self. There's one I think I forgot. The pit of self. Yeah, what do you got? Fine.

There you go.

[20 : 21] It does. It does. It does. You see how you didn't have to go far? Somebody else? Did you have one? Yeah. Yeah. I got Ephesians 6. 13. And on it goes.

Anybody else see one close by? Yep. Yep. Amen. Yep.

Amen. Amen. I'll say amen to every one of them that you read. I pretty much can't help it. So, well, we didn't even get but one, two, three, four people, five. We could keep doing this.

You know that. We could just go and go and go and go. How many of these? Look at one that I'll point out. 1 Timothy chapter 6. 1 Timothy 6. Because this one looks like a pit.

A pit that God will get us out of and then tell us how to stay away from it. And then what we should be established in. I'll start in verse number 9. And this one has to do with money.

[21 : 54] But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare. And in many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. Do you not see the pit there?

For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith. They might have been standing on the rock at one time, but they've erred. They've gone astray. And pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith.

He's going to go on for a while to the end of this chapter. Charging people that are rich in the world in verse 17. Verse 18, that they do good. That they be rich in good works.

Good works, good works, good works. So God establishes a new behavior. And I know we could continue just pointing out one thing after another.

[22 : 55] I'll take you to one last passage here. Go to Ephesians chapter 4. And I know we've looked at this before. If you don't know this, it's worth pointing out. Ephesians chapter 4.

Oh man, before we do that, let's look at chapter 2 verse 10. Ephesians 2.10, because it has to do with good works. And the behavior that God is seeking to establish in you when He places your feet upon a rock.

Verse 10 says, For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Which God, which hath before ordained, that we should walk in them. Now in chapter 4.

I'm going to make just one point and then you can study this on your own. And I'll start in verse 22.

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Hang on to that verse 23 for now. If we have time, we're coming back to it. But hang on to it in your mind. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

[24 : 11] So the old man is the one that got you in the pit. God gets you out, put your feet upon the rock in His very presence, and He establishes new goings within you. There's the new man.

And here's what that looks like. Verse 25. Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor. The old man does the lying.

You put him off, and you put on the new man, and now this man is honest. He has integrity. He's like his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no guile found in his mouth. And so he's going to speak truth with his neighbor.

He's going to tell the truth. And just this as an example, the one behavior stems from the old man.

And it gets him down into a pit. Does not a lie cause you to tell another lie? It tells you to cover that, dig, dig, dig.

Sounds pretty familiar. The new man speaks the truth. He doesn't go down that pit. And so this is just the other side of the behavior that is established by God.

[25 : 13] The new behavior now is to be honest and upright in your relationships and your interactions with others. So now we're going to come back. We're going to leave this behind and come back to Psalm 40 and get to the third point.

I don't know if you left all of that New Testament behind. I'm going to come to Colossians 3 in a little bit. So I'm getting my finger loaded up there.

Colossians 3, but for the moment, back in Psalm 40, and I want to show you the third thing. So we saw that God, He puts you in a new place.

He leads you to a new place when He gets you out of that pit. Because He doesn't want you going back to digging. So He puts your feet on a rock. Then He establishes a new behavior, new goings that are going to conform to the Word of God.

And then the third thought, you see it in verse 3, that He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. And the third thing is right there. It stops with that statement.

[26 : 21] And I'm just going to say it like this, and I'll explain why. That God inputs new substance. Now here literally it's the song. It's praise unto God. Colossians chapter 3 and verse 16 tells us that that song comes out of your heart.

And so what God puts inside of you, He puts it down into your heart. In Colossians 3, you can find it in verse 16. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Now I'm going to come back here in just a minute. There's something that the statement reveals to me back in Psalm 40. When He gets me out of the pit, He puts my feet upon a rock, He establishes my goings, and He puts inside of me some new substance that was never there before.

This is a new song in my mouth, which comes out of my heart. Praise unto God, which is coming forth from the heart, out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh, or in this case sings.

He put that inside of me. This reveals to me that there's some contentment inside of me. It reveals to me that there's some satisfaction inside of me.

[27 : 39] There's some joy inside of me now that my feet are on the rock, and I've established my goings, and I'm in fellowship with God. Things have changed, and now I have a song in my mouth.

I'm not just content and satisfied. There's real fulfillment that's on display here when there's praise coming forth from my voice to God.

You've been digging in the dirt. You spent time digging in a pit and getting yourself stuck searching for something else, some other form of satisfaction, some other form of contentment, something that'll just distract you from all the other things in life, and that's what you've been spending your time digging.

And when God gets you out of that, He puts something inside of you that can satisfy that need, or that thirst, or that hunger, or that urge for other things, those things of the flesh.

God introduces something real, and He puts it down inside of your heart. It's a song of praise unto your God. But what is the content?

[28 : 47] What is the substance of that song? What's it going to look like? What's it going to sound like? Like, not the specific details, but just in general terms, what is that exactly? Well, in Colossians 3, we just read this, let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom.

What comes out of that? Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing. The Word of Christ has got to be inside of you.

Look at another place in the psalm, Psalm 119. Psalm 119, 54. Here David says, Thy statutes, there's the Word of God, Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

The Word of God, dwelling inside of you, is where the substance, where the content of the song originates. When God puts a song in your heart, it's always going to be in line with the Scripture.

And the more the Word of God is in you, the more song can come out of you. Otherwise, you're going to be singing the same line over and over and over like some of our brethren do these days.

[30 : 19] But the more of the Word of God that's in you, the more song can come out and the more satisfaction can be displayed, the more contentment, the more joy, the more fulfillment, the more praise, and the best part, the less digging, the less need to go dig some pit, to go chasing some other thing that could satisfy you because you're not being satisfied in Christ.

But God puts something inside of you. He puts new substance inside of you. So He sets you in a new place and He establishes a new behavior and He inputs a new substance and all of this is for delivery from digging, to keep you from going back to that.

He gives you something new. This is what God does. He knows that the old place must be replaced with a new place. So He puts your feet on a rock and brings you into His presence, into His pavilion. He knows that the old behavior must be replaced with new behavior. And so He establishes your goings. He gives you the Word of God to teach you and guide you and instruct you.

And He knows that the old substance that you sought after must be replaced with new substance. And so He puts that inside of your heart.

[31 : 43] Did you ever have a love for the Word of God before you were saved or when you were out in the world throwing back beers or chasing women or guys or whatever it is you chased and did?

Did you sit down with a book of black and white with some old words and get fulfillment from that? You didn't even touch it.

You didn't even want to be... You didn't even want to... You didn't want to crack it. It confronted you too much. You resisted that book. But now, when your feet are on the rock, there's fulfillment in that book.

There's something that comes out of those words that just satisfy your soul. They feel so good going in. They feel so clean.

They sanctify you as you read and study and give yourself to them. God put that in you. He put that in the new man. It can be in you just as much as it's in me.

[32 : 46] And it's in me because of the Lord Jesus Christ. It can be in you more if you'll give yourself to it and stop digging. Because He didn't draw you to that digging.

And so a key word I was emphasizing just a moment ago, delivery from those diggings. Those three things was God replacing the old with the new. The desires and the lusts and the urges don't disappear.

And so they too must be replaced with something that won't land you in a pit. Now, this is where I want to detour into something else and the time is up tonight so I'm going to take that as my cue to just not detour into it.

And I think I'm satisfied with what we covered right there as far as delivering from the pit out of the passages. I do want to conclude this though and so it may go another week so I want to say this to you this much just to get it off of my chest.

You know this old saying it's kind of a proverbial thought that if you sow a thought you reap an action. And if you sow an action you reap a habit and if you sow a habit you reap a character and if you sow a character you reap a destiny.

[34 : 14] And all of that that line that thought that reasoning it all begins with the mind. Sowing a thought is what leads to action what leads to a habit.

And that action and habit is what turns to be negative and digging digging digging and this could be said in a positive way too. I mean it could be a righteous thing but generally we go the other way. Now I'm using some biblical imagery of digging pits to illustrate the concept of that statement that you yourself can get yourself into habits that pull you away from God and your relationship with the Lord their worldly habits you can say it's not gross sin some of it can be some of it's not so bad maybe there's nothing wrong with this but if you admit it if you look at it it's something that's getting in it's getting a hold of you you're desiring it more and more and more and giving yourself to it so much that this side of your life which you've been called to the good works the walking with God the edifying your brothers and loving your brothers and doing right you say well there's nothing wrong with this but you find yourself doing nothing wrong a whole lot more than you find yourself doing something right and so I'm concerned about this I think this is valuable content that we're looking at and the last thing I mentioned this last week and I didn't get to it this week I don't know if I will but I'm thinking I will at some point is tying this in with a book that I recently read how it really lays out human nature and habits and it was powerful stuff there's so many studies done on this and evidences for this that these psychologists just nailed down this pattern of behavior in everybody it's not like drug addicts it's in everybody it's people getting their knee replacement surgery and which ones got back on their feet and which ones didn't it showed everybody fell into this cycle for good or evil it just it's but the cycle they said is concrete and it's all over the Bible it's not

I'm not I wouldn't give you some psychology lesson I would I would run everything through the authoritative word of God and by the way you want to study the mind this is this got more to say about the mind than any of the textbooks do this is a textbook on the human mind and so getting back to this and wrapping it up we don't want to get back into digging so we want to replace the digging and actually we want to change the routine that causes us to go back to the digging because the flesh is still there and alive so God you dig the pit God can deliver you from the pit and here's the thing this week now that God can deliver you from digging the pits again but now it would help you I think I believe it would help us the next time to come back and to understand the process that gets us into this thing because it's real it happens to me I saw myself all through this thing and I'm sure you'll agree so we'll stop with that tonight and let's just be dismissed with a word of prayer and then we can head out of here tonight anything that's happening coming up here no okay so we'll see you Sunday

Father thank you for this time thank you Lord for the word of God and for the light that it shines into our path God without that book we would be stumbling all over the place and making a mess of our lives and on our way to hell so thank you for showing us the truth for showing us Jesus Christ and what he did for us thank you for salvation through his blood I thank you for this church and the folks here tonight and I pray that this was a blessing that you would help us to get stronger in our walk with you get victory over our sins and to be established in Christ we pray this in Jesus name Amen