Church of Christ
August 23 2026

Acceptance by Our Rock and Redeemer

Psalm 19:14 says, "**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer**."

This verse is at the end of a magnificent Psalm. In verses 1-6, the writer spoke about the heavens declaring the glory of God and the firmament showing His handy work. Through natural revelation, one can realize there is **a** God. In verses 7-11, he spoke about special revelation, which pertains to God's written message where the writer talks about **the** God. Then in verses 12-14, in response to the first two concepts, he looked inwardly, turning to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

Looking at verse 14, we see it is essential to be "acceptable" to God. First, as the text indicates, our tongues must be acceptable to God, and we accomplish this by using speaking in a way to be pleasing to Him. We can commit sins with our tongue by lying, using profanity, and engaging in gossip, etc. James 3:5 points out, ". . . the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!" Proverbs 21:23 warns, "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles." In Colossians 4:6, Paul admonished, "Let your speech always be

Further, according to the text, our thoughts (meditations) must be acceptable. It is essential to note in verse 14 how the Psalmist mentions words and thoughts but not deeds. Why is this? Perhaps it is because he dealt with deeds earlier. However, verse 14 does stand independent in this respect. The "meditation of my heart" is inclusive of acts. It is essential to realize that thoughts of the heart are the source from which actions spring. In Mark 7:20-23, Jesus said, "…What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." (Note also Phil. 4:8.) If a person keeps his heart pure, he will not have so many problems with his deeds. It has been said, "*We are not always what we think we are, but we are always what we think*."

In the last part of verse 14, the writer referred to God as his **strength.** Vine defines the Hebrew word used here as, "*rock; rocky wall; cliff; rocky hill; mountain; rocky surface; boulder*" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*) Many translations render the word as "rock." **Psalm 18:2**– "The Lord

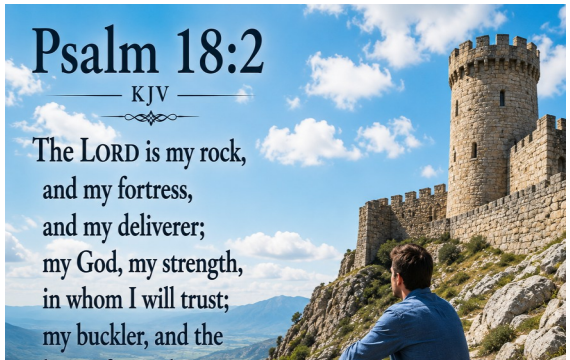
– that is, he had derived from God the protection which a rock, a tower, a citadel, a buckler furnished to those who depended on them, or which they were designed to secure. The word "rock" here has reference to the fact that in times of danger a lofty rock would be sought as a place of safety, or that men would fly to it to escape from their enemies. Such rocks abound in Palestine; and by the fact that they are elevated and difficult of access, or by the fact that those who fled to them could find shelter behind their projecting crags, or by the fact that they could find security in their deep and dark caverns, they became places of refuge in times of danger; and protection was often found there when it could not be found in the plains below." (*Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database*)

Sometimes one person may refer to another as his/her rock. On a higher plain, God is our rock: He is our source of strength and our refuge.

David also referred to God as his *Redeemer.* The Old Testament uses the word "redeemer" in other places as well to refer to God, and it means "to buy back." God redeemed his people from sin, death, and danger. David probably recalled many occasions where God had delivered him, but he may not have understood the details regarding the actual price of redemption. The cost would be Jesus, having been sent by God, dying for the sins of humanity on the cross. Ephesians 1:7 points out, "In Him we have *redemption* through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

It is important to be acceptable to God. We must make sure our words, thoughts, and deeds are in keeping with the Will of our Creator. God is our strength and our redeemer!

Mike Johnson
https://seekingthingsabove.org/



Special Prayer Requests/Updates

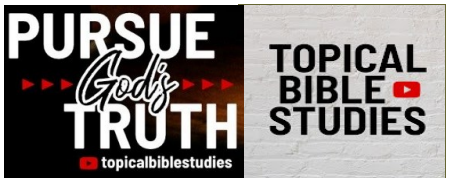
- ***Mark Lance*** will have a Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection on Wednesday in an effort to reduce/cure his hip pain.
- The week of August 9 was a very mournful week for us. ***Jerry Mack***'s wife, ***Wanda Gail Williams-Mack***, passed away on the 10th. The biological mom of ***Dane Urbeso Sr***., ***Sharon Marshall***, passed on the Tuesday the 11th, and ***Wendy Babin***'s mom, ***Nancy Martinez***, passed on Friday, August 14th. Please pray for healing for these families.
- ***Harold Whightsel*** is home after a short stay at Ochsner's inpatient rehabilitation program to help improve the residuals of a stroke.
- ***Rebecca Snyder***, due to aortic stenosis, she is going to have to have a valve replacement. Due to some reaction to needed medication, she is also going to have to see an allergy specialist.
- ***Tina Lance,*** is wearing a monitor to determine course of treatment of heart blockage.
- Please continue to keep ***Darnell Smith, Anthony Smith's*** brother, in prayer, (kidney transplant) that his body continues to accept the new kidney.
- Continue to keep ***Sonny and Laura Adams*** in prayer as Sonny recovers from the complications of hernia repair surgery.
- ***Jackie Gamble*** seeks prayers for a decision that she may have to make about her back pain/health.
- ***Susan Snyder Ainsworth*** is undergoing additional treatment for her recurrence of cancer.
- Please keep ***Sherry Snyder***'s daughter, ***Rudina*** and son-in-law ***Raymond Hotard*** in prayer. Raymond's heart is very weak and he has decided he wants no further life-saving intervention.

Mark Lance
Four Steps to Apostasy

PM Sermon:
Butch Snyder
What God Has Done

Wednesday, August 26
Songs:
Butch Snyder
PM Devotional:
Scott Russell

Sunday, August 30
AM Sermon:
EK Keller
PM Sermon:
EK Keller



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Services of The Church

Sunday

Bible Classes	**9:00 am**
AM Worship	**10:00 am**
PM Worship	**6:00 pm**

Wednesday

Bible Classes	**7:00 pm**

Evangelist

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