

PSALMS AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - August 23, 2020

We are taking a few weeks to look at the Psalms, and we need to, for what we read in the Psalms is necessary and essential to know for it has to do with our relationship with God. In fact, there's no other book in the Bible that has more to say about our relationship with God than the Psalms. And so I'd encourage you to read it on a regular basis, and I am convinced that you'll find it instructive, strengthening, encouraging, and a great blessing to your soul, your life and your relationship with God.

Last time we talked about how the Lord is our shepherd, how He is our portion. We talked about the great love He has for us, and how we are to seek Him. We talked about how the Psalms speaks about God's word, and it's importance. And we talked about how God wants to lead us in what He wants us to do.

Psalm 73:23-26. These four verses sum up your life. It talks about how the Lord is with you, and this is so important, for sometimes you can feel alone, or feel afraid, but you are never alone, and you should never feel afraid day or night, now and forever, and that's because the Lord is always with you. **Psalm 23:4**

It talks about how the Lord has taken hold of your right hand. You know how a parent walks with his child, and hold the child's hand, and it's more that the parent is holding the child's hand than the child is holding the parent's hand. This means God is keeping you safe, that He is protecting you, that you are always secure because of Him. And so not only are you with the Lord, but you are safe and secure because you are with the Lord. **Psalm 59:14-17**

Psalm 73 talks about how the Lord guides you with His counsel. And we talked about this last week, that the Lord will lead you in the way you should go. As it says in **Psalm 32:8**, He will counsel you with His eye upon us. Again, it's encouraging that the Lord is with you so He can lead you in the plans He has for your life, in all the work He wants you to do. Then after your life on earth, God will receive you into heaven, receive you to glory, and of course, heaven is glorious, and you will experience God's glory like never before.
- And so this is your life - you are with the Lord, you are protected by the Lord, you are led by the Lord, and someday in the near future, you will be with the Lord in person. But how should you respond? This is what **vss 25-26** says.

That is, the way God made you, your mind, your body, your soul, your abilities, all relate to what God wants you to do, the work He has planned out for your life, the work He wants you to do every day of your life here on earth. This thought should really encourage you, should make you feel special, that the way God made you relates to what He wants you to do on. Psalm 119:73

But there's something else that shows the love God has for you, and the relationship He wants to have with you, and the purpose He has for your life. And that's that God thinks about you. And it's not just that He thinks about you, but that He has lots of thoughts, billions of thoughts about you, and these are all good thoughts, loving thoughts, precious thoughts, and godly thoughts. And when you know someone thinks about you, you are usually glad, you feel good about that. And so too, you should be greatly encouraged to know that God thinks about you so much and, in fact, thinks about you all the time.

Verses 19-22. So far in this Psalm, David is talking about how God thinks about Him, about what God is doing. But now there's a shift, for David is now thinking about God, and specifically how there are these wicked people who hate God. And what we see is that David hates these wicked people too, and he is praying for God to punish them. That is, David loves God, and because he loves God, then he hates what God hates. David is a child of God, and he is like His heavenly Father in that he hates what his Father hates. Now there are commands that say you are to love your enemies, and you are to do that, you are to love them as a person. But at the same time, you can hate them because of their evil deeds, because they are wicked and unrighteous.

Verses 23-24. We have seen God's love for David, and David's love for God. But there's something else you need to know about David. Now David knows he's not perfect, that he needs to grow. And so he asks God to search him, to try him, to see if there are any hurtful ways in his life, thoughts, words or actions. David loves God and wants to be like Him in character, and so he wants God to reveal any areas of sin so he can change and be like God. And in all this we see a person who knows and loves God, and wants to be godly, and wants to serve God.

Now we know God has a purpose for us, but what does **Psalms** say about this?

- **Psalm 139** tells us that God ordains all the days of your life, and that's because He has a purpose for your life, and has plans for every day of your life.

- **Psalm 73** says that He will guide you with His counsel, which means He will wisely guide you in what He wants you to do, in the plans He has for your life.

Verse 25. The Psalmist is excited, is encouraged, for he is saying that he loves the Lord, and wants nothing else but the Lord, for again, the Lord is his portion. And he knows that as he goes through life, and has needs or is weak, whether it is physically or spiritually, that God Himself will be His strength. And of course, as Christians, this is what we always need to know. **Psalm 105:4, 2 Cor. 12:9**

Psalm 139. This is another wonderful, instructive, and encouraging Psalm.

- **Vss 1-6.** This says that God knows everything about you - physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally. That is, He is omniscient. He knows when you get up or sit down. He knows what you are thinking, and in fact, knows what you are going to think before you even think it. And He knows what you are going to say before you say it. He is intimately acquainted with all your ways, that is, what you do and why you do it, which means He knows all your actions as well as all your desires and motivations.

- Now this relates to His protection of you, for we read that He encloses you behind and before. He knows all about you because He loves you, and wants to protect you, and give you what is good. And the fact that He knows all about you should not make you fearful, but should encourage you.

Vss 7-12. This says God is omnipresent. He is with you all the time. And there's no place you can go that He is not with you, which means there's no way you can get away from God, that you can be separated from Him. Thru the Spirit, God is always with you. And He is with you, not just to protect you, but to lead you.

Vss 13-16a. Here is an example of how God is omnipresent. It says that God made you when you were in your mother's womb. He created you, He formed you, and it says you were skillfully wrought, were precisely, specifically, and wonderfully created. Indeed, one of the greatest miracles is God's creation of you when you were growing inside your mother's womb. And so from the moment of conception to the day of your birth, God was in your mother's womb with you, making you just the way He wanted you to be. I won't go into the intricacies of this creation, but your body, your physiology, all of your intricate body parts and systems are an incredible marvel that shows you His wisdom, His power, and His great love for you.

Vss 16b-18. Now we read that there's a reason for why God created you. It says God ordained all the days of your life. But it's not just that God knows how long you will live, but that He knows exactly why He wants you to live. He knows exactly what He wants you to do, His purpose for your life.

Psalm 90:16-17. It says, *“Let your work appear to Your servants.”* Again, God has work for you to do, and He wants to reveal it to you. And God accomplishes His work in and through you, and He gives lasting value and permanence to this work. And you should be excited that God has this work that He wants you to do.

Psalm 138:8 (NIV). *“The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Your love endures forever. Do not abandon the works of Your hand.”* Again, we see that God has a purpose for you, work for you to do. And this is what David is saying, *“God, don’t leave me, don’t forsake me. Do what you want in me and through me.”* For David knows he needs God to help him fulfill the work God wants Him to do. And you should be willing to do whatever God wants you to do. **Psalm 40:8**

Psalm 143:8, 10. This prayer shows that David wants God to lead him so he can do what God wants him to do. God leads you through the Spirit, and it is only by the leading and power of the Spirit that you can carry out God’s will. **John 15:5, Eph. 5:15-18, Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10.** These verses make it clear that God wants to lead you in His ways, in His truth, and in His paths, and to do what He wants you to do. And might each of you want to be led by Him so you can then do what He wants you to do.

Psalm 119:10, 32, 35, 47, 48, 66. All these vss have the word commandments in them, and it is God’s commandments that specifically tell you what to do, tell you your purpose, and show you the specific work God wants you to do.

1 Thess. 5:16-18, Col. 3:12-13, Matt. 28:19-20. And so this work God wants you to do is defined and specifically spelled out in God’s word. And as you read His word, look for these commands, and then be doing them.

- **Acts 13:36.** This says David fell asleep, that is, he physically died - and he died only after he had finished the work God gave him to do. And so too you will only die, you will only leave this earth once you have completed, have finished the work God has for you to do.

Now we have not yet talked about the most important thing you are to do, and it is what is talked about in this Psalms far more than anything else.

Psalm 145:1-2; Psalm 146:1, 147:1, 148:1, 149:1, 150:1. It tells you that you’re to praise the Lord, you are to worship the Lord. And we will talk more about this next week.