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A STUDY ON

SELECTED PSALMS

PRETORIA NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH

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Psalm 2
The REIGN of the SON!
Submit or perish

Introduction:

- When we look at what is happening in South Africa and in the world at large with all the **CRIME, CORRUPTION, UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, WARS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ABORTIONS, DIVORCES, PEOPLE EMIGRATING**, etc, we may sometimes wonder if this world is maybe “*out of control*”...?
- We further hear of **GREAT PERSECUTION** that is taking place against Christians, **NOW** more than ever.
- We **SEE** and **EXPERIENCE** a **WORLD** that is **HOSTILE** towards God and in clear **REBELLION** against God... a world that, from a human perspective, must clearly be “*out of control*”...
- This may lead to some Christians losing **HOPE** and becoming **SCARED** and even maybe **DOUBTING** if God is really in control...
- Where do we find **REFUGE** in times like these...? Where in the Bible do we turn to to make **SENSE** of this “*out of control*” world...? Where do we **RUN** to...?
- The question is: “*IS this world out of control? IS God still in control? How do we KNOW this? What do we ANSWER to those who would argue that He is NOT in control...?*”
- It is important to note that just after Jesus **ROSE** from the **DEAD** and **ASCENDED** into heaven, the apostles, after being filled with the Holy Spirit, was boldly proclaiming the Gospel in Jerusalem.
- **BUT**, they were met with the same kind of **RESPONSE** that Jesus had on His ministry – **PERSECUTION**.
- They experienced a world **HOSTILE** and in **REBELLION** to God and His **REVEALED WORD** – **JESUS!**
- And so they **PRAYED**... and as they prayed they quoted a **Psalm** that no doubt gave them **HOPE** and helped them to make **SENSE** of what was happening in this “*out of control*” world...
- **Acts 4:24-29**.
- *Which Psalm did they quote..?*
- **Psalm 2** – Please turn there and read it...

• **Background and Structure of Psalm 2:**

- **Psalm 2** is the most frequently quoted psalm in the New Testament, with **v 7** being the verse quoted or referred to the most (cf. **Matt 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; Acts 13:33; Heb 1:5; 5:5**)
- It fits together in an interesting way with **Psalm 1** to introduce the Book of **Psalms**:
 - i. **Psalm 1** begins with a beatitude, “*Blessed is the man*”; **Psalm 2** ends with a beatitude “*Blessed are all...*”
 - ii. In **Psalm 1**, the **GODLY** man meditates on **GOD’S LAW**; in **Psalm 2**, the **WICKED** meditates (“*plot*”; same Hebrew word) on how to **CAST OFF THE RULE OF GOD**.
 - iii. In **Psalm 1** the theme is the **CONTRAST** between the **RIGHTEOUS** and the **WICKED** person; in **Psalm 2** the theme is the **CONTRAST** between the **REBELLION** of **WICKED RULERS** and **NATIONS** and the **RULE** of **GOD’S RIGHTEOUS MESSIAH**.
- The Psalm can be divided into **FOUR STANZAS** of **FOUR ACTS** in which this **THEME** unfolds of **HUMANITY** thinking that **THEY** can be in **CONTROL** and **GOD** responding with what is **ULTIMATELY TRUE**, of what is **ULTIMATE REALITY** and therefore bringing a very strong **WARNING** and **COMMAND** to humanity.
- The warning and command is about humanity’s **REACTION** to the **CENTRAL FIGURE** of this **Psalm** namely: **THE SON! JESUS!**
- This is then also often called a **ROYAL Psalm** or a **MESSIANIC Psalm** as it is ultimately about the **MESSIAH**, the **KING OF KINGS** – **JESUS!**

Study Points:

- **FOUR ACTS** being played out on the **STAGE** called the **WORLD**:

1. Act One: Humanity REBELS against God... (v1-3)

- David starts this Psalm with a **QUESTION** – a **VERY GOOD** question! (**v1**)
- God **MADE** the nations, **PROVIDED** for the nations and has determined their **HISTORY** and yet they **RAGE** against God...!
- That the nations do **RAGE** is a reality. *WHY do they rage...?*

- The nations **RAGE** because they want to be **FREE** from God and His **PRECEPTS** and they want to be **INDEPENDENT** from Him – be their **OWN GOD**.
- This has been so from the **VERY BEGINNING...!**
- Humanity don't want to be under **AUTHORITY...!** They want to do things **THEIR WAY...!**
- And so they **SET** themselves – place themselves in **AUTHORITY** and come together to form their **OWN COUNSEL** – come up with what **THEY** think things should work like...
- In it they are **DEFYING** what **GOD** has said... they have a **VOICE OF DEFIANCE** in which they are **IGNORING** and even **ATTACKING GOD'S** counsel – His **WORD** and how **HE** has said things should work...
- The **RESULT** is that this world is in **CHAOS...!**
- The world is a mess *morally, intellectually, socially, politically, economically* and *ecologically* because it has **DEFIED** God.
- It is trying to **DROWN OUT** the **TRUTH OF GOD!**

Q: You should ask yourself if YOU are not trying to REBEL against God by following your OWN counsel when it comes to WORK, MARRIAGE, PARENTING, RELATIONSHIPS, CHURCH or whatever area of your life...? So easily we can be just like the NATIONS...

- But the **SECOND PART** of the question is so **IMPORTANT... Ps 2:1b**
- **ALL** of their **RAGING** and **PLOTTING** is in **VAIN...!**
- **ALL** of the **COUNSEL** and **WISDOM** of **MAN** doesn't change for **ONE MOMENT** what is **TRUE** and **WHO GOD** truly is!
- **Ps 33:10-11; Eph 1:11**
- All the **SCHEMES** and **PLOTS** and **COUNSEL** of the nations **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT THWART** the **WILL** and **PLAN** of **GOD!**
- Even though it may **SEEM** as if this world is “**out of control**” and things aren't happening as it should because of humanity's **REBELLION** against God, just as God was in complete control when they **CRUCIFIED JESUS**, in the same way He was, is and will be in **COMPLETE CONTROL...!** He is the **SOVEREIGN LORD!**
- What is **GOD'S** response to the nations **RAGING** and **PLOTTING...?** Is He **CONCERNED** or **ANXIOUS** or **THREATENED** and trying to **OUTWIT** them...?

2. Act Two: God, the Father's RESPONSE to man's rebellion... (v4-6)

- God **LAUGHS** and then He **SPEAKS...**
- He **SITS** – He is completely **RELAXED** and not even **THREATENED** in the least...
- And He **LAUGHS** at their efforts to overthrow His sovereignty and He mocks at them.
- Who is **PUNY MAN** to try and stand against the **SOVEREIGN GOD**? He who **SPOKE** and everything came in to being...?
- How **STUPID** can humanity be to think that **THEY**, the creation can stand against the **CREATOR!**
- No wonder God is **LAUGHING** at them...!
- But then He **SPEAKS**.
- Rebellion against God is ultimately **NO LAUGHING MATTER**.
- Rebellion against God brings about His **ANGER**, His **WRATH** and His **JUDGEMENT**.
- Don't think you can **STAND AGAINST GOD** and **SURVIVE...!**
- Don't think you can go against what **HE** has said and **NOT** experience His **WRATH** and **JUDGEMENT...!**
- **Gal 6:7**
- In His **JUDGEMENT** and **WRATH** He speaks about **HIS SON** – **JESUS!**
- He **REVEALS** what is **ULTIMATELY TRUE** – that **JESUS** is enthroned as the **KING** of all kings and that He will **COME** to **REIGN** on the throne of King David in Zion...!
- When God **VISITS** humanity with His **WRATH** and **FURY**, it is also a **MEANS** of **GRACE** to some extent where people, as they **EXPERIENCE** the folly of their **RAGING** and **PLOTTING** against God, realise they need God and so He then points them to His **SON...!**
- In **JUDGEMENT** God very often **HUMBLES** and **SOFTENS** the hearts of the wicked and He then speaks the **GOOD NEWS** of the Gospel of His Son to them.
- We should **FOLLOW** God in his example in this “**out of control**” world – when people hit **ROCK BOTTOM**, we should point them to the King of kings, the Messiah, to **JESUS!**
- And the in Act **THREE** we hear the **KING** speaking, the **MESSIAH** – **JESUS!**

3. Act Three: God, the Son's REIGN over Humanity... (v7-9)

- The **PERSON** and **POWER** of the Messiah – **JESUS!**
- *His PERSON* – He is the **SON OF GOD...!** (**v7**)
- It was **DECLARED** by the Father at His **BAPTISM** and **TRANSFIGURATION** – **Matt 3:17; 17:5**
- He was further **DECLARED** through His **RESURRECTION** – **Rom 1:4**
- In **Acts 13:32-33** Paul alligns this **DECLARATION** of the Father with the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus.
- By the resurrection of Jesus it is **DECLARED** to **ALL PEOPLE** the **JESUS** is the **CHRIST** and the **ONLY BEGOTTEN** of the Father – very **GOD** of very **GOD!**
- *His POWER* – the **SALVATION** of the **NATIONS** are possible in and through **JESUS ALONE!** (**v8**)
- **Joh 14:6; Acts 4:12**
- They are **GIVEN** to Him by the Father and He is the One who can **SAVE** them. Everyone that Jesus asks of the Father **WILL** be saved by Him!
- **Rev 4:9-10**
- Jesus is right now busy **SAVING** people from **ALL NATIONS** who **BELONGS** to Him and will **WORSHIP** Him!
- *His POWER* – the **JUDGEMENT** of the **NATIONS** is also given to Him. (**v9**)
- This first time He came in **MERCY** and **GRACE** to **SAVE**. The second time He comes in **WRATH** to **JUDGE!**
- Although the nations are **REBELLING** against God and His annointed, He is **PATIENT** with them, willing them to be saved.
- But the time will come when this “**out of control**” world, this **NATIONS** that is in **REBELLION**, will be **JUDGED** by the **SON**.
- All the nations are **SUBJECT** to the **SON**, to **JESUS**. He is their **KING** whether they **ACKNOWLEDGE** Him or **NOT**, it doesn't change the **REALITY** that He **WILL** come to **JUDGE** the nations and those who are in **REBELLION** to Him will be **BROKEN** and **DASHED IN PIECES...!**
- In this “**out of control**” world, **JESUS** is able to **SAVE** even the **WORST** of sinners – **PROCLAIM HIM!**
- He is the One who will **JUDGE** every rebel who keeps on rebelling against Him – **REST** is His **RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT!**
- The **LAST ACT** is then a series of **COMMANDS** given by the Psalmist under inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

4. Act Four: Humanity's commanded REACTION and RESPONSIBILITY towards the SON... (v10-12)

- “**Now therefore**” – in the light of the **REALITY** of Jesus **REIGN** over **SALVATION** and **JUDGEMENT**, there needs to be an **IMMEDIATE** and **URGENT REACTION** towards Him...!
- The **KINGS** and **RULERS** are **COMMANDED** to come to their **SENSES** while there is **STILL TIME!**
- **Isa 55:6-7; Heb 4:15**
- Our **RESPONSIBILITY** towards the **LORD** is to:
 - SERVE Him with FEAR** – instead of serving **SIN** or **OURSELVES**, we should **BOW** to the Son and **SERVE** Him with a Biblical understanding that He is the **KING** of kings... that we can approach him with **CONFIDENCE**, but **ALWAYS** with **GREAT REVERENCE...!**
 - REJOICE in Him with TREMBLING** – find great **JOY** in His sovereign rule and submit to Him with an awareness of His sovereignty – that He is **LORD**, the **ALMIGHTY GOD!**
- To “**Kiss the Son**” is to show homeage to the Son.
- It speaks of being **RECONCILED** to Him; to show **HONOR** and **ALLEGIANCE** to Him; to **WORSHIP** Him.
- It is to **KISS** Him as the woman in **Luk 7:44-48** did – with great **JOY** and **THANKFULNESS** at Him **FORGIVING** her sin.
- It is to **NOT** kiss Him as **JUDAS** did (cf. **Luk 22:47-48**) – with **HYPOCRISY** and **OUTWARD ALLEGIANCE** only.
- It is to **TRUST** in Jesus as the **PROMISED** and **ANNOINTED SAVIOUR** send by God!
- Along with this goes the **FURTHER WARNING** – those who **DON'T** kiss the Son will **PERISH** in their way – they will be **DESTROYED...!**
- God has so appointed it that there is only **ONE NAME** through which man can be **SAVED**, and if they would **SPURN** that name and **PERSEVERE** in their **REBELLION**, they will fall under the **WRATH** of the **LAMB**.
- **Rev 6:15-17** talks about the kings and rulers who have **NOT** been wise and warned and have **NOT** kissed the Son.

- Jesus is **PATIENT** in coming so as to grant an **OPPORTUNITY** for all to come to **REPENTANCE**, but when He comes His **WRATH** will act **QUICKLY** and **SWIFTLY**...!0
- **Phil 2:9-11** is how it all **WILL** end...!
- This Psalm then **ENDS** with a beautiful, a blessing.
- We should not run **FROM** God, but **TO** Him.
- There is **NO REFUGE** from Him. There is only refuge **IN** Him!

Conclusion:

- This Psalm then is **ALL ABOUT** God's Son, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**
- He that **HONOURS** the **SON**, **HONOURS** the **FATHER**.
- The **REALITY** is that **JESUS REIGNS** and that **SALVATION** and **JUDGEMENT** is in His hands.
- He **REALLY** still is in control and He **WILL** come...!

*Q: Have **YOU** embraced Jesus? Are you showing **OTHERS TO Jesus**?*

- Give to Jesus the **RECOGNITION** He deserves. Resist all **RATIONALIZATIONS** and **DOUBTINGS** about his **PERSON** and **WORK**. He **IS** what the Psalmist declares Him to be. **ENJOY** the **PRIVILEGES** and the **BLESSINGS** of the adopted sons and daughters of God by **SUBMITTING** yourself to the **AUTHORITY** of Jesus Christ.
- If you feel **OVERWHELMED** by this world today and you feel like the world is “**out of control**”, remember who the **SON** is and how this **WILL ALL END**...!
- *Mercy Me* have a song where the *Chorus* says the following:

“This goes out to anyone down for the count...

It's not over!

Don't give up, don't throw in the towel...

Just remember who you belong to!

Let me remind you how this ends....

We win! We win!”

Psalm 8

What is man...?

The majesty of God displayed through His use of little man

Introduction:

- One of the **AGE OLD** questions and meditations of **MAN** which has been the **OBJECT** of science and philosophy and religion is about this question: **WHAT IS MAN...?**
- Charles Darwin said man is an **ANIMAL**...
- Sigmund Freud taught that man is a **SPOILED CHILD**...
- Karl Marx believed man is an **ECONOMIC FACTOR**...
- Adolf Hitler propagated that man is **EXPENDABLE**...
- Throughout time there has been this **STUDY** and **PHILOSOPHIES** about the **ORIGEN** of man... the **PURPOSE** of man... the **NATURE** of man...
- This has been a question that everyone of us have thought about and have strived to answer.
- It is a **QUESTION** that **MUST** be asked and it **MUST** be answered, for **WE ARE MAN** and we need to understand what that entails...
- To help us with this question, we will therefore study **Psalm 8** in this study.
- **Psalm 8** is a **Psalm** of a **SHEPHERD BOY** who obviously spend a lot of his time **OUTDOORS** and spend many **NIGHTS** in the field... sleeping under the stars...
- We deduce then that it is as this boy, **DAVID**, spend his time maybe lying on his back and gazing at the **HEAVENS** and the **STARS**, contemplating how **MAJESTIC GOD** is, that he meditated about this question...
- The **REASON** for his meditation was **NOT** about how amazing **MAN** is, but rather that, in the light of what He **SAW REVEALED** and therefore **UNDERSTOOD** about how **AMAZING** and **MARVELOUS GOD** is, that God would be **MINDFUL** of and **USE** this **LITTLE CREATURE** called **MAN**...
- Our theme in studying this **Psalm** will then be: “*What is man?*” **The MAJESTY of GOD DISPLAYED through His USE of LITTLE MAN**...
- Please read **Psalm 8**...

Study Points:

- **Verse 1, 9** is the **REFRAIN** or **CHORUS** part of this **Psalm** and is a:

Statement of PRAISE concerning the MAJESTY of God...!

- David, unlike many people today, didn't start his meditation **ABOUT** man, **WITH** man **BUT** with **GOD**...!

- **Prov 1:7**

- If you want to know what **MAN** is, you need to **START** with **GOD**! **ACCURATE** knowledge of **MAN** comes from an **ACCURATE** knowledge of **GOD**!

- He starts by **ACKNOWLEDGING WHO GOD IS**: The **GREAT I AM, YAHWEH**, the **COVENANT** keeping **GOD** – “**LORD**”... Who is **THE** Lord? He is the **SOVEREIGN RULER** of all things!

- He moves on to **WHAT** He has done – He sees His **CREATION** and the **MAJESTY** of it...

- This term “**MAJESTIC**” carries the thought of a **DISPLAY OF POWER** that is **AWE-INSPIRING** and even **INTIMIDATING**...

- David **UNDERSTOOD** the purpose of **CREATION**... to **REVEAL** the **GLORY OF GOD** and to bring **AWE** and **FEAR** of God...!

- **Ps 19:1; 111:2; Rom 1:19-20**

- The earth is **FULL** of His glory and **YET** it is not the **FULNESS** of His glory...!

- To set His glory **ABOVE** the heavens is to stretch our minds to understand that there is yet a **GLORY OF GOD** that is not yet **VISIBLE** to us – it is **ABOVE** the heavens...!

This UNIVERSE is all that WE can HANDLE right now, but it is NOT all there is ABOUT GOD...!

- No **WONDER** the angels are right now singing: “**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!**” (cf. **Isa 6:3**)

- David only **THEN** turns to **MAN** and how God **USES** man to **DISPLAY** His **MAJESTY** in all the earth...

- *We see THREE WAYS in which GOD uses LITTLE MAN to DISPLAY His MAJESTY:*

1. Man in his WEAKNESS... is used by God to GLORIFY His NAME...! (v2)

- The **PRINCIPLE** is that God displays His **MAJESTY** by **INTENTIONALLY** using the **WEAK** to accomplish His **PURPOSES**.

- Instead of using **STRONG** and **COURAGEOUS** men to **SILENCE** His enemy and avenger, He uses **BABIES** to show that the **POWER** don't come from them, but from Him who uses them...

- The **BIRTH** of every child declares how majestic God is – **Ps 139:14-16**

- He uses a **WEAK BABY** and the **CRY OF LIFE** to **STILL** the enemies **MOST VIOLENT ATTACK** on His **EXISTENCE** and **GOODNESS**...

- We find this to be a **PRINCIPLE** that is true throughout the **BIBLE** – God uses the **WEAK** and **UNSIGNIFICANT** to do His work and bring Himself **GLORY**!

- He **DELIGHTS** in using the **NOBODIES** to bring Him glory...!

- Joel James: “*To glorify Himself, God loves to use human weakness as a conduit for His omnipotence. He often cuts down big trees with very dull axes – with feeble, puny, inadequate human beings. As you study Scripture, you find that God continually uses people that you and I would never employ. For example, if you were going to create a great nation through which to bless the whole earth, would you choose an impotent old man and his barren wife to be its founders? God chose Abraham and Sarah precisely because He wanted to prove that their inadequacy was no hindrance to His power. If you were given the responsibility of choosing a king for Israel and to establish the messianic line, would you have selected the youngest son from an undistinguished family living in third-tier rural village as your candidate? No doubt you would have called your king from among the ranks of nobility, not in from the fields from chasing sheep, as God did with David. Or how about the disciples of Jesus? Twelve more common, unremarkable men could hardly be found than the dozen nobodies Jesus chose to change the world. There is no doubt about it: God delights to display His glory by employing people who, by any human standard, should never be chosen for the task.*”

- Are you a **WEAK NOBODY**...? *Then you qualify to be used by God...!*

- That is why God **SAVES** weak, foolish people – for His glory!

- **1 Cor 1:26-29**

- Jesus quoted this verse in **Matt 21:15-16** when the **LEARNED, RELIGIOUS CHIEF PRIESTS** and **SCRIBES** rejected Him and the **CHILDREN** sang His praises...

- *What is man? Man is WEAK and, in his weakness, he is used by God to glorify His Name...!*

2. Man in his SMALLNESS... is used by God to MAGNIFY His GOODNESS...! (v3-4)

- These verses form the **MAIN MEDITATION** of this **Psalm**.

- David simply **LOOKS** at the **HEAVENS** namely the **MOON** and the **STARS** and he is **OVERWHELMED** by its **VASTNESS**, the **BIGNESS**, the **HUGENESS** like all of humanity is today.
- But David **MEDITATES** upon the reality that it is **GOD’S** heavens and that it is but the **WORK** of His **FINGERS** – **EFFORTLESS** and didn’t even involve **ALL** of His power...!
- **Ps 147:4; Isa 40:26**
- He discerns this great **CONTRAST** between **GOD** and **MAN** and what it **REVEALS** about **MAN** and God’s **GOODNESS**...
- The **BIGNESS** of **GOD** and the **VASTNESS** of **HIS UNIVERSE REVEALS** how **SMALL** and **PUNY** man is...!
- When you look at the stars in the evening and behold the utter **HUGENESS** of it all, you very quickly feel very **SMALL**... **WHY?** Because you **ARE SMALL**...!
- We haven’t even **FOUND** the end of the universe but God marked off the heavens with a span – He **MEASURED** it. (cf. **Isa 40:12**)
- When **COMPARED** with the **UNIVERSE**, the earth isn’t even a **DOT** on the radar, how much **LESS** a **MAN**...
- **AND YET, GOD** is **MINDFUL** of **MAN** and He **CARES** for **MAN**...!
- He gives **MERCY** and **GRACE** to this weak, sinful, small creature...
- **Gen 8:1** – instead of **DESTROYING** all of humanity, God showed **FAVOUR** to Noah and was **MINDFUL** of him, remembered him on the ark...
- God **REMEMBERED** His people as they were in slavery in Egypt – **Exo 2:23-25**
- He was **MINDFUL** and **REMEMBERED** Hannah’s **PRAYERS** to Him and answered her – **1 Sam 1:19-20**
- **WHY?**
- **NOT** because man is so **SIGNIFICANT**, but because **GOD IS SO GOOD**...!
- He is **MINDFUL** of **YOU** and He **CARES** for **YOU** so that **YOU** may be in **AWE** of His **GOODNESS**!
- *What is man? Man is **SMALL** and, in his smallness, he is used by God to magnify His goodness...!*

3. Man in his DESIGN... is used by God to REFLECT His RULE...! (v5-8)

- David here **REFLECTS** and **MEDITATES** on **Gen 1:26** namely that **GOD** made **MAN** in **HIS IMAGE**...
- Man is **DESIGNED** by God for the purpose of **KNOWING** Him and **REPRESENTING** Him here on earth.
- His **POSITION** is that He is **DISTINCT** from the rest of **CREATION** and has been **CROWNED** – given a place of **HONOUR** over the rest of creation.
- Man has **DOMINION** in that he should **RULE** and **REIGN** over God’s creation by **MANAGING** and **CULTIVATING** it.
- God has so **PURPOSED** and **DESIGNED** man, not that he **NEEDED** man to have dominion, but gave him the **PRIVILEGE** and **RESPONSIBILITY** to **RULE** over it...
- A **PRIVILEGE** and **RESPONSIBILITY** that **MAN FAILED** to do... that man **MESSED UP**...!
- Man has **FAILED** to **REFLECT** the **RULE OF GOD**...
- And so the **Hebrews** writer quotes this portion of **Psalms 8** and **EXPLAINS** that **JESUS** is the **PERFECT MAN** who came to **RESTORE** what **SINFUL MAN** has messed up...
- **Heb 2:6-10**
- **Verse 8** – we do not see all of creation in subjection to man. There are **MANY** things that **MAN** cannot control and subdue... they **TRY** but they **CAN’T**...
- *“But what do we see? We see something very significant. We see **JESUS**. For a little while He was made lower than the [heavenly beings]. But now He is crowned with glory and honour. As a result of His victory, all things have been subjected to man, the man Christ Jesus. (v9) He has become our leader, bringing many sons of God to their destined glory. (v10) Through suffering many things to confirm His own holiness, He is able now to make others holy.”*
- Man then can only be **USED** in this way if he is **UNITED** to the **GOD-MAN**, the **ULTIMATE** and **PERFECT MAN, JESUS CHRIST**!
- When **MAN** is **SAVED BY GRACE**, He is **SEATED** with Christ in the heavenly places – he **REIGNS** with Him and is **RESTORED** to the **PURPOSE** God has made for man – to perform this **KINGLY SERVICE** of having dominion and reigning over His creation...
- *What is man? Man is **DESIGNED** and, in his design, he is used by God to **REFLECT** His **RULE**...!*
- It is then **IN CHRIST** alone that we **UNDERSTAND** our **FRAME** (*weakness...*), **POSITION** (*smallness...*) and **PURPOSE** (*design...*)

• Whether you will **SUCCEED** in being **USED** by God in these ways will **ALL** depend on your **RELATIONSHIP** to **JESUS CHRIST**.

• Ultimately, we must understand this about **MAN** namely that:

*“Man redeemed in Christ is God’s **GREATEST INSTRUMENT** for praising Him...!”*

• **THIS** is the **TRUE MEASURE** of a man... if he is **IN CHRIST JESUS**, for only then can he succeed in being what God has **INTENDED** man to be...!

Closing Thoughts:

• **How should these truths impact us?**

- 1) *We should bow in awe before our majestic Creator!* - This **Psalm** should humble us and cause us to marvel at God’s grace and love in caring for us by sending His Son as our Saviour.
- 2) *We should surrender our weaknesses to God for His glory!* (**2 Cor 12:9-10**) – Do not focus on and dwell on your weaknesses, inadequacies, and feebleness. **TRUST** that His grace is enough for you and that it is in using you **IN SPITE OF YOUR WEAKNESS** that He is **GLORIFIED!** **STOP** putting the focus on **YOU...!**
- 3) *We should remember our position in the universe!* (**Rom 12:3**) – This universe is **REALLY** not about us... We are **NOT** the centre of it... God and the glory of His **SON, JESUS**, is the centre of it all...!
- 4) *We should thank God that He is mindful of us and shows us grace!* (**1 Cor 1:4**) – Every good gift from God should bring about a tremendous **GRATEFULNESS** that God is **GOOD** and that He is **GOOD TO US...!**
- 5) *We should reign in this life over sin!* (**Rom 6:12-14**) – Being **UNITED** to **JESUS** we are free from the power of sin and we should **NOT** let sin reign in our lives, but present ourselves to God as slaves of righteousness.
- 6) *We should represent our Saviour in everything that we do!* (**Col 3:17**) – As the Puritans emphasized, every legitimate occupation is a **GOD-GIVEN VOCATION**. No matter what you do to earn a living, you can do it for the Lord!
- 7) *We should enjoy God through His creation!* – Forget the mall or the movies. Take a hike, go to the sea, visit the Kruger, and enjoy God through the wonders that He has made!

Psalm 11

Faith vs Fear?

**An INSTRUCTION to stand FIRM in your FAITH in the LORD
when you are TEMPTED to FLEE in FEAR.....!**

Introduction:

- We **ALL** have experienced great times of **CRISIS** in our lives and **WILL** experience great times of crisis in our lives, like many of us are doing **RIGHT NOW!**
- It is in these times of **CRISIS** when we get to see what we **REALLY** believe about God...!
- Times of crisis cuts through all our **OUTWARD PROFESSIONS** of **FAITH** to reveal the **INNER FOUNDATIONS** of what we **REALLY** believe.
- How you and I **RESPOND** to times of crisis in our lives exposes what our **REAL CONVICTIONS** about **GOD** is...!
- In times of **CRISIS** there is a **BATTLE** that we need to fight... the battle of remaining **FIRM** in our **FAITH** vs. **FLEEING** in **FEAR...**
- David writes this Psalm in a time of **CRISIS**.
- It may be in the time when **KING SAUL** was **PERSECUTING** him or when **ABSALOM** was trying to **TAKE THE THRONE...**or some other **CRISIS** that he was experiencing...
- We are not exactly sure, but from the **CONTENT** of the Psalm we can **CLEARLY** see that there was a **THREAT** against him and we see how David was caught in this **BATTLE** between **FAITH** and **FEAR...**
- Please read **Psalm 11...**

Study Points:

- **Verse 1:** David starts this Psalm with a statement of **RESOLVE**.
- He has **DECIDED** and made a **RESOLUTION** to make the **LORD** his **REFUGE**.

- By **IMPLICATION**, he will **NOT** seek out **PEOPLE** or **THINGS** for his **SHELTER** and **PROTECTION**... he will not **TRUST** in **PLANS** or in **SCHEMES** to bring about his **SECURITY**.
- We don't always **FEEL** like making this kind of resolve and therefore this is a resolve based on **TRUTH** and not **FEELINGS**...
- Sometimes we **FEEL** like **FLEEING** – **Ps 55:1-6**
- It is then that we need to preach the **TRUTH** about who God is to ourselves so that **TRUTH** will lead us and **NOT** our **FEELINGS**...
- That is why we need to make **RESOLUTIONS** – determined decisions based on truth – in our lives about what we will stand **ON** and **FOR**...!
- And that is what David is doing in this Psalm.
- **Verse 1a** is his **RESOLUTION** to take **REFUGE** and find **SHELTER** in the **LORD** – **YAHWEH**, the **COVENANT KEEPING** God who is **FAITHFUL**...!
- That sets him up to, in the **FIRST** place, deal with...

1. The TEMPTATION to FLEE in FEAR...! (1b-3)

- The **TEMPTATION** to **FLEE** comes in the form of **ADVICE** and **COUNSEL** from friends in a time of crisis.
- David has set his **HEART**, his **SOUL** on God and now these friends are trying to **TURN** his heart, his soul, **AWAY** from God...
- David is weighing up their counsel... basically he has “fled” to the **LORD** to take “**refuge**” – hiding - in Him and now they say he must “**Flee like a bird to your mountain**” ...
- Q: Which is MORE secure – a MOUNTAIN or GOD...?**
- **THIS** is David's astonishment and wonder that they would **SUGGEST** that a hiding place in the **MOUNTAIN** is more **SECURE** and **SAFE** than taking refuge in **GOD**...!
- There is **NOTHING** in this **WORLD**, nothing that this world can **OFFER** that is a **MORE SECURE HIDING PLACE** for our **SOULS** than **GOD HIMSELF**!
- No **BANK BALANCE**, no **POSSESSIONS**, no **RELATIONSHIP** can bring the **SECURITY** to our **SOULS** that **GOD** can bring...!
- But David gives the **REASON** for this “**ungodly advice**” that his friends with very good intentions gave to him...
- *“The advice given to David is well meant, but ungodly. It is like when Peter advised Jesus to not go the way of the cross (**Matthew 16:22-23**). Peter meant well, but he was really being used by the devil! We must always be careful with the advice we give to others. First, we must always mind our own business and not be busybodies (**1 Thessalonians 4:11, 1 Timothy 5:13**). Second, we can be too confident in our own perception of a situation. Job's friend confidently said, “I will tell you, hear me; what I have seen I will declare” (**Job 15:17**), but he was wrong. Our motive is good and right, but the advice is wrong.”*

• The THREATS:

1.1 PERSONAL DANGER...

- There are an ‘**enemy**’ who is ready to **ATTACK**!
- This enemy is portrayed as an **ASSASSIN** who will **SHOOT** from the **DARK** – thus a **SUDDEN, UNANTICIPATED ATTACK** that is **IMMINENT** – they have already **BENT** their bows – they are just waiting for the opportune moment to strike...
- This **PERSONAL DANGER** that David's fiends are concerned about may be in the form of **PHYSICAL** danger where someone wanted to kill him – thinking of David we know that his very **LIFE** was in danger so often.
- It can also refer to someone who want to attack his **PERSON** in the form of **SLANDER** and **FALSE ACCUSATIONS**... someone who are trying to assassinate his **CHARACTER**...
- This enemy is aiming at David who is “**upright in heart**” – he is **LIVING** with **INTEGRITY** and **HONESTY** before God, striving for a live of **GODLINESS**.
- Remember **2 Tim 3:12**...!
- Not only is there a **PERSONAL DANGER**, but also the threat of...

1.2 PUBLIC DESTRUCTION...

- The word “**foundations**” here refers to the *established institutions of the community* including then *social* and *civil order*... what they are basically **IMPLYING** in their counsel is that the **SOCIETY** as a **WHOLE** is **FALLING APART**...
- David's friends are using this **QUESTION** then to try and **PURSUADE** and even **MANIPULATE** David into following their counsel.

- They end their **PLEA** to **FLEE** with a **QUESTION** – **verse 3b**
- It is a **GOOD QUESTION**... a very **CONVINCING** question... a question that is meant to bring about **PERSUASION** and **SUBMISSION** to their given counsel.
- It may really have **SEEMED** like the foundations were being destroyed and that may even have been their **EXPERIENCE**... just like it seems **NOW** in South Africa and may even be what we experience around the world...!
- **BUT** experience and perception should **NOT** be what is the **DETERMINING FACTOR** in our **DECISION MAKING**... **TRUTH** must be!
- And what **IS** the truth concerning the **FOUNDATIONS**...?
- **Ps 75:3; 1 Sam 2:8**

- The **ADVICE** and **COUNSEL** of these friends is focused on the **CIRCUMSTANCES**... on that what is **VISIBLE** and is focused only on the **HORISONTAL** level.
- **GOD** is not taken into consideration by these friends and there advice is **PURELY PRACTICAL** and based on what the **NATURAL** response to crisis usually is.
- When your experience **PERSONAL DANGER** and when there is all this **PUBLIC DESTRUCTION** happening, what **CAN** the righteous then actually **DO**...?
- This would maybe have been a good place to put in “**selah**” – pause and ponder and think about this deeply...
- But there **ISN’T** a “selah” here and I take it as David being **READY** to respond to this question... He didn’t have to think to long about his response to this well meant but ungodly counsel.
- David then gives his **ANSWER** to this question and **REVEALS** and **INSTRUCTS** us concerning...

2. The FOUNDATION for STANDING FIRM in FAITH...! (v4-7)

- David **ANSWERS** this question with a **MEDITATION** on **WHO GOD IS**...!
- He looks **AWAY** from all these horizontal threats and He looks **UP**... he looks at **GOD** and **MEDITATES** and **REMEMBERS** and **REASONS** about what he **KNOWS** to be the **TRUTH** about **GOD**!
- It is in the **LORD** that he takes his refuge...!
- Where the **COUNSEL** and **ADVICE** is to **LOOK** at and **BEHOLD** the **CIRCUMSTANCES**, David **STARTS** by rather looking at and beholding **GOD** and **WHO HE IS**!
- He them **MEDITATES** and **REMEMBERS** that...

2.1 God is PRESENT...

- God is **PRESENT** in His **CREATION**.
- I take this reference to the **LORD, YAHWEH**, the **COVENANT** keeping God, being in His Holy Temple to God’s **IMMANENCE** – His **COVENANT PRESENCE**.
- It may ‘seem’ like God is not present, but He **IS** present!
- In **ALL** of our situations and crisis’s, **GOD IS THERE**...!
- He, **RIGHT NOW**, is **PRESENT** in **YOUR** and **MY** situation amidst this pandemic with all of its far reaching ramifications!
- David **REMEMBERS** that God is **OMNIPRESENT**. He is **HERE**, right now, with us and with you in **WHATEVER** you may be experiencing... that is the **TRUTH**!

2.2 God is IN CONTROL...

- Not only is He present, but He **ALSO** is His ‘**throne in heaven**’.
- This refers to His **TRANCENDENCE** – that He is also present **OUTSIDE** of this world and that He is **RULING** this world from His throne that is in **HEAVEN**.
- We say this so **OFTEN** to each other and we need to **REMEMBER** and **BELIEVE** it **MORE** – **GOD TRULY IS IN CONTROL** of **EVERYTHING** that **HAPPENS**...!
- He is **RIGHT NOW** in control of **EVERY CRISES** in **YOUR** life and of **EVERY SITUATION** you may be experiencing...!
- David **REMEMBERS** that God is **OMNIPOTENT**... that is the **TRUTH**!

2.3 God KNOWS EVERYTHING...

- God is not **BLIND** to what is happening in this world.
- He is not **OBLIVIOUS** to what is happening in your crises and situation.
- He **SEES** everything and He is the One who is **SCRUTINIZING** everything...!
- His eyelids may refer to when you squint to look carefully and intently at something... when you strain your eyes to miss **NOTHING** and take careful notice of what is happening.

- God is not missing **ANYTHING** that is happening in your crises and situation. He is taking **CAREFUL NOTICE** of it all! (cf. **Ps 33:18-19**)
- David **REMEMBERS** that God is **OMNISCIENT**.
- God **KNOWS** what is happening in your life... He knows about **ALL** of your **HEALTH, FINANCIAL, RELATIONAL, SITUATIONAL, WORK, FAMILY, and FUTURE CRISIS'S...**!
- God **TRANSCENDS** man and He is **PRESENT** with man...!

2.4 God is FAITHFUL...

- The situations and crisis's that **GOD** brings into the lives of the **RIGHTEOUS** is to **TEST** them... to **REFINE** and **STRENGTHEN** their faith.
- God is **GOOD** and **LOVING** and He finds no **DELIGHT** in being **SPITEFUL...**!
- **1 Pet 1:6-7; 1 Cor 10:13; Ps 119:75; Rom 8:28**
- **2 Cor 4:16-18** – no **AFFLICTION** or **CRISIS** is **WASTED** but **EVERYONE** of them is working to achieve a greater degree of glory for you!
- In **EVERY** crisis and situation that the **RIGHTEOUS** may experience, **GOD IS FAITHFUL...**!
- Even if he may be using a crisis to **DISCIPLINE** you, it is because He **LOVES** you...! **Prov 3:11-12**

2.5 God is RIGHTEOUS...

- Therefore he **HATES** those who is **WICKED** and **DON'T** do righteousness.
- God is **NOT** lovingly disciplining those who are living in **OPEN REBELLION** against Him, but reserving **EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT** for them.
- It is a **FEARFUL** thing to fall into His hands! (**Heb 10:31**)
- It will rain down “**snare**” on them – they will be **CAUGHT** in His judgement and they won't be able to escape...!
- It will be **SUDDEN** and it will bring about their **COMPLETE DESTRUCTION**, just as when God **JUDGED** Sodom and Gomorrah.
- This is the portion of the “**cup**” that they are to drink – “**cup**” referring to the **WRATH** of God. (cf. **Matt 26:39**)
- Although it may **SEEM** as if the wicked is getting away with their wickedness, God sees them and He **HATES** their wickedness and He is righteous...
- Whenever you may feel like the wicked is **PROSPERING** and it is **NOT FAIR**, do what Asaph did in **Ps 73**.
- Enter the Lord's temple – draw near to God – and consider the **END** of the wicked... **Ps 73:18-20**

Conclusion:

- **Verse 7:** There is something of **Joh 14:21** here...
- God will reveal Himself to those who does what He loves...!
- David **ENDS** his meditation on his answer to this question in **verse 3** by **REMEMBERING** the **FUTURE GLORY** that awaits the **UPRIGHT... WE WILL SEE GOD...**!
- **Matt 5:8**
- Take **HEART** you that are **UPRIGHT** in heart...!
- **Rom 8:18; Ps 16:11**

Psalm 14

Depraved man and the rescuing God!

God's accurate view of man and his hopeful intervention

Introduction:

- At one stage in our society it was the **NORM** to be **RELIGIOUS** and to call yourself a **CHRISTIAN**.
- Although **MANY** people would only have an **OUTWARD** profession of faith and don't know the **REALITY** of being born again, at least they would **ACKNOWLEDGE** that they do believe in God.
- That time has **PASSED** and there are now many people who would unashamedly claim that they don't have any religion at all and that they are **NOT** Christians...
- In an increasing rate there are more and more people who would profess that they don't believe in **GOD** at all... that they don't believe there **IS** a God...
- People who would call themselves **ATHEISTS...**!
- In **Psalm 14** David then starts this Psalm with his **ASSESSMENT** of someone like this...

- Please read **Psalm 14...**

Study Points:

- **SIX REVELATIONS** concerning **MAN** and **GOD...**

1. The DEPRAVITY of man...! (1-3)

1.1 David's ASSESSMENT of man... (v1)

• **Attitude:**

• “**The FOOL**”- David is not accusing them of not having any **INTELLECTUAL** knowledge. This term that is used by David here has **MORAL** connotations.

• Based on **Rom 1:21-22** there is not such a person as an “**atheist**”- someone who believes that God doesn't exist.

• This term refers to someone who has made an **ETHICAL CHOICE** for **EVIL** namely: *He LIVES as if there is no God...!*

• James Montgomery Boice: *"The reason that this person is a fool and not merely mistaken is that he knows that there is a God and yet he chooses to believe and act as if there is none."*

• The **FOOL** is someone who in light of being able to **KNOW** that truth that there **IS** a God, have made a moral and ethical choice that they want to live without God...!

• They are called **FOOLS** because they live in **OPEN DEFIANCE** against God...!

• This **ATTITUDE** is found in their “**HEARTS...**” **THAT** is where the problem of **SIN** and of **MAN** is truly rooted.

• The **HEART** stand as the **REFERENCE** for the **INNER** man – **WHO** man truly is.

• It is **POSSIBLE** to agree with your **MIND** that God exist, but then **LIE** as if God does not exist, because your **HEART** is not set on Him... There are **MANY PRACTICAL ATHEISTS** in our day and age...!

• **Activity:**

• These **MORAL CHOICE** for **EVIL** flows from **WHO** man is... man is **CORRUPT!**

• This is the **SOURCE** of man's **DEFIANCE** as well as his **BEHAVIOUR...** his **ABOMINABLE** deeds...

• We **SIN** because we are **SINNERS...**

• Our **SINS** of **LYING, STEALING** and **CHEATING...** of **LIVING** as if there is **NO GOD** is only **SYMPTOMATIC** of what is our **REAL PROBLEM** – our **CORRUPT HEARTS!**

• David then looks over **ALL** man and his **FINAL ASSESSMENT** is that there is **NO ONE** who does good.

• Not good in the **HUMAN** sense, but in the sense of doing good to bring glory to **GOD ALONE!**

• But David is a **MAN** just like us and he may just have had a **NEGATIVE** experience with people... it is not to say that **ALL** people are like that...

• But then we find...

1.2 God's DECLARATION of humanity... (v2-3)

• **GOD** is the One who is looking at **ALL** people and He is the One who actually and accurately **KNOWS** all people...

• **Ps 33:13-15; Prov 5:21; Heb 4:13**

• *What does He find?*

• **Apathy:**

• He looks to see if there is **ANYONE** who understands His will and plan and desire to understand it by **SEEKING** Him...

• The statement is phrased in such a way that it is implied that there is **NO ONE** who actually **CARES** about what the plan of God is and what is pleasing to Him.

• *“This statement reveals few desired the ways of God or sought Him in any way. As the Lord looked upon humanity, He saw an apathetic people who cared little, if any, for the Him... The majority today are unconcerned about the state of our world, with no desire to seek the Lord or please Him with the lives they live.”*

• **Apostasy:**

• The apathy of man results therein that man does not only **NOT** seek God, but actually turn **AWAY** from God.

• When we cut ourselves **OFF** from God, there is only **MORE CORRUPTION** that lies ahead of us.

• To turn aside is to **LOSE** your bearings and become **LOST...** to turn of the **PATH** of doing life **GOD's** way and according to **HIS** design...

• God then makes this **VERY CLEAR DECLARATION** regarding humanity – there is **NONE** who does good... **NOT EVEN ONE...!**

• This then is the **TRUE STATE** of the **DEPRAVITY** of **MAN...** This is what **GOD** declares about **WHO MAN IS...!**

2. The DECLINE of man... (v4)

- **Incompetence**... they have no knowledge because they have **REJECTED** the only source of true knowledge. They also live as if there is **NO ACCOUNTABILITY**... they have **NO REGARD** for **MAN**, **THEMSELVES**, or a **HOLY** and **RIGHTEOUS** God...!
- **Intolerance**... those who reject God doesn't just **STAY** there... they move on to become **HOSTILE** towards God and all that would be seeking God. It becomes their "**daily bread**" to bring affliction on those who believe in God.
- **Indifference**... they live their lives in **COMPLETE** dependence on themselves and do not call upon Him... they are **INDIFFERENT** towards Him and their **PRAYERLESSNESS**, **NOT** calling on Him, reveals that they think they don't **NEED** Him and that they have no **DESIRE** for Him

3. The DESTRUCTION of man... (v5a)

- But the **JUDGEMENT** of God is **NOT** idle over them...
- Think of the **FLOOD**... think of **SODOM** and **GOMORRAH**...
- **"God will not honour sinfulness and utter wickedness. David knew they may have enjoyed a season of revelry and indulgence in this life, but they would all stand before God in judgment."**
- When God comes to **JUDGE** those who have not **EXPERIENCED HIS GRACE**, who have not **RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST**, it will be **TERRIFYING** for them...!
- It is indeed a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! (cf. **Heb 10:31**)
- **"Those who have never received Christ in salvation will face eternal separation from God in torment."**

4. The RESCUE of God... (v5b-7a)

- Who is this "**generation of the righteous**"? Where do they come from?
- It is those who have put their **TRUST** in the **LORD**... those who have come to **FAITH** through the saving work of God!
- **Rom 3:21-24**
- God is then also the One who will **PROTECT** these righteous ones from the **ATTACKS** of these unbelievers.
- The **UNRIGHTEOUS** have **MANY PLANS** against those whose lives **CONVICTS** them, plans to **RUIN** them, to make them poor, but the **LORD** is their refuge...
- Think of **Prov 18:10**.
- David was then **ANTICIPATING** the coming of the **MESSIAH** and the **SALVATION** that He would bring.
- The **SALVATION** of God **HAS COME**...!
- His Name is **JESUS** and He has come to save **SINNERS** from the **DEPRAVITY**, **DECLINE** and **DESTRUCTION** that they are heading for left to themselves...!
- We are now anticipating the **RETURN** of Jesus to fetch his own and **JUDGE** this world... Oh, that our **FINAL SALVATION** would **COME**!
- I don't know about you, but I am **TIRED** and things are just getting more and more difficult...! More and more **GODLESS**...!
- Praise be to God that He is the **ONE** who **RESCUES** us!

5. The RESTORATION of God... (v7b)

- God is **FAITHFUL**!
- He **HAS** been faithful throughout all of history to His **PROMISES** made in His **COVENANTS** and He **WILL** fulfil every one of those **PROMISES**...!
- He will bring about the **RESTORATION** of His people and He will **PRESERVE** those whom He has saved until they inherited the **NEW** heavens and the **NEW** earth.

6. Let us therefore REJOICE in GOD! (v7c)

- This is then the **HOPEFUL INTERVENTION** that God brings in this **DARK WORLD** and the **CAUSE** for us to **REJOICE** and be **GLAD** in **GOD**!
- Although it may be very **DARK** and **DIFFICULT** now, we can know that *for the Christian, the best is always yet to come...!*
- **REJOICE** in this that **THIS WORLD** is **NOT** your final destination...
- **"I don't know how dark this world may get. We have no way of knowing what we might face in the future. I believe we will face some difficult and trying days, but we must keep our focus on the Lord. It is always darkest just before the dawn. The difficulties and trials we may endure will not compare to the joys we will share in the presence of our Lord. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy is coming in the morning!"**

Closing Thoughts:

- This is a Psalm to **WARN** those who are living like **FOOLS**... the day of **TERROR** is coming...! **REPENT!**
 - It is also a Psalm to **ENCOURAGE** those whose trust is in the **LORD**... the day of **RESTORATION** is coming! **HOLD ON!**
-

Psalm 15 Desiring God!

Who can have intimate fellowship with God?

Introduction:

- The Bible calls David a man after God's own heart – **Acts 13:22**
- Yet David was a **MAN** just like us and he had many **FLAWS** and stumbled in **MANY WAYS**...
- *What made David then a man after God's own heart? What was it about David that made him so SPECIAL...?*
- I believe that **ONE** of the things is that David had a **LONGING** for **GOD**...!
- David's heart was always **LONGING** to be **CLOSER** to God, to **KNOW** more of Him, to have greater **FELLOWSHIP** with Him... to be **SATISFIED** in God...!
- Think of the following verses in the Psalms: **Ps 27:4; 63:1-2; 65:4**
- It is clear that David wanted to be **CLOSE** to the **LORD**...!
- In **Psalm 15** we have the **ULTIMATE INTERVIEW**. A **Q & A** with **GOD HIMSELF** and there is only **ONE QUESTION**...
- This is then a **WISDOM PSALM** with the theme behind it of **DESIRING GOD**. And in this Psalm, we find the answer to the ultimate question namely: **WHO can have INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP with GOD...?**
- Please read **Psalm 15**...

Study Points:

1. The Question. (v1)

- The question is directed to **GOD HIMSELF** and so we are **NOT** busy with human speculation but with the **TRUTH** of **GOD**...!
- **“Sojourn”** – carries the thought of being **STRANGERS** and **PILGRIMS** in this world...
- **“Tent”** – was the place of **MEETING** where God was **PRESENT**...
- **Therefore:** While we are here on earth **WHO** may walk in the **PRESENCE** of **GOD**?
- Also possible is the thought that there are so **MANY** who profess to be Christians and be in fellowship with God. But who is truly **WORTHY** to be **CLOSE** to God? How are we to **DISTINGUISH** the **TRUE WORSHIPPERS** from the **FALSE**...?
- The question then goes a little bit **FURTHER** and **DEEPER** and **MORE ETERNAL**...
- **“Dwell”** – permanent, fixed, steadfast, **ETERNAL**...
- **“Holy Hill”** – Zion, the city of **GOD**, His permanent residence, **HEAVEN**...!
- **Therefore:** Who will be allowed to be in God's presence **NOW** and for **ETERNITY**?
- And so, this is what David is seeking an answer on in this Psalm:

*Who may enjoy the presence of God now and for eternity?
What is true of someone who knows God and longs for Him?*

- We need to understand though that this Psalm is **NOT** about **SALVATION** or **REDEMPTION** but rather about **SANCTIFICATION**... about **PURSUING INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP** with God.
- This question should be the **LONGING** of every **TRUE CHRISTIAN** – that they want to be as close to God as possible... to have **FELLOWSHIP** with God... to **ENJOY** God... to **TASTE** and **SEE** that the Lord is **GOOD**...!

2. The ANSWER. (v2-5b)

- We find that the **ANSWER** to this **QUESTION** can be group into **THREE CATEGORIES** namely:

A) His INTEGRITY: (His **WALK, WORKS,** and **WORDS** before **GOD**...)

1) He **WALKS BLAMELESSLY.**

- **“complete, whole”**

- He is **CONSISTENT** in **ALL AREAS** of his life. He has the **HABIT** of **BEING** the same **DAY IN** and **DAY OUT**... whether other people see him or don't...
- He is not only **ACTING** holy – being a hypocrite – but his **WALK** before the **LORD** testifies of **TRUE** holiness.
- No one is able to **ACCUSE** of **OPEN, BLATANT, WILFUL SIN**....

2) He **DOES** what is **RIGHT** – *practises righteousness*.

- It is to **DO** what one **KNOWS** to be **RIGHT** before **GOD** and **MAN**... **Jam 4:17**
- It refers to **SIMPLE OBEDIENCE** to God – **IMMEDIATELY, RESPECTFULLY** and **JOYFULLY**, without any **REASONING**...
- A life that is **FOCUSED** on **PLEASING GOD** and **SERVING MAN**.

3) He **SPEAKS** the **TRUTH** in his **HEART**.

- His **HEART** is **SET** on the **TRUTH** – he **CHERISHES** the truth in his **HEART** and it is **REVEALED** in His **WORDS**...
- In his most **INNER BEING**, his heart, his **CONVERSATION** with himself is **PERMEATED** with the **TRUTH**.
- There where **NO ONE** except **HIMSELF** and **GOD** can see, there he is **BUSY** with the **TRUTH** and no **IMPURE** or **WICKED** or **FALSE** conversations.
- **Phil 4:8**
- It is then **OBVIOUS** that His **SPEECH** will also then be in line with the **TRUTH**...
- He is what he is because ultimately, he knows that he doesn't stand before **MEN**, but before God that **SEES** everything and **KNOWS** everything about him – **Ps 33:13-15; Prov 15:11; Heb 4:13**

B) His RELATIONSHIPS: (His **BEHAVIOUR** in his relationships...)

1) He **DOESN'T STRIP** others of their **REPUTATION** through His **WORDS**...

- “backbites”
- He doesn't say things with the **MOTIVE** and **INTENTION** to **HARM** someone else's **NAME** or **REPUTATION**.
- He is not busy with **CHARACTER ASSASSINATION**...!
- **Eph 4:29; Jam 3:8-12**
- The **DEEPEST WOUNDS** are **INFLECTED** by the **TONGUE**.

2) Does no **EVIL** to **OTHER PEOPLE**...

- Either in **WORD** or in **DEED**.
- There is no **WILFUL EVIL** and **BAD** intention to bring **HARM PHYSICALLY** or **EMOTIONALLY** to other people. He doesn't **SCHEME** to bring about the **HURT** or **RUIN** or **DEFAMATION** of someone else.
- **Rom 13:8-10; Matt 7:12**
- **Rom 12:17-21** is also true of him. He doesn't **RETALIATE** and repay evil with evil...

3) He doesn't **LEND OUT HIS EARS** for all kinds of **ACCUSATIONS** against his **FRIEND**...

- Albert Barnes: *“The idea is that of “taking up,” or receiving as true, or readily giving credit to it. He is slow to believe evil of another. He does not grasp at it greedily as if he had pleasure in it. He does not himself originate such a reproach, nor does he readily and cheerfully credit it when it is stated by others. If he is constrained to believe it, it is only because the evidence becomes so strong that he cannot resist it, and his believing it is contrary to all the desires of his heart.”*
- He believes the **BEST** about his friends and in his eyes they are **INNOCENT** until proven **GUILTY** and even **THEN** he still doesn't **WANT** to believe it...! (cf. **1 Cor 13:7**)
- He doesn't **ENTERTAIN** all kinds of **ACCUSATIONS, GOSSIP** or **SLANDER** against his **FRIENDS**. He doesn't make himself **AVAILABLE** for it...!
- He would rather do **EVERYTHING** in his power to show such accusations to be **WRONG** and to **STOP** them...!

4) He **DESPISES** the **UNGODLY** and doesn't **APPROVE** of them...

- No matter what their **POSITION** they may have or how much **POWER** they may possess.
- He is not **PARTIAL** towards people who can benefit him although he **KNOW** that they are **UNGODLY**.
- He doesn't hold the ungodly as his **ROLE MODELS** in trying to **BE** like them and he doesn't seek out **INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP** with them... (cf. **2 Cor 6:14-16**)
- He doesn't go around telling how **BAD** they are, but he doesn't **COMMEND** or **APPROVE** of them either...
- **Ps 16:4; Heb 11:24-27**

5) He HONOURS those who FEARS the LORD.

- **Ps 16:3**

- Irrespective of their position in the world, he seeks to give **HONOUR** and **RESPECT** to those who have **TRUE WISDOM** and he holds them in **ESTEEM**.

- **Rom 12:10**

- The thought is that he is willing to associate with the **NOBODIES** of this world, but are **GODLY**, because they are the **SAINTS**.

- He doesn't judge people as the **WORLD** would judge people, but rather how **GOD** would judge people!

- **Jam 2:1-9**

C) His SELFLESSNESS: (His dealings with his **RESOURCES** and **MONEY**...)

1) He is NOT INCONSISTENT in his COMMITMENTS...

- His **YES** is his **YES**...

- He goes **THROUGH** with his **COMMITMENTS**, even though it ends up costing him more in **TIME**, **ENERGY** and **RESOURCES** than he may have eventually thought...!

- His **REPUTATION** is more valuable to him than any **MATERIAL** things...

- **Jam 5:12**

2) He is not GREEDY...

- He doesn't try and make a dishonest gain from someone but instead he is **GENEROUS**...

- **1 Tim 6:6-10**

- **Rom 12:13; 1 Joh 3:17-18; Gal 6:10**

3) He is not FOR SALE...

- You cannot **MANIPULATE** or **BUY** him with money.

- He will not inflict suffering on someone who is innocent for the sake of **BENEFITTING** himself...

- **Prov 17:23**

3. The Promise. (v5c)

- Notice what he is **NOT** saying: It is **NOT** those who **BELIEVE, PROFESS, PROCLAIM, MEDITATE, PRAY, MEAN, UNDERSTAND** these things... **BUT**, He who **DOES** these things...!

- **Matt 7:24-25; Joh 13:17; Jam 1:22**

- He will, **DWELL** with the **LORD** in **INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP** and **GOD** is the **ONE** who will **SUSTAIN** and **KEEP** Him there...!

Conclusion:

- **THIS** is then the person who may **ENJOY** the **PRESENCE** of God **NOW** and for **ALL ETERNITY**.

- This is the **CALL** that goes out to **EVERY CHRISTIAN** that is **TRULY DESIRING GOD**... they must **STRIVE** to make these **CHARACTERISTICS** their **HABITUAL** way of life.

- The **COMFORT** is that **JESUS** is the one who **FULFILLED ALL** of these **REQUIREMENTS** and that **IN HIM** we can **DRAW NEAR** to God...!

- He has come to give us the **ULTIMATE GIFT** of the Gospel – **FELLOWSHIP** with **GOD**...!

Psalm 16

Be satisfied in God!

Finding your ultimate GOOD, JOY and PLEASURE in GOD?

Introduction:

- If there is **ONE THING** that you would be able to ask God **TODAY**, what would it be? **ONE THING** that if you would ask Him, He would give it to you **RIGHT NOW**... What is the **ONE DESIRE** of your **HEART** that is **ABOVE** all other desires that, if it were **FULFILLED**, you would be **SATISFIED**...?

- In **Exodus** we read about a man called Moses. He spoke to God face to face, as a man would speak to his friend (cf. **Exo 33:11**). In his conversation with God in **Exo 33** we read where there comes a moment when Moses is said to have found favour in God's eyes and that God would go with him from that place and give him rest (cf. **Exo 33:14, 17**). Moses, seeing an opportunity, ventures to speak out and make known the **DEEPEST DESIRE** of his **HEART**... What was his **DEEPEST DESIRE**?

- **Exo 33:18**...That he would see the **GLORY OF GOD**... That he would be able to **BEHOLD GOD**

- **HIMSELF**...!

- Max Lucado writes the following in his book, “**It’s not about me**”: “*When our deepest desire is not the things of God, or a favour of God, but God Himself, we cross a threshold.*”
- In the New Testament we read about a man named Paul and the **ONE THING** that was his **DEEPEST DESIRE** namely - **Phil 1:21-23; 3:7-8...**
- We live in a time where people, and maybe even some of us, don’t **DESIRE** God and where many are not **SATISFIED** in God... this is a sad state that Christianity is in...
- Many people now “**DESIRE**” God for what He can **DO** for them... or more specifically, can **GIVE** to them...
- That is **STILL** the central message of the **PROSPERITY GOSPEL** namely that if you would “**serve**” God, He would make you **RICH, PROSPEROUS** and **HEALTHY**...
- Many of us **REJECT** this kind of “**gospel**” for what it is, a **FALSE** Gospel, but what happens when things start to **BREAK**... when we get **SICK**... when we **LOSE** our **JOBS**... when we don’t have the **MONEY** we want... when we don’t have **WATER** and **ELECTRICITY**... when **MINISTRY** doesn’t work out as we planned and hoped... *when things just aren’t going “well” with us anymore...?*
- Are we then still **SATISFIED** and **JOYFUL** that we **KNOW JESUS CHRIST**...? Is He **ENOUGH** for us in times like that...? Is He **ENOUGH** for us in **ALL SEASONS** of our lives...? Is he **RIGHT NOW ENOUGH** for you...?
- Aren’t we in that sense then maybe **GUILTY** of pursuing a “type” of **PROSPERITY GOSPEL**...?
- Many of us know the phrase that John Piper coined... *God is most GLORIFIED in us when we are most SATISFIED in Him...*
- It is **ABSOLUTELY TRUE!**
- This is what is **LACKING** in many people’s “**Christianity**”... they are not **REALLY** satisfied in **GOD** and therefore He is not really **GLORIFIED** in their lives... I know that this is something that is often lacking in my own heart... that I **DON’T** desire God as I should...
- **Psalms 16** is a Psalm that reveals a **HEART** – it is a **HEART Psalm** and it is about “*Being SATISFIED in GOD*” and we will look to **PROOF** this simple statement namely that:

Those who are SATISFIED in God are the ones who DELIGHT in Him...!

- In this **Psalm** of David we are shown what it looks like **PRACTICALLY** when someone is **SATISFIED** with God and **DELIGHT** therefore **IN HIM**...!
 - David wrote this **Psalm** when his **LIFE** was maybe in some or other form of **DANGER** – either because of **ENEMIES** or because of **SICKNESS**...
 - In this **TRYING TIME**, whatever it may have been, David **STARTS** this **Psalm** with a **PRAYER** based on a **DECLARATION**...
 - His **PRAYER** reveals that He is **TRUSTING** in God to **CARRY HIM THROUGH** this trying situation – “**preserve me**”
 - His **DECLARATION** that forms the **REASON** for his prayer – he is **RUNNING** to **GOD** and seeking His **HELP** and **DELIVERANCE** and **PROTECTION IN HIM**... **NOT** in his **POSSESSIONS, POSITION, PAYCHECK** or anything else.
 - He is seeking his refuge in the **PERSON** of **WHO GOD IS**...
 - **WHY?**
 - Because he is **SATISFIED** in God and **DELIGHTS** in Him...!
- Q: In WHAT or WHO do you seek REFUGE when life gets tough...?**
- Please read **Psalms 16**...

Study Points:

- Those who are **SATISFIED** in God will **DELIGHT** in:

1. The LORDSHIP of God. (v1-2a)

- They acknowledge Him as the **COVENANTAL GOD** who **KEEPS** His promises who is also the **SOVEREIGN GOD** who works everything according to His plan and purpose.
- They further **ACKNOWLEDGE** that God is **THEIR** God... their **MASTER, BOSS** and **LORD** (“*Adonai*”) and that He **OWNS** their lives to do and direct as He sees fit.
- They **SUBMIT** themselves under His **LORDSHIP** so that His will be done in their lives – that He can do what is **GOOD** and bring about that His Name is **GLORIFIED**. (**Matt 6:9**...)
- They **REST** in the reality that **HE IS THE LORD!** (cf. **Ps 46:10**)

2. The GOODNESS of God. (v2b)

- Every **GOOD GIFT** comes from God and therefore we literally will have **NOTHING** good if God doesn't give it to us. (**Jam 1:17**)
- But the **BEST GIFT** ever is **GOD HIMSELF!** This is the **GREATEST** gift that we get through the Gospel – **GOD!**
- God is **LITERALLY** the **BEST THING** that can **EVER** happen to anyone...!
- If you **HAVE GOD**, there is **NOTHING** and **NO ONE BETTER!!**
- Francis Chan in *Crazy Love*: “*The greatest good on this earth is God Himself. Period. God’s one goal for us is Himself.*”

3. The SAINTS of God. (v3-4)

- He is **DELIGHTED** over those who sets the Lord before themselves and strive to be holy as He is holy – the “**SAINTS**” those who are **CALLED** and **SET APART** for God.
- His **ROLEMODELS** are those whose delight is in God and therefore his delights is in them. It is **THEM** that he approves of and put before himself and others as **EXAMPLES** worthy of following.
- He does **NOT** look to those who according to the **WORLD** are **SUCCESSFUL**, but those who according to **GOD** have **TRUE** success namely that they **KNOW** God, that they **PLEASE** God and that their lives bring **GLORY** to God. (cf. **Col 1:9-10**)
- His delight is **NOT** in people who have **NO DELIGHT** in God, but who delights in all kinds of **IDOLS** – **FAKE** gods that they worship with their **TIME, MONEY, and LIVES**.
- He wants **NO PART** of their lives or of their **IDOLATRY**. He doesn't **APPROVE** of **THEM** or their gods in **ANY WAY...!**
- The **IDOLATRY** in our culture is not so much bowing down to **STATUES**, but rather **IDOLS** of the **HEART** in the form of **MATERIALISM, COMFORT, PLEASURE, LUST, LEISURE...**
- He doesn't take these people to be his **EXAMPLES** or to put them as **EXAMPLES** before **OTHERS**, but rather **EXPOSE** them for who they are and the **REALITY** that they will **NOT** find true **JOY** in their idolatry, but rather **INCREASING SORROW** in their lives...
- He doesn't call those “**friends**” who have chosen to be **ENEMIES** with God! (**Jam 4:4**)

4. The PERSON of God. (v5-6)

- Someone that is **SATISFIED** in God finds his **DELIGHT** in **WHO** God is, more than in what God can **DO** for Him...! They **LOVE** God for **WHO** He is...!
- He **DELIGHTS** in the reality that **GOD** is his inheritance, that he gets the **LORD** to be his portion for all eternity.
- He **DELIGHTS** in that because that is what his **HEART** longs for the most – **GOD HIMSELF!**
- This is then what the **GREATEST COMMANDMENT** implies – **Mark 12:30...**
- This is what Asaph declared in **Ps 73:25-26**
- David maybe also thoughts about the Levites who didn't receive a portion of the land when they conquered Canaan, but it is said that the **LORD** was their portion – **Num 18:20; Deut 10:9**
- Others find their joy in what God **PROVIDES**, but those that are **SATISFIED** in God find their joy in the **PROVIDER** – in the **PERSON** of God...!

5. The COUNSEL of God. (v7)

- He seeks the **COUNSEL** of God above the counsel of the world.
- When he **LACKS INSIGHT** and **WISDOM**, he **FIRST** turns to God and His Word for instruction and direction in his circumstances and situation.
- By implication, he **DELIGHTS** in the **WORD** of God and that he spends **TIME** in seeking the counsel of God through the **BIBLE**.
- His perspective concerning the Word of God is that of **Ps 19:7-11**
- It is through the counsel of God that we are **WARNED**; that we are shown what **SIN** is keeping us from **INTIMACY** with God; that learns us how to **DEAL** with this sin so that we may draw closer to God.
- To delight in God is to delight in His **WORD** – His **WORD** is His **WISDOM**, His **COUNSEL**, revealed.
- This counsel of God is in his **HEART** and therefore even when he lies in bed, he is **FURTHER** instructed in the ways of God.

6. The BEHOLDING of God. (v8)

- He is **CONSTANTLY** busy studying the **ATTRIBUTES** of God...!
- His **PURPOSE** and **MISSION** in life is to **KNOW GOD MORE!**
- That **IS** eternal life – **Joh 17:3**, and that is what we should “**boast**” in namely **KNOWING GOD** – **Jer 9:23-24**

- It is when we get to **KNOW** God in **ALL** of His **MAJESTY** and **SPLENDOUR** that we **REALIZE** that we need to **FEAR NOTHING** and **NO ONE ELSE!**
- When He is **WITH US**, we know that we will not be **SHAKEN** – not because of what we think about ourselves, but because we **KNOW** in whom we have **TRUSTED!** (cf. **2 Tim 1:12**)
- The more we get to **KNOW** God, the more we will **TRUST** in Him! (cf. **Ps 9:10**)

7. ETERNITY with God. (v9-10)

- He knows that **DEATH** is **NOT** final and that there will be a **RESURRECTION** from the dead.
- His whole **BEING REJOICES** in this, for he understands that his whole existence is **SECURE** in the hands of God!
- He has **NO FEAR** of death, but rather an **EXPECTATION** and a **HOPE** of eternity with God.
- It is this **HOPE** that brings about true **JOY** and **PEACE** in his life.
- This verse is then also quoted in **Acts 2:24-32** by Peter and in **Acts 13:34-37** by Paul to show that this was a prophecy about the **RESURRECTION OF JESUS**.
- It is through our **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus that we also have this **HOPE** of the **RESURRECTION** unto eternal life! (cf. **Joh 6:39-40; 11:25-26**)
- His focus is therefore **NOT ON THIS WORLD** but he knows that this **LIGHT** and **MOMENTARY AFFLICTION** will bring about an eternal weight of glory! (cf. **2 Cor 4:16-18; Rom 8:18**)
- His joy is in the **REALITY** that **DEATH** is not final, but only the **DOORWAY** into eternity with God.

8. The ETERNAL REWARDS of God. (v11)

- Ultimately, there is only **ONE** true source of **SATISFYING JOY** – being in the **PRESENCE** of **GOD!**
- God **DELIGHTS** in giving **PLEASURE** to his children and this image of pleasures being in His right hand is that of a Father who **DELIGHTS** in giving **GOOD** and **PERFECT GIFTS** to his children.
- This is the **LIFE** that God wants His children to long for – a life of **ETERNAL JOY** in his presence!
- This is why **JESUS** came – to give us **LIFE** and that in **ABUNDANCE!** (**Joh 10:10**)

*God's plan for His children, for those who are **SATISFIED** in Him and **DELIGHT** in Him, is that He will give to them **FULNESS of JOY** and **PLEASURES forevermore...!***

- **NOT** being satisfied in God will result in a **JOYLESS** life and **ETERNITY...!**
- Our issue is **NOT** that we are seeking too **MUCH** joy, it is that we are settling for too **LITTLE** joy...!
- *We are settling for scraps while we can have the whole buffet...!*

Conclusion:

- The simple question is then:

*Are YOU satisfied with God? Is He YOUR greatest and deepest **DESIRE** and **DELIGHT**?*

- That is what He **WANTS** to be...! (cf. **Matt 22:37**)
- He is the One who can **CHANGE YOUR HEART** and make this **TRUE** of **YOUR** heart.
- If this then is **NOT** the reality of your heart, stop trying harder to **MAKE** it the reality, but rather simply **DRAW NEAR** to God...
- We find Jesus' command for those who are **LUKEWARM** in **Rev 3:20...**
- **Jam 4:8** is the solution for those who are “double-minded” or “double-hearted”...
- If it is that you have **ABANDONED** your first love, hear the words of Jesus in **Rev 2:4-5...**
- May it be that we will be **SATISFIED** in **GOD...!**

Psalm 32

The joy of forgiveness!

The joy of your salvation lies in the reality of being forgiven, washed clean of all sins?

Introduction:

• Steven Cole: *“You have never been so tense in your life. You have been held in custody without bail on a murder charge. The courtroom battle has dragged on for weeks, draining your vitality and weighing upon you with increasing anxiety. Finally, the big moment has arrived. With your hands manacled, the bailiff leads you into the courtroom. The jury files in after several days of deliberations. The courtroom falls silent as the judge calls the court to order. He asks, “Mr. Foreman, do you have a verdict?” Your heart is*

pounding and your mouth is dry as you watch him rise. The rest of your life depends upon his words. "Your honor, the jury finds the defendant... not guilty."

Not guilty! A flood of relief sweeps over you and tears of joy well up in your eyes. Not guilty! It's as if a heavy weight has dropped from your shoulders! The bailiff unlocks your handcuffs and you hear the judge declare, "You are free to go." Freedom from condemnation! Life suddenly takes on new meaning. You are free from confinement, free from the constant pressure of the charges against you, free to begin a new life, because you have been released from those charges. Can you imagine how that would feel?"

- Please read **Psalm 32**
- This **Psalm** is a **WISDOM Psalm**, a **Psalm** in which David is **INSTRUCTING** us on the **JOY** that comes from being **FORGIVEN** by God.
- This **Psalm** is closely related to **Ps 51**, although this may be written **AFTER Ps 51**.
- This might even be the **FULFILMENT** of what David said in **Ps 51:12-13**
- It is **MEANT** as an **INSTRUCTION** and therefore we would be discerning what **LESSONS** we can learn from this **Psalm** about **FORGIVENESS**...

Study Points:

- Lets focus on some **LESSONS** about **FORGIVENESS** that we can learn from this **Psalm**:

1. The PRIMARY lesson about FORGIVENESS. (v1-2)

Being Forgiven is the SOURCE of TRUE, BIBLICAL JOY!

- "Blessed" – **HAPPY... WELL SPOKEN OF... FORTUNATE...** to be **ENVIED...**
- David uses **THREE** different **TERMS** to describe our sinfulness and guilt **COMPREHENSIVELY**:
 - "**Transgression**" – **REBELLION** against the law... (cf. **1 Joh 3:4**)
 - "**Sin**" – **MISSING** the **MARK** of **OBEDIENCE**... (cf. **Jam 4:17**)
 - "**Iniquity**" – Being **PERVERTED** and **CORRUPT**... being **STAINED** by sin in our **HEARTS**... (cf. **Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9**)
- David also uses **THREE** different **TERMS** to describe the **CONCEPT** of forgiveness **COMPREHENSIVELY**.
 - "**Forgiven**" – to **CARRY OF** and **TAKE AWAY**... our **GUILT** is carried of and taken away from us when God forgives us.... Jesus is the One who carried it away...! (cf. **Acts 13:38-39**)
 - "**Covered**" – **OUT OF SIGHT** and **DEALT** with... it is **COVERED** by the **BLOOD** of Jesus and **DEALT** with on the cross... (cf. **Isa 43:25**)
 - "**Counts**" – will not be **HELD AGAINST** in **JUDGEMENT**... Jesus has been **JUDGED** in our place and **ALL** of our sins was brought against Him and **PLACED** upon Him so that there **IS NO MORE JUDGEMENT** for those who are in Christ...! (cf. **Rom 8:1**)
- The **JOY** of forgiveness is that God deals **COMPREHENSIVELY** with **ALL** of our sins...!
- This He has done in **JESUS CHRIST** when He put forth **JESUS** as the **PROPITIATION** for our sins, to **APPEASE** and **SATISFY** His **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **WRATH**! (cf. **Rom 3:23-26**)
- It brings about that we can have a **CLEAR CONSCIENCE** before God...!

2. Lessons about FORGIVENESS from David's EXPERIENCE. (v3-5)

2.1 If you try to HIDE your sin, you will NOT be happy...!

- "Kept silent" – **PERSEVERING** in **NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY** for his sin...
- **SICKNESS** and **VITALITY** was **LOST** by David because **GOD'S HAND** was upon him as he tried to cover up his sin.
- This proves that David was a **SON** of God, for God was lovingly disciplining David – **Heb 12:7**
- But don't miss the reality that **MISERY** and **SORROW** are the **PORTION** of those who live with **UNCONFESED SINS**...!
- **Prov 28:13; Ps 38:2-8**

2.2 The PATHWAY to FORGIVENESS and JOY is by taking RESPONSIBILITY for you sin and CONFESSING it...!

- Confessing is in **ACKNOWLEDGING** your sin – **AGREEING** with God – and in taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for you sin by not trying to **COVER** it and **EXPLAIN** it away or **JUSTIFYING** it or **BLAMING** it on something or someone else.
- **MANY** are living in **MISERY** and **SORROW**, because they will not **AGREE** with God about their **SIN** and not take **RESPONSIBILITY**...!

- They have **RENAMED SIN** and now call it **SICKNESSES** or **DISORDERS** or **DYSFUNCTIONALITIES** or **PERSONALITY TRAITS**... the **HOPELENESS** is that then you must simply **LIVE** with it.
- Seeing it as **SIN** brings the **HOPE** that it can be **FORGIVEN** and **TAKEN AWAY**...!
- *The wonderful, merciful and gracious REALITY is:*

If we would only UNCOVER our sins, God would COVER them by the BLOOD of CHRIST...!

- **FORGIVENESS** and **RESTORATION** was **READY**, but **CONFESSION** was the **PATH** that lead to it. There can be **NO RESTORATION** without **CONFESSION** of sins. (cf. **1 Joh 1:9; Acts 3:19-20**)
- **FORGIVENESS** came **IMMEDIATELY** when David confessed his sins... no **PROBATION**... **INSTANT RECONCILIATION** just like the prodigal son. (cf. **Luk 15:20-24** – note **verse 22**: “bring quickly...”)

3. Lessons about FORGIVENESS from David’s INSTRUCTION. (v6-10)

3.1 Be QUICK to confess your sins!

- Confess you sin **BEFORE** it is necessary for God to **DISCIPLINE** you.
- Some of the blessings that those who are **QUICK** to confess experience:
 - They will **NOT** be overtaken by the **JUDGEMENT** and **DISCIPLINE** of God.
 - God will be their **PROTECTION** as they are in **FELLOWSHIP** with Him, as they take **REFUGE** in Him.
- The **INCENTIVE** to be **QUICK** to confess your sins is that it would keep you in **FELLOWSHIP** with God...!
- That is why we are to daily pray for God’s forgiveness, cf. **Matt 6:12**. It is so that we can remain in **FELLOWSHIP** and **INTIMACY** with God...!
- Forgiveness is **GOOD**, but **FELLOWSHIP** and **INTIMACY** is **BETTER**...!
- C.H. Spurgeon: *“Observe that the same man who in the fourth verse was oppressed by the presence of God, here finds a shelter in Him. See what honest confession and full forgiveness will do!”*

3.2 Do not be IMPULSIVE or STUBBORN concerning your sin...!

- A Horse that is **IMPULSIVE** and a Mule that is **STUBBORN** is used here to show that they can be **GUIDED**, but many times it is with **GREAT DIFFICULTY**.
- God is **COMMITTED** to bringing you to **HOLINESS** – don’t be like a **STUBBORN ANIMAL** whom He has to guide with constant **AFFLICTIONS** and **TRIALS** or an **IMPULSIVE** animal that unthinkingly **RUNS** toward sin...!
- God says through David that He will **INSTRUCT** us and that He will **GUIDE** us... by **NOT** being stubborn and impulsive we can experience the **BLESSING** of His **JOYFUL** guidance, of his **EYE** that is upon us and **KNOWS** what is best for us... and to **KEEP** us from falling into more sin.
- Just **DON’T BE STUBBORN** and **IMPULSIVE**... be **TEACHABLE** and pursue His avenues of **COUNSEL**.
- Here is a **WARNING** about being **STUBBORN** and **IMPULSIVE** – your **SORROWS** will be **MANY**.
- To be stubborn and impulsive is to live like a **WICKED** person – living as if **YOU** are in **CONTROL** and not **GOD**.
- He who is **TEACHABLE** and **TRUST** in the guidance of the **LORD**, he will have the **EXPERIENCE** of God’s steadfast love in his life.

4. The PRIMARY lesson applied. (v5-6)

- David closes with a command to concerning **CORPORATE JOY**!
- Think about the **REALITY** that through your **FORGIVENESS** you are in a **RIGHT STANDING** with God and that the **STAIN** of **SIN** has been **REMOVED** from your **HEART** so that your **HEART** is upright before God...!
- Therefore, **BE GLAD, REJOICE** and **SHOUT FOR JOY** together with all those who **SHARE** in this **REALITY**...!
- Our times of **CORPORATE WORSHIP** whenever we gather should be **MARKED** with being **JOYFUL** in the Lord for the **FORGIVENESS** He has worked for us through the **BLOOD OF JESUS**...!

• God’s FORGIVENESS and RESTORATION that leads to FELLOWSHIP and JOY with Him is AVAILABLE...! DO NOT wallow in your SINS any longer! Come to JESUS, CONFESS your sin and experience the JOY of being FORGIVEN!

- **Ps 86:5; Isa 1:18; Matt 11:28-30**

Conclusion:

- Other than heeding the command of **verse 11**, I also want to remind us of **Col 3:12-15**...
 - **RECEIVING** the grace of God should cause us to **BECOME** like the grace of God.
 - We should **FORGIVE** as we have been **FORGIVEN** and we should do this **JOYFULLY**... from the **HEART**...! (cf. **Matt 18:35**)
 - Here are **TWO QUESTIONS** to think about:
 - 1) *Are you living with a clean conscience before God, confessing and repenting from your sins?*
 - 2) *Are you extending the same forgiveness that you have received from God to those who wrong you?*
-

Psalm 42

Dealing with discouragement!

The honest seeking of a discouraged saint for the presence of God

Introduction:

- One of the **GREATEST FEARS** of **MANY PEOPLE** is possibly the **FEAR** of being **ABANDONED** or **FORGOTTEN**...
- In the movie *“The Patriot”* one of the most **GRIPPING SCENES** is where Benjamin’s, played by Mel Gibson, little daughter, Sarah, who would never **SPEAK**, all of a sudden **SPEAKS** when Benjamin wants to return to **WAR** to **FINISH** what has been started... she then starts **SPEAKING** and says that she will say whatever he wants her to say, **IF HE WOULD JUST NOT LEAVE THEM AGAIN**...
- The disciples of Jesus had a **MOMENT** when they would have felt like **JESUS** was **ABANDONING THEM** and where their souls were **TROUBLED**... **DISCOURAGED**...
- Cf. **Joh 13:21, 33**
- And then Jesus **COMFORTS** their souls in **Joh 14:1-4, 6**
- Here is the **REALITY**:

*When we are **DISCOURAGED** in our lives, through whatever the circumstances may be, we very often feel **ABANDONED** and **FORGOTTEN** by **GOD**...*

- We very often have a lot of **QUESTIONS** and so we see how the Psalmist is bringing all of these **QUESTIONS** in the midst of his **DISCOURAGEMENT** to **GOD** and so this **Psalm** is meant to be sung as an **INSTRUCTION** on how to **DEAL** with **DISCOURAGEMENT**...
- It is about *The Honest Seeking of a Discouraged Saint for the Presence of God...!*
- Please read **Psalm 42**

Study Points:

- **SIX DIMENSIONS** of a **DISCOURAGED SAINT** that is **SEEKING** after God:

1. The Desperate Cry of a Discouraged Heart. (v1-3)

- The striking picture is of a **DEER** that is in **DESPERATE NEED** of water for whatever reason...
- In the same way the Psalmist is in **DESPERATE NEED** of **GOD**...!
- He didn’t “**thirst**” for his **CIRCUMSTANCES** to change, but just to have **GOD** in the midst of his circumstances...!
- Charles Spurgeon: *“Ease he did not seek, honour he did not covet, but the enjoyment of communion with God was an urgent need of his soul; he viewed it not merely as the sweetest of all luxuries, but as an absolute necessity, like water to a deer.”*
- His longing is for **GOD** – for **FELLOWSHIP** with God... to **CONNECT** with God...
- He thirst for the “**LIVING God**”: He has **LIFE** in Himself; He is the **AUTHOR** of life and He is **ALIVE** as opposed to the idols. No **IDOL** can bring the **SATISFACTION** and **PEACE** that the Psalmist is longing for. No **IDOL** will **EVER** be able to do that...!
- He wants to “**appear before God**”: He is **SEEKING** God because he **FEEL** as if God is **ABSENT**.
- His **TEARS** reveal the **REALITY** that he is **DISCOURAGED** and he maybe is **CRYING** because of the **GRIEF** his circumstances are bringing him and he just seek **GOD** to find **COMFORT** and **RELIEF** in Him, or his tears may be revealing the **EARNESTNESS** with which he is **SEEKING** after God.
- His discouragement has been aggravated by the taunting of others challenging them with the question: **“Where is your God?”**

- These taunters wanted to add to his **DISCOURAGEMENT** by implying that God has **ABANDONED** him...
- Learn this: *In you times of Discouragement, SEEK GOD and NOT just a CHANGE in your circumstances, but for who He is...!*

2. Unwise Dwelling on the Past brings Further Despair. (v4)

- We have a tendency to **DWELL** on the past when the **PRESENT** gets too much for us.
- Instead of it being a **GOOD** memory that **ENCOURAGES** us, in our times of **DISCOURAGEMENT**, we fall into further **SELF PITY** and **DESPAIR** over what has been.
- It is **NOT HELPFUL** and **UNWISE** – **Eccl 7:10**
- We should follow the **EXAMPLE** of Paul in **Phil 3:12-14**...
- Their is wisdom in the saying: “**Let the bygones be bygones...**”
- Thinking about **HAPPIER** times made the Psalmist actually **SADDER**.
- Instead of it causing him to be thankful for what has been, it causes him to b discontent with what is.
- Learn this: Do not **DWELL** on the past in **LONGING** for the past... when you think of the past, focus on **THANKING** God for what was, **AS WELL AS** thanking God for **WHAT IS**...! (cf. **1 Thess 5:18**)

3. The Discipline of Declaring the Truth to your Soul. (v5)

- Instead of just **LISTENING** to himself, the Psalmist now steps up to do what is **WISE** – **PREACHING** to himself...!
- Many times we **REMAIN DISCOURAGED** because we **KEEP ON LISTENING** to **OURSELVES** and to our **FEELINGS INSTEAD** of **DECLARING** the **TRUTH** to our **SOULS** and to our **FEELINGS**...!
- He **CHALLENGES** his feelings and **EXHORTS** himself.
- He is looking for a **REASON** why he should be **DISCOURAGED**... he is **FORCING** himself to **THINK**...!
- And then he **REDIRECTS** his discouragement and places his focus on **GOD**...!
- **HOPE** is to cling to what you **BELIEVE** and **TRUSTING** that it will be as is **PROMISED**.
- He looked **THROUGH** his circumstances to what is the **REALITY** for every Christian, namely that the **BEST** is yet to come...!
- He looked **AWAY** from himself and his circumstances to **GOD** in whom His salvation is... who **DELIGHTS** to save those who **TRUST** and **HOPE** in Him...!

4. A Step in the Right Direction: Drawing Near to God. (v6-8)

- He **DEALS** with **REALITY** – not in **DENIAL**... not just **POSITIVE THINKING**...
- Even though he felt **DISTANT** from God, he starts to place his **FOCUS** on the right thing – **GOD**!
- Some **INSIGHT** into his soul: The Psalmist was truly **OVERWHELMED** by his discouragement and misery... like being pushed down by the waters of a waterfall of being under the power of a wave... going **DEEPER** and **DEEPER** into despair...
- But what does he **REMEMBER** of God...?
- That even though he might be **OVERWHELMED** by the circumstances that **GOD** has brought into his life, He is **CLINGING** to the **TRUTH** that God is the **COVENANTAL GOD** who will keep His promises and whose **LOVE** is **ALWAYS** the **SAME**...!
- This leads him to a song, not of **JUBILANT HOPE**, but in which he **PLEADS** for his life – He **KNOWS** that His life is in God’s hands... so he sings a song of **FAITH**...
- This is a lesson that we should **PRAISE** God in all circumstances... we should **KEEP ON SINGING**...!
- We can even uses **SONGS** of **FAITH** to bring to God as a **PRAYER**...!
- Learn this lesson: Don’t run **AWAY** from God in times of **DISCOURAGMENT**, but rather run **TO** Him...!
- Don’t doubt His love, but **REMINDE** yourself that He is **GOOD** and **DOES GOOD**...! (cf. **Ps 119:68**)

5. Dealing Honestly with God regarding your Deepest Doubts and Dreads. (v9-10)

- As he draws near to God, it brings him to the point of dealing **HONESTLY** with God and pouring out His heart...
- The **BEAUTIFUL CONTRADICTION** is that He calls God his **ROCK** and therefore he is asking these questions, because that is how he **FEELS**, **BUT** he **KNOWS** that His **ROCK** cannot abandon him...!
- The **ROCK** cannot be moved...!
- **Joh 14:1-4; Heb 13:5; Isa 49:15-16**
- Remember this:

JESUS was ABANDONED by God on the cross so that we would NEVER be ABANDONED BY HIM!

- Although God was **SUSTAINING** him, he knew that the **BATTLE** was not over yet...

- But he is **RESOLVED** to **KEEP ON FIGHTING**...!

6. A Determined Disposition to Keep on Focusing on God. (v11)

- We need to **KEEP ON** preaching the **TRUTH** to ourselves, **DAY-AFTER-DAY-AFTER-DAY!**
- We need to **CONSTANTLY QUESTION** ourselves for the **REASON** why we are discouraged so as to **DEAL** with the **REASON** for our discouragement or **UNMASK** the **LIES** and **DECEPTION** that is **BLINDING** us to the **REALITY** of God's **LOVE** that is **SUSTAINING** us...!
- Keep on focusing on what is to **COME**...! Keep on **HOPING**...!
- **Rom 8:18-39**

Conclusion:

- As you are dealing with discouragement right now in your life and in this very difficult situation and circumstances that we are in, **RESOLVE** to continually preach the **TRUTH** to yourself and do not **LISTEN** to your **FEELINGS**...!
- I leave you with these two instructions flowing from this Psalm, that is also grounded in the New Testament:
- **PRESS ON**...! **FORGET** what lies behind and **REACH OUT** to what lies ahead! (cf. **Phil 3:13-14**)
- **RELY ON CHRIST**, knowing that **IN HIM** you have **EVERYTHING** you need! (cf. **2 Cor 12:9; Phil 4:11-13**)

Psalm 80

Restore us, O Lord God!

A passionate prayer for the restoration, revival and reformation of God's people

Introduction:

- Let me start with this convicting question, at least for me it is convicting: *“If revival in this church and in this land depended on your prayers, your faith and your obedience, would we ever experience revival?”*
- We **SHOULD** pray earnestly for the **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL** of God's people...!
- It is a constant conviction with many that we are not praying enough for **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL** and that ultimately results from the root that we do not **SINCERELY BELIEVE** that **SALVATION** and **REVIVAL** is something **ONLY GOD CAN DO** and **WANTS** to do through His **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- **Zach 4:6** along with **Ps 127:1-2** needs to be on our minds concerning this weakness.
- The **TRUTH** is that **REVIVAL** comes as the **PRESENCE** of God is **MANIFESTED** under His people and that His presence comes when people are **FILLED** with the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- This comes as a **RESULT** of people humbling themselves before the Lord and seeking His presence through **REPENTANCE** and **OBEDIENCE** to Him...
- **Joh 14:15, 21, 23**
- This kind of **REPENTANCE** and **OBEDIENCE** only comes as a result of **PRAYER**...!
- We **SHOULD** pray earnestly for the **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL** of God's people...!
- **Psalm 80** is such a prayer and I want to largely share with you from a sermon of Steven J Cole about this **Psalm** that has impacted me greatly.
- Please read **Psalm 80**...
- No one knows for sure when this **Psalm** was written, but many scholars think that it was around 722 B.C. when the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians.
- **Psalm 80** may have been penned by a poet in the south who had witnessed the destruction of the north and was concerned that the same enemies do not conquer the south. He no doubt saw the same unfaithfulness in the south that had led to the demise of the north. And so he earnestly entreats God to send revival.
- The main **THEME** of this **Psalm** is the **REPEATED PRAYER** of **verse 3, 7** and **19** and **verse 14** also being in the same line as these verses...
- *“Restore us”* – the **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD** and the **BLESSINGS** that flow from it... **TURN US, OUR HEARTS** to **YOU** again...
- *“Let your face shine”* – your **GOODNESS** and **KINDNESS**... your **BLESSING** and **JOY** over us... the **BEAUTY** and **FULFILLMENT** that your presence alone can bring...
- *“That we may be saved”* – It is when God turns our **HEARTS** towards **HIM** that there is **HOPE** for us...!
- The **Psalm** falls into four sections:

- (1) In **80:1-3**, the psalmist prays for God, the Shepherd of Israel, to restore and save His flock.
- (2) In **80:4-7**, he asks God how long He will be angry and allow Israel's enemies to taunt them.
- (3) In **80:8-13**, the psalmist gives a short history that pictures Israel as a vine that God transplanted from Egypt to Canaan. At first it flourished and grew (**8-11**), but now it is neglected and overrun by those that plunder it.
- (4) This leads to the final impassioned prayer (**80:14-19**) for God to take care of His devastated people by restoring and saving them.

• In this study our focus will be to **LEARN** from this **Psalm** how we can develop greater **FAITHFULNESS** and **FERVENCY** to **PRAY** for the **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL** of His church and the extended peoples of God...!

• True **BIBLICAL RESTORATION, REVIVAL** and **REFORMATION** begins when through the **PREACHING** of the **WORD**, the Holy Spirit **CONVICTS** people of their spiritual **APATHY** and **SIN**. At the same time, He **OPENS** their eyes to get a new glimpse of the **HOLINESS** of God and of His **WRATH** against sin. As they come under conviction, they realize that their sin has **SEPARATED** them from God. This is the cause of the difficulties that they have been experiencing. The troubles may be on a personal or on a national level. But people begin to **SEE** their **DESPERATE CONDITION**. They realize that they are **HELPLESS** to do anything about it unless **GOD POWERFULLY REMEDIES** the situation. They also realize that their **FAITHLESS, DISOBEDIENT LIVES** have **DISHONORED** His holy name. And so they **REPENT** and ask God to be **GLORIFIED** in their midst.

Study Points:

• **Psalm 80** reveals **THREE THINGS** that will help us to pray more **EARNESTLY** for **RESTORATION, REVIVAL** and **REFORMATION**:

1. We will more earnestly pray for RESTORATION and REVIVAL when we sense our DESPERATE NEED.

- God sometimes puts His people in **DIFFICULT PLACES** so that they will see their **DESPERATE NEED** and cry out to Him.
- The Psalmist realizes the **DESPERATE SITUATION** that God's people are in:
 - God's people have been fed the bread of tears and have been given tears to drink in full measure (**80:5**). This testifies of **GREAT AGONY, SORROW** and **DESPAIR...**
 - Their neighbours contend against them and laugh at them (**80:6**).
 - They are being plundered by all that pass by (**80:12**).
 - They are like a vine burned with fire and cut down (**80:16**).
- They **DESPERATELY** need God to **RESTORE** and **SAVE** them...!
- There are **TWO REASONS** why we **DESPERATELY** need **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL**:
 - 1) *We need revival because of the **POWERFUL ENEMIES** that seek to **DESTROY** us.*
 - Israel had **PHYSICAL ENEMIES** that were trying to **DESTROY** them.
 - The **CHURCH** also have a **POWERFUL ENEMY** and we sometimes **FORGET** that we are in a **WAR...!**
 - **Eph 6:12; 1 Pet 5:7**
 - 2) *We need revival because of the **POWERFUL SINS** that often **ENTANGLE** us.*
 - The psalmist mentions in **verse 4** that God was even angry with the prayers of His people!
 - There is only one reason that God would be angry with His people's prayers, namely, that they were **TOLERATING SIN** in their lives at the same time that they were asking Him to deliver them from these enemies.
 - One mark of genuine revival is that God's people **AWAKEN** to a new and deeper sense of their **SINFULNESS** before Him. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit convicts them of sins that they have been brushing off as no big deal.
 - Even in times of **BLESSING**, we should be **PRAYING** that God would **KEEP** us from being overtaken by **SIN...**
 - In **Ps 80:8-11** the Psalmist **TESTIFIES** of when it was going so well with God's people and then everything went **WRONG...**
 - He asks **WHY** and one reason may be that they have fallen into the sins of the **NATIONS** around them...
 - **SIN** often entangles the Church and we need to pray that God would **SAVE** us from these entangled sins...!

2. We will pray more earnestly for revival when we realize that ONLY GOD can PRODUCE GENUINE RESTORATION and REVIVAL.

- When **GOD** restores us and shines His face upon us, we will be truly saved...!
- When it is **GOD** who **RESTORES** and bring about **REVIVAL**, there are at least **FOUR RESULTS**:
 - 1) **Sinners will be saved. (v3, 7, 19)**
 - When God sends genuine revival, people who have attended church for years get saved. Maybe they grew up in the church. Perhaps they are church members who can recite **John 3:16** and who say that they believe in Christ. But they have never been **BORN AGAIN**. God has never changed their **HEARTS**. But when the Spirit sends genuine revival, they **SEE** their **NEED** of **CHRIST**, **REPENT** of their **SINS**, and are **GENUINELY SAVED**.
 - 2) **God will raise the church from the ashes. (v16-17)**
 - Even though the church is seemingly hopeless, smouldering in ashes because of God's judgment on her sin, when we repent, He can enrich and bless us with His unparalleled mercy.
 - 3) **We will not turn back from the Lord (v18a)**
 - When God brings about **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL** it is effectual and lasting. It is **NOT** based on emotional decisions, but on a real change of heart.
 - 4) **We will call upon His name (v18b)**
 - When God gives us **NEW LIFE**, then we call upon Him, not just to get us out of a difficult trial, but as a way of life to express our **DEPENDENCE** on Him.

3. We will pray more earnestly for RESTORATION and REVIVAL when we desire GOD to be GLORIFIED.

- Because of the sins of Israel, the glory of God did not shine forth anymore and the nations where **LAUGHING** about them and their God...
- In **Ps 80:1** the Psalmist is praying that God, as the Shepherd of Israel will lead His flock so that He might "**shine forth**".
- **TRUE BIBLICAL REVIVAL** brings about that **GOD** is glorified...!
- **FIVE WAYS in which God is GLORIFIED when He brings about the RESTORATION and REVIVAL of His people:**
 - 1) **God is glorified in revival when He shows His mighty power to save.**
 - Salvation is **NOT** a human thing, where a person of his own free will decides to ask Jesus into his heart.
 - Salvation is when **GOD IMPARTS NEW LIFE TO DEAD SINNERS**. He changes their hearts so that they believe and obey.
 - "**Salvation is from the Lord**" (**Jonah 2:9**).
 - **Because it requires God's resurrection power, it glorifies Him!**
 - 2) **God is glorified in revival when His people obey Him.**
 - God is called the Shepherd of Israel (**80:1**). Shepherds lead their sheep and the sheep follow, trusting the shepherd to lead them into a place of safety and abundance.
 - **John 10:27-28** - God is glorified when Jesus' sheep follow Him.
 - 3) **God is glorified in revival when His people are fruitful.**
 - The analogy of Israel as God's vine implies that they were to bear fruit for Him. In **Isaiah 5:1-7**, God complains that Israel as His vine has only produced worthless grapes. So He says that He is going to remove its hedge and let it be consumed and trampled on.
 - Jesus used the vine analogy, saying that He is the **TRUE VINE** and we are the **BRANCHES**. We are to **BEAR FRUIT** for Him. If we do **NOT** bear fruit, we will be cut off and thrown into the fire. But Jesus adds (**John 15:8**), "**My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**"
 - **When true revival comes, God's people bear fruit for Him.**
 - 4) **God is glorified in revival when there is genuine unity among His people.**
 - This **Psalm** most likely represents the prayer of a man in the Southern Kingdom for his alienated brothers in the north. He sets aside **TRIBAL RIVALRIES** and prays **EARNESTLY** for God to take care of those who are perishing because of the enemy.
 - When revival comes, **GOD'S PEOPLE SET ASIDE PETTY DIFFERENCES** and **LOVE** one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - We do **NOT** set aside the **ESSENTIALS** of the gospel, such as justification by faith alone in Christ alone. But we set aside our **PRIDE** over being right on **MINOR POINTS** of doctrine and practice.
 - **Genuine unity glorifies God.**

5) *God is glorified in revival when His people come to know Him more deeply.*

- The **REFRAIN** of **verse 3, 7** and **19 PROGRESSES** to address God in a **DEEPER** way...
- Revival **OPENS OUR EYES** to see more deeply who God really is.
- He is the only **TRUE GOD**.
- Further, He is the **GOD** who **COMMANDS** the angelic hosts.
- Further yet, He is the **LORD GOD**, before whom **EVERY KNEE** shall **BOW** in heaven and on earth and under the earth (**Phil 2:10**).
- **When God revives us, we glorify Him by coming to know Him more deeply.**

Conclusion:

- I want to ask you that you would really join me as we **PRAY** for **TRUE** and **BIBLICAL RESTORATION, REVIVAL** and **REFORMATION** of our Church and all the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, especially in this time that we are in.
- **PRAYERS** for revival and reformation needs to start **SOMEWHERE...** why not with **YOU** and **ME...?**