

The Bible our most Prized Possession Pt 4

Psalm 78:1-4

- Thus far we've looked at **where the Bible came from** > directly from God "**2 Tim 3:16**", and what **it produces** > A people who now possess the ability to discern what is good according to God and what is bad "**1Cor 2:14-16**". Today we are going to see **why is it so important** > it reveals to us God's plans and will for our lives. Before the Bible takes precedence in a person's life the best that they can do is find out what they like to do and what makes them feel good and go after it
- On the surface that doesn't seem bad until what their going after is not fulfilling or doesn't have the desired results after a decade or two has past them by, then its back to what should I do and what makes me happy! Now when I learn God's Word and find out that if I'm patient He will show me exactly why He has made me like I am and how He has plans for my life > **Jer 29:11**
- When you start telling people that God knows everything about us and that He has a plan for us that doesn't always sit well with folks, in fact for many that is downright scary why? Because they still don't know and understand the character of God, they believe that if they surrender to that kind of thinking then they'll end up miserable and doing something that they hate in a place that they despise and so they never even take into consideration what **Jer 29:11** even means.
- When God spoke this to the Prophet Jeremiah it was to a Jewish people that were being exiled to Babylon because of their disobedience toward God. They believed God must hate us to give us over to a people so violent and ungodly to do with us as they pleased, we'll never see the Lord's goodness again. At this point many thought this is the end of the Jewish nation as they've known it, but how wrong they were, God was still thinking about them, more than they ever thought about Him, and although they were being disciplined it didn't mean God had forsaken them > **Ps 40:5**- you cannot count how much the Lord thinks about those He calls His own.
- What I love about this verse is it doesn't just say God thinks about us, but He also thinks toward us, meaning He aims His thoughts our way, so they aren't randomly floating around looking for a place to land, but they have a purpose and a plan, and a destination. Also, these thoughts are not predicated upon our performance because the Jews had sinned badly and had brought judgment upon themselves, and yet God assures them that His thoughts toward them were of peace and not of evil, and His plan was not to abandon them but to give them a future and a hope. A future without hope is hopeless, for hope is what makes us look forward to the future.
- **Jer 1:5, Lk 12:7**, in light of what we just read, when we read these verses they take on a whole different connotation doesn't it, for we see that an all knowing and seeing God is watching over us and knows all about us not so that He can punish us but that He can protect and bless us. So God knows all about you and I, our mood swings, our faults and failures, our faithlessness, and yet in **Jn 15:15**- He calls us not just His servants but also His friends, I don't know about you but most of my friends started out as my friends because they don't know everything about me.

- **Ps 78:1-4**, this Psalm comes from Asaph and the theme of the Psalm is he is speaking to stubborn and rebellious people about the goodness and kindness of the Lord. A couple of weeks ago we went over **Jer 10:23**- how man in and of himself cannot successfully live his life without assistance from the Lord, this is why the world is in such bad shape because people are trying to live life without the guidance and wisdom of God, and it has corrupted all areas of society, from our education system, to or government, and our family structure, man has attempted to redo all of what God has said and it has ended up being disastrous to us and yet we continue.
- **V1** begins with a simple principle that is required for all who will benefit from the wisdom that comes from God > **“listen”** the Psalmist asks everyone to incline their ear, meaning make an effort to really hear this, it refers to a disciple listening to their master with a submissive heart and a reverent mind. Twice he makes reference to **“listening”** and what does he have to say, **“the Word of God”** he wants them listening intently as e speaks the Word of the Lord.
- Were living in a world where people want to hear any and everything but the Word of God, if you want to clear a room start speaking from the scriptures and people will look at you like you have lost your mind. But the Psalmist realizes that if he has anything that is worth listening to it has everything to do with what he knows about what God has said and what He is doing.
- **V2** he goes on to say that what he speaks is thought provoking and maybe difficult for some to understand. Parable is using the practical in order to illustrate something spiritual, often Jesus would speak to the disciples about fishing in order to get across to them a spiritual truth, the reason is because most of them before Jesus were fishermen, and so they could relate to the references he was using, like when the Lord said **“He would make them fishers of Men”**. Jesus wanted them to know He expected them to evangelize just like fishermen go out to catch fish.
- **V3-4** noting about Asaph’s discussion will be new or unheard of, in fact he says the things he will speak of are things that the people already had known and heard. This goes back to what I said about people not wanting to hear the Word, they don’t reject it because its new, they reject it because they know much of what it will say goes against what they are doing, and so they don’t want to change. But that doesn’t change the fact that we have a responsibility to share it with them anyway, notice Asaph says to not only speak to those who’ll hear now but those to come.
- You and I must pass on to the next generations what God has given to us presently, because His Word never gets old or becomes not relevant. Unfortunately because many have failed to do this our young people have a misconception of God and His Word, they think its for the older generation, and not for them, they don’t understand the peace, freedom, and joy it brings, they haven’t experienced its praises and how it frees the soul. You see God’s plan produces **3** things >
- **1st Praises**- God is worthy of our adoration and gratitude, **2nd God’s strength**- **Philip 4:13, Jn 15:5**- with God I can do all things, but without him I can do nothing, **3rd His Wonderful Works**- Knowing God’s plans and purposes for my life allow me to practice find and practice His gifts that He has given to me to be a blessing to others, and when they try and give me the glory I simply point them to the Lord Who has orchestrated the whole thing in order to bring us to Him.