

Date: October 30, 2022
Sermon Title: Darkness
Sermon Series: Gospel-Directed Worship
Scripture: Psalm 88
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



How do we deal with _____ that _____ the soul?

Psalm 88:1 ESV

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.

1 O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.

1 Chronicles 25:1, 5-6

1 David and the chiefs of the service also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of **Heman**, and of Jeduthun, who prophesied with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals. The list of those who did the work and of their duties was... 5 All these were the sons of **Heman** the king's seer, according to the promise of God to exalt him, for God had given **Heman** fourteen sons and three daughters. 6 They were all under the direction of their father in the music in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and **Heman** were under the order of the king.

Psalm 88 ESV

1 O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.

2 Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!

3 For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength,
5 like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more for they are cut off from your hand.

6 You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep.

7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah

8 You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

9 my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

10 Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? Selah
11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
12 Are your wonders known in the **darkness**, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
13 But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
14 O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me?
15 Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.
16 Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me.
17 They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together.
18 You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become **darkness**.

**My closest friend is darkness...
What kind of prayer ends like this?**

What is this prayer doing in the Bible?

Darkness – Outside/Inside

1. God is a _____ of _____

Psalm 88:1-4

O Lord, **God of my salvation**, I **cry** out day and night before you. 2 Let my **prayer** come before you; incline your ear to my **cry**! 3 For my soul is full of troubles, and my **life draws near to Sheol**. 4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength,

Psalm 88:7 ESV

Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

“Life is pain, Highness, anyone who says differently is selling something.”—Dread Pirate Roberts - The Princess Bride

“The Bible isn’t selling you anything.”—Tim Keller

John 16:33 NIV

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have **trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Are we only looking for things _____ God? What's our _____ of God?

Isaiah 53:3 ESV

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

2. God is a _____ of _____

Psalm 88:10-12 ESV

10 Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? *Selah*
11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? 12 Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

God is _____ by letting you come to Him!

Matthew 11:28 ESV

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Hebrews 4:16 ESV

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalm 88:13-18 ESV

13 But I, O Lord, **cry to you**; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
14 O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me? 15 Afflicted and close to death **from my youth up, I suffer your terrors**; I am helpless.

3. God is a _____ of _____

Psalm 88:1, 16, 18 ESV

1 O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you...

16 Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me.

18 You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.

Psalm 39:13 ESV

13 Look away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more!

Matthew 27:45-46 ESV

45 Now from the sixth hour there was **darkness** over all the land until the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?”

Matthew 28:5-6a ESV

5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was **crucified**. 6 He is not here, for he has **risen**, as he said.

Psalm 88:10-11 ESV

10 Do you work **wonders for the dead**? Do the **departed rise up** to praise you? Selah

11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

How do we deal with _____ that _____ the soul?

_____ to God during darkness is your _____ .

Group Questions:

1. If you have experienced deep darkness in your life, how did that affect you?
2. What were some of the ways you tried to cope with the darkness?
3. How do you feel when it appears God is not answering your prayers?
 - How have you seen God teach you with an unanswered prayer?

4. Why do we tend to run away from God instead of towards God when we experience darkness?
5. Read Psalm 88 –
 - What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
 - What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 -
 - How can this passage be a comfort for you in times of darkness?
 - How can this passage remind you of truth?
7. How have you seen God turn a dark portion of your life into a story of redemption?
8. What would change in my life this week if I were to believe the Gospel (Christ dying for my sins and rising again) when facing darkness?
9. What are some ways we can encourage each other with that this week?
10. How can we pray for each other this week?