

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (August 11, 2024)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning we are honored to celebrate a beautiful time in the life of Grace of Christ | First Pres. 50+ years ago a man and his wife were invited to help lead the youth (and from them ... the church and the entire community) into a celebration of faith, music and life! Sonny and Linda Salsbury brought their love for Jesus, guitars and drums, their gift with song, and transported a dose of the California Jesus movement to Yakima, Washington ... and Gospel Pres took off. What happened then is still happening today. Members of the original Gospel Pres band and choir come together to remember, to celebrate friendships, and to commit themselves again to the power and call of Jesus. We get to join in as they led us this morning. All across this valley, this state, this nation, are those impacted by the passion and faith of the Salsbury's.

They returned to Yakima in the mid 1980's – 1990's to lead at Ghormley, and then made one more trip north to spend these years with us.

Songs like, "The first Song I Sing Today," and "How's About a Boa," and "Are the Mountains Out?," all come from the heart and pen of the mountain man, the trail boss, the youth pastor, choir leader, musical maestro, Sonny, and Linda too. One of my favorite songs written by Sonny, one I've sung at camps, in church services, on my own driving or hiking from one place to the next is this, based on Psalm 19:

Don't you wonder why, the stars are in the sky? They're telling you and I of the glory of God. And every towering tree, is there for folks to see, so there no doubt can be of the glory of God.

So let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, do the same thing for thee and a witness be, to the glory of God.

Then come the morning sun to make the darkness run and say our day's begun to the glory of God. But when the shadows fall and the night winds call, they're telling one and all of the glory of God.

So let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, do the same thing for thee and a witness be, to the glory of God.

What song is God singing in you right now? I want the song I'm singing, whatever the source, to be a witness to ... the glory of God.

### **One Service Summer Sundays: Gospel Pres Reunion**

(Psalm 95:1-6) ESV

<sup>95:1</sup> Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. What does this passage say about God as Creator?
2. What does this passage say about our response to God?
3. What does this passage say about joy, song, praise?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. What does it mean to "sing to the Lord"?
5. What does, "come into His presence with thanksgiving" mean?
6. What does, "in His hands are the depths of the earth" mean?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

7. Who influenced your Christian faith in a way that still positively impacts you today? Offer a prayer of thanks for them.
8. What songs or hymns do you sing when you are out on your own, facing difficulty, needing help from God? Why do you sing those particular songs or hymns?
9. What role does music play in your Christian life?
10. What are ways you regularly offer, "songs to the Lord"? How do you, "worship and bow down ... (and) kneel before the Lord, (y)our Maker"?
11. Why is it important that you make "com(ing) into His presence with thanksgiving" part of your daily life?
12. What song, poem, writing, do you need to offer now to God? (This does not have to be long ... or as talent-filled as Sonny's songs. It does need to come from your heart.) Take 15 minutes and write down your thoughts of praise to God.

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be a natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to make you more aware today of His magnificent power and creativity in the world, and universe, around you. Spend time offering Him praise for who He is, and for all He has done for you. He will ... because He loves you.