



Psalms for Life

Daily Readings: (9/26 - 10/2) **Psalms 57-63**

Sermon: *My Soul Thirsts For You* (Psalm 63)

The book of the Bible known as the Psalms was not known in its earliest translations as a book of songs. It was generally known as the book of praises and prayers, "at once highly devotional and specially intended to set forth the praises of God."¹

Psalms is divided into five different books. Corresponding to the first five books of the Bible. One theologian expressed it this way,

"The Psalter is also a Pentateuch, the echo of the Mosaic Pentateuch from the heart of Israel; it is the fivefold book of the congregation to Jehovah, as the Law is the fivefold book of Jehovah to the congregation."
Franz Delitzsch (1890)

Summary: You were made for God! The heart of Christianity is not a set of doctrines to believe, even though sound doctrine is vital. Nor is the heart of Christianity an activity to pursue, even though the Christian faith is necessarily active. Nor is it essentially a set of disciplines, even though without reading the Bible and praying we will not get far in the Christian life.

The heart of Christianity is - to use a phrase from John Bunyan, the old Puritan preacher and writer -

"To live upon God." You were made for God. To know him. Enjoy him. Revere him. Draw strength from him. Trust him. Love him.²

Memory Verse:

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

Psalm 63:1

Psalm 63

- A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

- A Psalm of one absent from the sanctuary and longing to return to it, pursued by enemies who seek his life but confident in God's protection and indeed, full of joy and praise and thankfulness.³

[1] O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
[2] So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
[3] Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
[4] So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

1. God is the water for your dry and barren Soul.

The Soul's Longing⁴

Not the water source, but He is the water Himself!

We too often want a substitute for the real thing.

The way to God is through Jesus. It doesn't get any narrower than that! Through one we find the eternal! The way is wide and easy that leads to death. The way is narrow and hard that leads to life. Many find the wide and easy way. Few find the narrow and hard way.

Jesus is the living water for your dry and barren soul.

[10] Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." [11] The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? [12] Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." [13] Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, [14] but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." [15] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

John 4:10-15

[5] My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
[6] when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

2. God is the satisfying meal for your hungry soul.

The Soul's Satisfaction⁴

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

[7] for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
[8] My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.
[9] But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
[10] they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.
[11] But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

3. God is the help we need in times of trouble.

The Soul's Resolution⁴

David needs one thing in life: God. Not truths about God, rather, God himself.

Heartsong

Our needs are constant and God's love never fails. When we are weak, his strength makes us strong, when we are weary, his comforts sustain our fainting souls; when we are ready to sink in the waters, his voice gives us courage and his strong arm brings us salvation. God ever comes to those who want him. Desire on our part is met by satisfaction on his part.⁵

Life Application Questions

1. When was the last time you were hot and thirsty and quenched your thirst finding refreshment in a cold drink? What had you been doing? How good was that cold drink?
2. When was the last time you were hungry and found the perfect meal to satisfy your hunger? Where were you and what was the meal?
3. In Psalm 63, David King David describes his thirst and hunger for God!
4. Have you ever thirsted or hungered for the presence of the Lord? When was the last time that thirst and hunger was satisfied for you? Where were you and what were you doing?
5. When is the last time you remember calling out to the Lord for protection in times of trouble? Describe your experience.
6. In James 4:8 we read that "when your draw near to God, he will draw near to you." Is there a challenge in your life? Is there a challenging person? Do you need the Lord's protection? What should you do?
7. What types of trouble are described in Psalm 63:9-11? What does Psalm 63:7-8 say that the Lord does and that we should do in times of trouble?
8. Pray for those in your group, for yourself or others who are experiencing trouble today!

¹ *The Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 8, The Psalms*, Spence and Exell, p.i.

² Dane Ortlund, *In the Lord I Take Refuge*, p. 172.

³ *The Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 8, The Psalms, The Book of Psalms Vol. II*, Spence and Exell, p. 22.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 25.

⁵ *Ibid*.