

GOD'S GOODNESS TO THE THIRSTY SOUL

BIBLE TEXT : Psalm 42:1-11; 63:1-11; 65:1-13.

LESSON 447 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Psalm 42:1-11

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?
3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, *Where is thy God?*
4 When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.
5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance.
6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.
7 Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.
8 *Yet* the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song *shall be* with me, *and* my prayer unto the God of my life.
9 I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
10 *As* with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, *Where is thy God?*
11 Why art thou cast down, O my

Bible References:

Notes:

When David was hunted and chased by Saul and his soldiers, David's soul (his very innermost self) panted and longed for God. He was very sad and his tears ran down day and night as his enemies mocked him and said, "Where is thy God?" He was like a deer that is chased by a pack of wolves until he is almost too tired and winded to go another step. If he does not find a hiding place, the wolves will eventually catch him, and the poor deer will be killed.

The Christian's Hiding Place

The Christian has an enemy, too. The Bible says, "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The devil wants to devour the Christian, or take him by force away from serving Jesus, and make him a servant of the devil.

But the Christian has a hiding place in Jesus. We read in the Bible: "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10). We call upon Jesus and He rescues His own.

David's prayer was, "When shall I come and appear before God?" He looked forward to the time when he could come to the house of God in Jerusalem and kneel there in the presence of God. He, too, was looking for a hiding place. Are you eager to go to church? Do you look forward to meeting time so you can sing and pray and meet there with God? There you can also find help when trials and troubles come.

David's Counsel

As David thought of the many times he had gone to the Tabernacle just as God had told the Jewish people to do (**Deuteronomy 12:5-14** ⁵ But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: ⁶ And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: ⁷ And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee. ⁸ Ye shall not do after all *the things* that we do here this day, every man whatsoever *is* right in his own eyes. ⁹ For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. ¹⁰ But *when* ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and *when* he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; ¹¹ Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: ¹² And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that *is* within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. ¹³ Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: ¹⁴ But in the place which the LORD shall choose in

soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalms 63:1-11

1

O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2 To see thy power and thy glory, so *as* I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

3 Because thy lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as *with* marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips:

6 When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

9 But those *that* seek my soul, to destroy *it*, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

10 They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes.

11 But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

Psalms 65:1-13

1

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.), he thought within himself: "Why do I feel so very sorrowful? Why am I restless and disturbed? I should be quiet and hope in God, because God will make a way for me to be again in His house in Jerusalem, and I shall know that His kind face is looking down upon me as I pray."

David felt his trouble was as great as the waves and billows of the ocean dashing over his head, yet he comforted himself, knowing that through all the daytime the loving-kindness of the Lord was with him, and every night the song of the Lord was there. And it is just so with every Christian.

Close to God

Before you go to school in the morning, do you take time to read a portion of Scripture from the Bible and kneel down and ask the Lord to keep you pure and holy through the day? Then Jesus is near all through the day and in love and kindness He helps when you need Him. When the day is done, it is good again to read His Word, and to thank Him for the blessings of the day. In the night He sends Gospel songs to your heart to encourage and instruct you. Be sure to listen, for many times Jesus talks to people through the words of a song.

Why do we come to Zion, or the church? Is it not to praise God and pay our vows, the things we told God we would do when He saved us? "I will give You my life," we said; and each time we come to church to praise and pray, we search our heart. Are we still living altogether for God, or does the preaching from the Bible show up some selfishness in our life that needs to be corrected?

"O thou that hearest prayer, . . ." Who can come to the great God who hears prayer? Are there only certain people who may come to God in prayer? No. The Psalmist says, "Unto thee shall all flesh come." That means all people. Every person who lives now, or who ever has lived, has either prayed or will some time kneel and pray to God (**Romans 14:11** ¹¹ For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.). Now every sinner can come to Jesus asking for forgiveness, and every Christian does come to Jesus to praise and thank Him and to ask help to please God in every way. Even those who refuse or neglect to pray now will kneel before God some day, and acknowledge Him.

Though sinners may speak against us and try to make trouble for us, if Jesus has washed our sins away, and our heart does not condemn us, we run to the hiding place in Jesus and we are safe there. We can just trust Him to work out all things for our good.

Chosen

"Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth", . . ." Has He chosen you? Anyone can be saved, and if you are saved, you have been chosen to be a follower of Jesus, for Jesus said to His disciples, "I have chosen you" (John 15:16). "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth", and causeth to approach unto thee, . . ." The Christian approaches, or comes near to God through prayer, through personal testimony, through listening to the preaching of the Word of God in the church. "That he may dwell in thy courts" -- the courts of the Tabernacle, the house of God. What a privilege it is to be chosen to take part in any church activity! How eager we are to be faithful in our place, whether it be to help our Sunday School teacher with her records, to play a musical instrument, to testify, or pray at the altar!

The Greatness of God

"By terrible things" (in great and mighty ways) God will answer us -- God who is not only the God of our salvation, but also the confidence and help of all who live in the ends of the earth and of them who are afar off upon the sea.

3 Iniquities prevail against me: *as for* our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

4 Blessed *is the man whom* thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee, that* he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple.

5 *By* terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; *who art* the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off *upon* the sea:

6 Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; *being* girded with power:

7 Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

8 They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

9 Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, *which* is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

10 Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.

11 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

12 They drop *upon* the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

13 The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

"By his strength." The Psalmist tries to tell us how great God is. By His power He created this earth and all that is in it. He spoke and it was done; He commanded and the mountains stood fast. He girded them with power so they would last through all the ages until God folds up the earth as a garment (**Hebrews 1:12** ¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.), and makes new heavens and a new earth (**2 Peter 3:13** ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.). God stills the noise of the seas and their waves, as Jesus did on stormy -- Galilee, and He will some day still the tumult, the commotion and uproar of the wicked people of the earth. The tokens or indications of God's great power -- the storms, the thunders, the lightnings, the shooting stars, the eclipses of sun and moon, the tornadoes, the earthquakes -- are all fearful revelations of God's greatness to people everywhere. The sun that wakens us at dawn gives us joy as we go out to our daily duties, and the rainbow colours of the evening twilight sky give us joy as we think upon the beauty of God's handiwork.

Thanksgiving

"Thou visitest the earth." Think of God's coming down to see what parts of the earth need rain to prepare the ground for the ploughing and the seeding of corn! He opens the clouds to water the farmland. When it is ploughed into furrows the showers make it soft to receive the seed where it lies warm and moist as God watches over the sprouting of the tender plants.

"Thou crownest the year." God is shown as putting a diadem, or crown, upon the earth. In the beginning He created the sun, the moon, the stars, "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." And as they rotate in their orbits, giving light and heat alternately by day and night to all parts of the earth, God in His wise and tender care causes the grain and vegetables to grow and produce a fat crop. Even in many wilderness places where there is no ploughing and sowing, God has so provided that there are rich pastures for cattle.

The hills are covered with green, and sheep and cattle graze in the pastures. The valleys are covered with corn, wheat and barley. They all sing and shout for joy! There is a great harmony of praise to God, who has in love provided for the spiritual and temporal needs of boys and girls and men and women in all the earth.

QUESTIONS

1. How did David express his great longing to be in the sanctuary, the house of God?
2. How did he comfort himself when his enemies hunted and chased him and he could not appear in the Tabernacle at Jerusalem?
3. What did God do to help David in the daytime? and in the night?
4. What did David do when he lay on his bed at night?
5. What should be our purpose when we go to church?
6. Who shall come before God in prayer?
7. Who is the blessed man?
8. What are some of the things that God does to reveal His greatness to people in all the earth?
9. With what does God visit the earth so it may produce food for man and beast?
10. Of what does the Psalmist speak when he says, "They shout for joy, they also sing"?