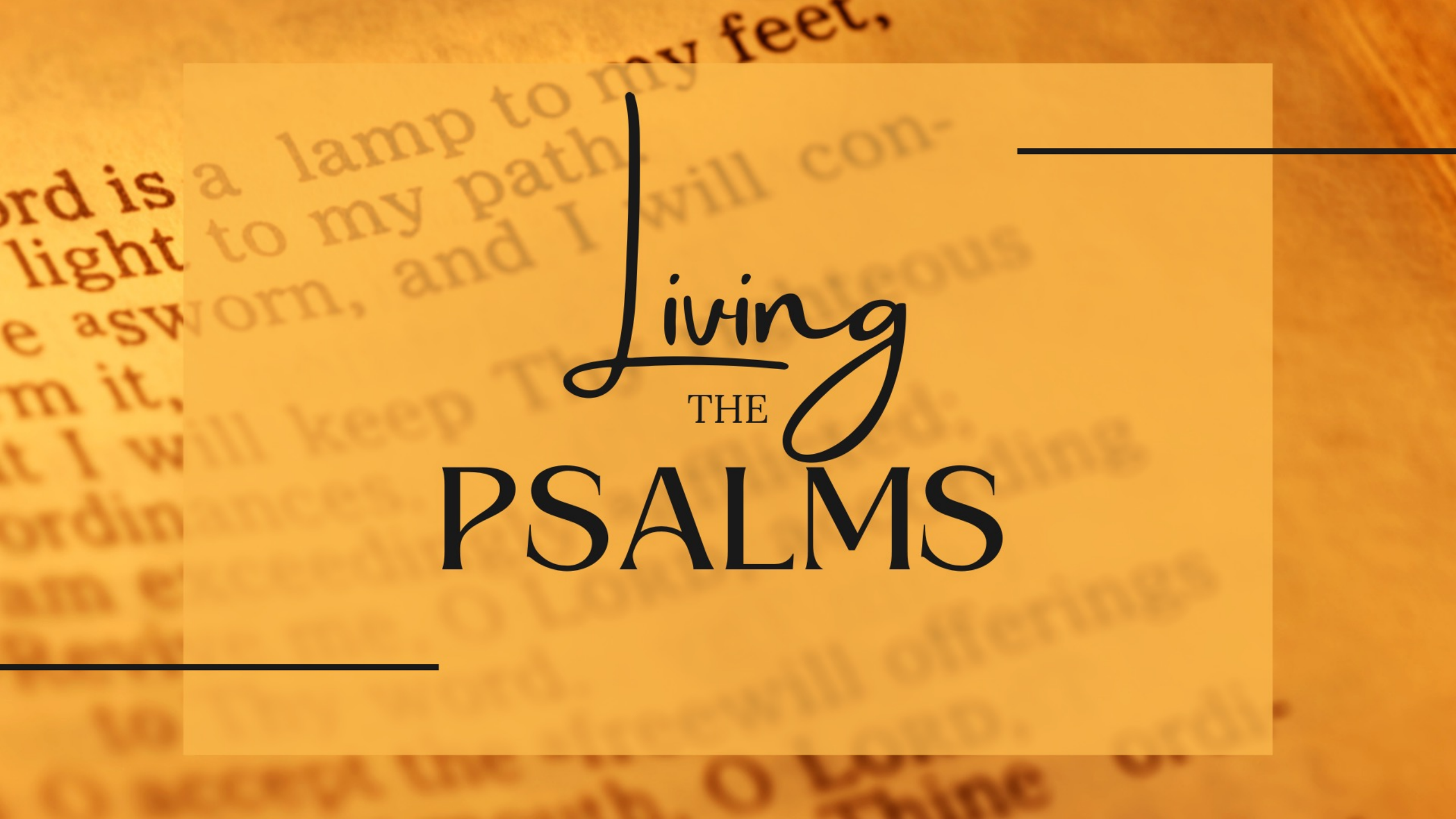




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Living THE PSALMS

Psalm 91

Authorship of Psalm 91

- The Psalms are all written by different writers
 - David wrote most, along with contributing writers (Solomon, Asaph, Sons of Korah, Heman, Ethan, and Moses).
- The authorship of Psalm 91 is not confirmed.
 - Lacks authorship/attribution phrase (i.e. "A Psalm of/for [Name]")
- Jewish tradition attributes Psalm 91 to **Moses** for a few reasons:
 - It follows Psalm 90 which does have an attribution phrase - "*A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.*"
 - Psalms 90-106 are typically attributed as a *narrative* collection in the *Midrash* (Jewish exegetical teachings based on the Talmud).
 - Psalm 91 contains language and phrasing found in Deuteronomy 32.

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High (*Elyon*)
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty (*Shaddai*).

2 I will say to the LORD (*Yahweh*), "My refuge and my fortress,
my God (*Elohay*), in whom I trust."

"**He who**" tells us this is a general statement, much like Psalm 1:

1 Blessed is the man (he)

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

This tells us this is a universal, unwavering truth applicable to anyone,
anywhere, anytime.

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High (*Elyon*)
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty (*Shaddai*).

2 **I will** say to the LORD (*Yahweh*), “My refuge and my fortress,
my God (*Elohay*), in whom I trust.”

"I will" tells us this is a personal declaration from the author.

The writer is personally making the decision, based on the truth
of verse 1, to dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
calling the LORD their refuge, fortress, and God.

This is not a decision based on probability or traditions or suggestion –
this is a wholehearted trust in the LORD.

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his **pinions**,
and under his **wings** you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Deuteronomy 32 says:

11 [The LORD is] Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
that flutters over its young,
spreading out its **wings**, catching them,
bearing them on its **pinions**,

We are given a description of God as an adult eagle, strong and mighty,
gathering over its helpless young and protecting them.

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the **fowler**
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

A **fowler** is a hunter who snares birds, either for consumption or profit.

Who is the fowler? The Devil and his agents (those who work for him).

“We are foolish and weak, as poor little birds, and are very apt to be lured to our destruction by cunning foes, but **if we dwell near to God**, he will see to it that the most skillful deceiver shall not entrap us.”

Charles Spurgeon

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his **faithfulness** is a **shield** and **buckler (or bulwark)**.

Some translations, especially older ones, say "truth" instead of "faithfulness". Which is it? Both.

The truth is that God is faithful to us even when we are not faithful to him. Unlike our faithfulness, prone to weariness, despair, and lapses, His faithfulness does not wear out, it does not despair, and it never lapses. Much like a shield would protect a person or a bulwark would protect a city, we can trust God's faithfulness to us at all times.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

The Hebrew for **you** here is the word ***attah*** - which is singular.

- ...for you (***attah***) are dust,
and to dust you (***attah***) shall return. - **GENESIS 3:19**

This means the author is speaking directly to each single person who hears or reads so they can personally reflect on the truth at hand.

Because the LORD is a fortress, refuge, shelter, protector, shield, and bulwark, **you** need not fear anything.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the **arrow** that flies by day,
6 nor the **pestilence** that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Verses 5-6 are another connection to **Deuteronomy 32:**

23 “And I will heap disasters upon them;
I will spend my **arrows** on them;
24 they shall be wasted with hunger,
and devoured by plague
and poisonous **pestilence**;
I will send the teeth of beasts against them,
with the venom of things that crawl in the dust.”

7 A **thousand** may fall at your side,
 ten thousand at your right hand,
 but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes
 and see the **recompense** of the wicked.

Verses 7-8 are the final connection to **Deuteronomy 32:**

30 How could one have chased a **thousand**,
 and two have put **ten thousand** to flight,
unless their Rock had sold them,
 and the Lord had given them up?...

35 Vengeance is mine, and **recompense**,
 for the time when their foot shall slip;
for the day of their calamity is at hand,
 and their doom comes swiftly.'

7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes
and **see the recompense of the wicked.**

What is the writer describing here?

"In contrast to the protection of His chosen, God has also appointed a reward [recompense] for the wicked. God's people are encouraged to look at this truth and carefully consider it."

Enduring Word Bible Commentary Psalm 91

9 Because **you have made the Lord your dwelling place—**
the Most High, who is my refuge—

10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

The writer reminds us that these statements of God's work on behalf of the reader are based on a decision made by the reader – just as the writer has already made.

"It is our duty to be at home in God, to make our choice of Him, and then to live our life in Him as our habitation, to converse with Him, and delight in Him, and depend upon Him; and then it shall be our privilege to be at home in God..." **Matthew Henry Commentary**

11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

For the one who makes the Lord their dwelling place, the
Lord personally commands His angel armies to prioritize the safety and
well-being of them in the smallest and largest of ways.

Do these verses ring any bells?

9 And [Satan] took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written,

**“He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’**

11 and

**“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”**

12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” **13** And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

LUKE 4:9-12

Satan's Misuse of Psalm 91

Satan's use of Psalm 91 presents many errors:

- He tries to tempt the Son of God – who withstands.
 - Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one **who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin**. 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. - **HEBREWS 4:14-16**
 - **If Jesus had given into the temptation of Satan, His sacrifice on the cross would have been for *His* sin, not ours. Praise Jesus this is not so!**

Satan's Misuse of Psalm 91

- This appearance of the Messiah is not one where He is lifted up and exalted, but one where He is struck down and shamed.
 - While the verse is the truth of God, it is not the truth for the 1st coming of the Lord. He came the first time to suffer and die. Dispensationally, the verse applies to the 2nd coming.

Satan confused God's word to confuse people | Grace Bible Church - Warren, MI

(rightlydividing.org)
 - "...and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **MATTHEW 20:27-28**

Satan's Misuse of Psalm 91

- He applies it to the wrong situation:
 - "Satan is correct in his interpretation of Scripture: God will protect you. He will command angels to protect you, angels that have the power to bear you up when necessary to protect you from injury... But it was not necessary. And because the idea of jumping from the temple was Satan's idea, Jesus knew it was not God's will."
- Misusing**
- Psalm 91 • Knowing God and His Ways (craigbrianlarson.com)**
- Satan was creating a situation in which to see if God will follow through or not – i.e. "putting the Lord your God to the test."

Where are we applying the truth of God in the wrong situation?

Where are we applying the truth of God in the wrong situation?

- Are we holding onto sin because of the truth God will be ready to forgive when we are ready to stop it?
 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **ROMANS 6:1-2**
- Are we justifying sinful actions because of twisted half-truths about God?
 - For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **2 TIMOTHY 4:3**
- Are we hatefully slinging the truth of God at those we wish to silence, change, or defeat?
 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **EPHESIANS 4:15**

Satan's Misuse of Psalm 91

- He cuts out the NEXT verse.

13 You will tread on the **lion** and the **adder**;
the young **lion** and the **serpent** you will trample underfoot.

- Lion and serpent are two different figures for Satan in Scripture:
- Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring **lion**, seeking someone to devour. - **1 PETER 5:8**
- I will put enmity between you [**the serpent**] and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise *his* heel. - **GENESIS 3:15**

Satan's reference refers to his own demise.

**14 “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
15 When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”**

We hear the Lord give His perspective on this passage and it provides us some context to all these promises of deliverance and provision and protection.

These promises are not for everyone.

The Promises of Psalm 91

One of the greater errors we can make when applying to Scripture are to assume certain statements, declarations, or promises apply to everyone.

The truth is many such truths do not apply to everyone.

- Example: "We are all [humanity] children of God."
 - Truth: But to all who did receive [Jesus], who believed in his name, **he gave the right to become children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **JOHN 3:12-13**
 - This is why the Gospel is often described with themes such as "adoption".

The Promises of Psalm 91

Psalm 91's declarations of the goodness, faithfulness, strength, and love of God are all **true**. But as those apply to God's hand in our lives are conditional on our relationship with him.

V.1 - "*He who dwells*"

V.2 - "*I will say*"

V.9 - "*Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place*"

V.14-16 - "*Because he holds fast... Because he knows my name... When he calls to me...*"

"But isn't God's love unconditional?" Of course – it requires no special action, status, compensation, and is readily available and waiting for all (see the Parable of the Prodigal Son). What is conditional is our love for Him.

Deuteronomy 32

The scary truth behind the references to Deuteronomy 32? It is not a warning against the enemies of Israel, but Israel themselves.

**5 They have dealt corruptly with [God];
they are no longer his children because they are blemished;
they are a crooked and twisted generation...**

**15 "But Jeshurun ("Upright/Beloved One" - poetic name for Israel) grew fat, and kicked;
you grew fat, stout, and sleek;
then he forsook God who made him
and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.**

**20 And he said, 'I will hide my face from them;
I will see what their end will be,
for they are a perverse generation,
children in whom is no faithfulness.**

Just because the people were of the lineage and heritage of the nation of Israel, did not guarantee their relationship with the LORD.

**14 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.**
**15 When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.**
**16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."**

Some in the modern church are banking their relationship with God on something outside of themselves:

- "I've been going to church all my life."
- "My parents/spouse is Christian."
- "I don't do anything horrible (or that others do)."

Ultimately, none of this means ANYTHING to Lord Almighty. What has mattered is the confession and profession of one's heart.

14 “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
15 When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
**16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”**

This sounds similar to another Psalm, one of David:
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever. PSALM 23:1

14 “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

15 When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.

**16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”**

What long life and salvation is Psalm 91 speaking to?

For us modern Christians, it is the eternal life and salvation found in Jesus.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” **JOHN 3:16-18**

Putting it Into Practice

- What truths are we misapplying to our life because we desire our gratification and desires more than the glory of God?
- What is our personal declaration on the Lord Almighty? Is He a fictional character, a distant myth, or our refuge, fortress, and dwelling place?
- For those of us who claim to believe in Jesus:
 - Do our lives reflect the personal confession we have made, or are we still banking on something outside of ourselves?
- For those of us who do not claim to believe in Jesus:
 - Is today the start of the long life and salvation the Lord offers us all unconditionally?