

## **THE PATH, SEPTEMBER 14-20, 2020**

**Theme:** This week we will continue to look at the attributes of God using some of the images of God that are presented in the Psalms. The book of Psalms was the hymn book of the Old Testament and of the early church. It was made up of the songs that Jesus would have sung throughout the day and in worship as well. Because of that it shows us the beauty of who God is and gives us reasons why we should praise Him and celebrate Him.

### **Monday - Psalm 46**

“God is our refuge and our strength a helper who is always found in times of trouble.” That is the psalmist cry in Psalm 46 but it is not a cry that everyone can make. Charles Spurgeon rightly says, “not everyone can sing this song of peace amid commotion and calamity.” Only the redeemed can cry out to God and be assured that God hears. We live in a time of turmoil and struggle and in this time God is our refuge and strength, but He is not our refuge and strength because of what we do or how good we are. He is only our refuge and strength because we have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb. Because we are forgiven by Him we can run to Him in prayer and we can come boldly before His throne of grace.

When Martin Luther the great church reformer of the 15th century met with great opposition, he would grab one of his friends and say “come, let us sing the 46th psalm, let us pray it, and then let the devil do whatever he can.” In other words let us run to Jesus in the calamity of life, let us hide in Him when persecution rages, and when we feel like we can’t go on let us draw our strength from Him. That is who God is, He is a refuge we can hide in, He is our stability that we can run to and He is our strength. That is why we are told in the New Testament, “be strong in the LORD.” Stop trying to do it yourself and run to the strength, the grace and the love of Almighty God.

### **Tuesday - Psalm 48**

“This God, our God forever and ever- HE will always lead us.” Once again the psalmist makes it personal, “this God OUR God....” He personally knows and has a relationship with God. If you just pause right there it is an amazing statement isn’t it? God, the creator of this universe, the one who formed and fashioned us in our mother’s wombs can be personally known by us. It is an amazing assertion. We can have a relationship with God and because we have a relationship with Him the psalmist makes another amazing assertion, “He will always lead us.” This is certainly a foreshadowing of the words of Jesus when He says, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” It is a pointing forward to Jesus’ words “and lo I am with you always.” That is who Jesus is, He is forever faithful. What does the word always mean? It means forever. He will forever be with us. He will forever lead us. That is great news is it not. When we don’t know how to walk God takes our hand and leads us. When we don’t know which way to turn God points us in the right direction. When we have questions about life? God willingly answers them. When we search for His will? He willingly shows it to us. When we are weeping, He sits beside us and wipes the tears from our eyes. And even when we face the valley of the shadow of death, He walks with us there as well. He leads us in life and even into death and when we enter

that place, it will be a place of joy. Why? Because in His presence is fullness of joy. If we personally know God through the person of Jesus Christ then we have the assurance that He will always lead us, in life and in death.

### **Wednesday - Psalm 59**

David is the author of Psalm 59 and it was written at a time when King Saul in his jealousy was trying to kill David. When you see the context of the psalm, David's assertion in v. 9 is nothing short of amazing, "God is my stronghold." Most likely when David writes these words he is inside of his house surrounded by Saul's forces. He is in serious danger and his life is in jeopardy. Even then when things are at their lowest point, David says, "God is my stronghold." The irony of that verse rings out to us, David is holed up in his house, but its not his house that is sheltering him. Its not the walls that are protecting him, it is God Himself. He is an unconquerable stronghold and in His mercy and sovereignty, He protects David from certain death.

I can't read David's words without thinking about Paul's words in Romans 8:37, "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." We are victorious! But its not on our own, it is through Jesus. We win because of Him. The same thing is true of David, he was victorious because God was his stronghold.

I also can't read David's words without thinking about Jesus. When He was on the cross, He was surrounded just like David was. His enemies had closed in on Him, but God the Father was His stronghold and He was ultimately victorious because of that. The hymn writer captures that well, "up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph over His foes, He arose the victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with His saints to reign." Jesus won the battle over even the foe of death, and through Him we can be victorious as well. He rose and now He is preparing a place for us, the place that will be our stronghold throughout all eternity. The place of victory in God's kingdom, not because of what we have done but because of what Jesus did on the cross. The victory is won! He is our stronghold and we are victorious through Him.

### **Thursday - Psalm 59 (focus on verse 10)**

David makes another phenomenal statement here in verse 10, "MY faithful God will come to meet me; God will let me look down on my adversaries." When David writes those words he is in trouble, he is surrounded and his enemies are looking down on him. Still David is not hopeless. The world might say David was at the end of his rope, but thanks to God David was not at the end of his hope. He was patiently waiting on God and still trusting in Him against all circumstances. David can't get to God. He can't leave his house. He quarantined but not by a virus, by the army of king Saul. He can't move, but he says, God will come to me. God will make a way where there is no way. That is ultimately what He did for us in Jesus isn't it? Our sins surrounded us, Satan plotted our demise, death and hell awaited us. We could not move. We could not get to God. We were paralyzed by our sins, but when we could not get to Him, God came to us. He came to us in the person of Jesus Christ, born in a manger. He came to us through the perfect life of Jesus. He came to us through the cross and through the empty tomb. He came to us, when we could not get to Him and He saved us because of His goodness and mercy. He is

faithful and just as David said He came to meet us, and one day He will raise us up. Thanks be to God for His indescribable plan!

### **Friday - Psalm 61**

Many of the thoughts of Psalm 61 have already been declared in other psalms. God is our refuge. God is our strong tower. God is faithful, and God has heard our cries. God is our rock of safety. David is once again clinging to God in the midst of the turmoil and struggle of life. This time we aren't told what the struggle is, and perhaps that is purposeful. Maybe we don't need to know what David was struggling with so that we could simply see that God is with us in all the struggles of life. David is once again seemingly at the end of his rope, but God is not done with David.

I love how Charles Spurgeon puts it, "It is a blessed thing to wait only on God. You have proved everything else to be a failure and now you simply hang upon the bare arm of God alone. There is certainly enough for us to depend on here." Everything and everybody may fail you but God never will. You may try to find strength in 1000 other things and they may all fall through, but if you cling to God, He will never fail you and He will never let you go. He truly is our rock and our refuge. He really is our strong tower and our strength. He certainly is faithful and He hears us when we pray. So regardless of the circumstance and the turmoil let us celebrate God's goodness, majesty and power today and everyday!