

THE PATH, SEPTEMBER 7-13, 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 22

Psalm 22 is a Messianic psalm that points to Jesus. Specifically it points to His death on the cross and how He was forsaken by the Father. When Jesus took on our sins and became sin on the cross the Father turned His face away from Jesus. This shows us the horrific nature of sin. God the Father and God the Son, along with God the Holy Spirit form the Trinity, but because of sin, the Father has to turn away. God cannot look on sin. So when Jesus willingly took on sin for us the Father turned away. Jesus was forsaken, and this Psalm predicted it 1000s of years before it happened. It is amazing! The psalmist then gives us a great description of God in verse 19, “But you Lord don’t be far away, My STRENGTH, come quickly to help me.” In this Messianic Psalm that points to Jesus, the psalmist is still personally struggling with something so what does he do? He cries out to God for help and he says, “God is my strength.” The word strength that is used there means help, or protection, or power. Let that sink in for just a moment, God the creator of this universe helps us. When we struggle to go from one day to the next, God helps us. When we feel as if life is too hard to go on, God gives us strength and in fact He is our strength. When the forces of darkness assail us, God is our protection. His power is available to us because of His grace and mercy.

The reality is we were enemies of God and His power wasn’t for us but against us. Because of our sins He wasn’t our help, instead we were under His wrath. We were His enemy so His strength was not available to us but because Jesus was forsaken on the cross, all of this changed. Because Jesus took our sins and washed them away on the cross we are no longer enemies of God but we are friends of God. Because of His great love we are transformed, we are no longer children of wrath, but we are children of God, and because of that God is our strength! We have many reasons to rejoice.

Tuesday - Psalm 27

“The Lord is my light.” What does light do? It gives you the ability to see. It shines on your path and helps you not fall. God is all of that. He helps us see, no wonder the hymn writer says, “I once was blind but now I see.” God helped him see his need for a Savior, he repented and put his faith in Jesus. God shined His light on him and he was saved. Of course God doesn’t just shine His light on us for salvation, He shines His light on us everyday to help us see. This means He gives us the wisdom that we need as we try to navigate this life. That has been needed all throughout history but I think in these days that we live in today it is especially needed. He shines His light so we can make wise decisions, so we can stay on the path, and so we can follow Him. That is the goodness of God, He could just save us and leave us to our own devices, but He doesn’t. HE leads us and guides us daily. He gives us wisdom daily and He keeps us from falling daily. He calls us to take up our cross and follow Him daily, but He

doesn't just leave us to figure out how to do that on our own. He calls us to do it and then in His grace and goodness, He shines His light to give us the ability to do it. That shows us a little bit about the character of God, when He calls us to do something, He will then give us the ability to do it. What an awesome God we serve!

Wednesday - Psalm 3

David is on the run from his son Absalom in Psalm 3. This is a time of extreme struggle for him. Not only is his life in danger but it is in danger from his son. It has to be a time of physical exhaustion combined with mental and emotional exhaustion. Being physically tired is one thing but being emotionally and mentally drained is another. David is most likely all 3. He is facing an insurrection against his throne and this insurrection is led by his son Absalom. Living with the pressure of someone trying to remove you from office is bad but when that person is your son then certainly the stress is compounded. David is dealing with all sorts of pressure and even though he is the king and a man after God's own heart, the pressure causes David to drop his head. David is simply overwhelmed. The picture is of a man who is defeated. We see this from time to time in the sports world today, when a person suffers defeat they simply drop their head. They are unmoving, disappointed and struggling. That is David here but he is not playing a game he is dealing with the extreme pressures of life. They overwhelm him and he drops his head. It is a picture of man who is on the verge of giving up. The situation is so bad that many people are saying that God can't even help David. In other words people think he is beyond help. The good news is that is not true because in verse 3 God shows up and David's hope is restored.

He goes from being a man who is hopeless to a man who is filled up with hope. He goes from dropping his head in defeat to having his head lifted up. Take note of this David is so weak that he can't even lift up his own head. God however bursts onto the scene and lifts David's head. He is no longer defeated, he is victorious. He is no longer overcome, he is restored. He is no longer hopeless, but now he is hopeful. David was the king of the country but he couldn't do these things for himself, God however could. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and as David shows us there are no hopeless situations because of the power of God.

Thursday - Psalm 18

David faced many battles and many struggles in his life. He dealt with the lion and the bear when he was a shepherd. He faced the giant known as Goliath. He battled many of the Philistines. He also had to deal with his son's rebellion and he battled Saul, the former king who wanted him dead. In all of those battles and struggles David relied on God. If he would have tried to win the victory by himself, David would have been defeated. Certainly Psalm 3 shows us that as David's head is down and he has all but given up. God intervened and that made all the difference in the world. The struggle that we read about in Psalm 18 was also very extreme. The problem was severe, David's enemies were pursuing him and King Saul wanted him dead. God intervened however and David writes Psalm 18 as a song of praise to God for His dynamic intervention. In verse 18 David proclaims God is my "support". He isn't saying that God is there to do everything David asks Him to do. He isn't saying that God is at his beck and call, instead David is saying that God has supported him and held him up. In essence God has held

him together. Paul makes that same assertion in the New Testament when he says, “and by Him all things hold together.” That is truly a glimpse into just how amazing God is. He holds the universe together, He holds this world together, and in His personableness He holds us together. He is our support. He holds us up and holds us together. Without Him we would fall apart. Without Him the world would fall apart and the universe would cease to be. God is holding all things together and thankfully “all things” includes you and me.

Friday - Psalm 43

Many of the psalms express the struggles of humanity and how God is good to us even in our struggles. He is our light, our shield, the lifter of our heads. He is our support and our strength. All of these things are certainly needed when life is hard, but in Psalm 43 the psalmist wants us to know that we don't just need God when life is hard we need God all the time. Psalm 43 is a psalm of struggle, where God once again vindicates the writer and delivers him, but in v. 4 the psalmist says I am coming to the altar of God in the house of God to worship because God is my exceeding joy. God has delivered him and given him joy so he is rejoicing. God is faithful in the hard times and the good times so he is rejoicing, but this statement goes even deeper than that, the psalmist is saying God IS MY JOY!. When times are hard I can have joy in Jesus. When life is normal I can have joy in Jesus. When life is good, great and amazing, I can have joy in Jesus. We need Him in the hard times, the normal times, and the good times. He is always our joy.