"TOTAL DEVOTION"

Psalm 63:1-11
8-14-2019

INTRODUCTION:

***David had a total devotion to God!**

God was 3 things to David:

I. ***God was*** **the** **<u>DESIRE</u>** **of David's Being** *(v. 1-4)*

II. ***God was*** **the** **<u>DELIGHT</u>** **of David's Soul** *(v. 5-8)*

III. ***God was*** **the** **<u>DEFENSE</u>** **of David's Life** *(v. 9-11)*

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NOTE: Intro to Psalm: "A psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah" - David's reference to himself as "king" (v. 11) proves that this time in the wilderness was not when he was chased by King Saul, but when his own son Absalom forced him to flee into the wilderness before crossing the Jordan River (II Sam. 15:23).

This psalm is a tremendous outpouring of the devotion of David to God.

Outline adopted from the footnotes of the Ryrie KJV Study Bible, p. 840.

***David had a total devotion to God!**

God was 3 things to David:

I. THE DESIRE OF DAVID'S BEING (v. 1-4)

"Thou art my God" -

David had a personal relationship with God
David had a close relationship with God

V. 1

"Early" - Before dawn, in the morning (cp. this word in Job 7:21, Psalm 57:8, 108:2, Is. 26:9).

The word describes an intense eagerness and diligence that propels one to meet with God the moment he wakes up.

"With my soul have I desired Thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early" (Is. 26:9).

"Early" - Psalm 130:6 - "My soul waiteth for the Lord, more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning."

"My soul thirsteth" - the inner man. Many believers have a parched dry inside that craves a deeper relationship with God.

ILLUS: The longing to see your family, having been apart for awhile.

"My flesh" - the outer man

Physically, David needed rejuvenation, new vigor, new strength. Such he knew only came from His God.

"Soul and flesh" together are indicative of David's whole being (cp. 35:9-10).

"In a dry and thirsty land" - David, though in a desert environment, is not referring to not having physical water, but not having spiritual water.

ILLUS: Working, living, etc. in the midst of anti-God environment creates a great thirst for God.

To the O.T. Hebrews in the days of David, the place to meet God was at the tabernacle.

David is now in the wilderness of Judaea and longs to be back at the tabernacle again.

David is unsatisfied without God.

V. 2

Psalm 27:4 - "One thing have I desired of the LORD< that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple."

"The sanctuary" - the tabernacle, the Holy Place, that special place where a Jew sought God.

V. 3

Life has nothing that can compare with God's loyal love.

Even the love of a spouse, children, family, friends, etc. falls far short of the perfect love that God has for His children.

"Life" - lit. plural - "lives." No matter how many lives we were to live, no experience can match the thrill of really knowing the love of God (I Jn. 4:16-19).

Paul said: "Neither count I my life dear unto myself" (Acts 20:24)

Phil. 1:23 - "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better..."

V. 4

"Bless" = praise. Adoration, thanks, and testifying of God's goodness to God's face everyday is a worthy life's occupation.

ILLUS: of the Old Spanish woman who came to FBC one Saturday. I could not understand a word she said, but what a fervent pray-er and worshipper she was. Her lack of embarrassment to cry out to God and to sing to Him, etc., left a lasting impression on me.

"Lift up my hands" - Normally, the position of the palms was <u>face up</u> in prayer, depicting the anticipation of God's grace and blessings.

Psalm 28:2 - "Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle."

Psalm 143:6-7 - "I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee,asathirstyland. Selah. Hearmespeedily,OLORD,myspiritfolloweth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit."

I Tim. 2:8 - "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

The stretching out of the hands was also used in praise and worship (I Ki. 8:54).

II. THE DELIGHT OF DAVID'S SOUL (v. 5-8)

V. 5

David anticipates God's showers of blessings to satisfy his soul.

NOTE: Those whom God satisfies are always those who in faith expect to be satisfied.

"Marrow & fatness" - an O. T. Hebrew idiom for a feast! What an appetite for fellowship with God David had. God satisfied his spiritual thirst (v. 1), his spiritual appetite (v. 5).

"Joyful lips" - singing to God (Eph. 5:20) was not ritual or routine for David, but was a joy.

We need to make Sundays a special and consecrated day in our home. Hectic, bustling activity can cause us to miss the Lord's blessings. One young pastor's wife learned this lesson from her three year old son. Her husband (the pastor) had gone early to the church, and she got the children ready alone. The baby's shoe couldn't' be found; one spilled food on his shirt. After finally getting them in the car, she realized she had forgotten the diaper bag, so ran back to get it. Sighing and muttering, she drove off down the street. Her three year old's little hand tapped her on the shoulder, "Mommy, do you like to go to church?" "Of course I do," she snapped. "Oh," he responded meekly, "I couldn't tell."

Our actions and attitudes speak more than our words! When frantic and rushed, we are in no spirit to benefit from the preaching of God's Word.

V. 6

The best pastime during insomnia is meditation upon who God is and what He has done.

The reference to "wings" is picturesque of a hen which stretches out its wing to safeguard her chicks underneath. (Mt. 23:37 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!").

David, having experienced God's protection, is determined to make the covering of God's wings an amphitheater of praise.

V. 8

"Followeth hard" - lit. to cling or be glued together (cp. Gen. 2:24)

"Followeth hard after thee" - to put in the effort to remain close to God.

Being close to God takes work, time, and communication; just as being close to a spouse requires the same efforts.

"Right hand" - the place of power, because it is the place of Christ.

"Upholdeth me" - to keep from sinking into the slough of despair; or the quicksand of sin; or the pits of defeat -- God upholds us (ILLUS: "Footprints")

III. THE <u>DEFENSE</u> OF DAVID'S LIFE (v. 9-11)

V. 9

Hymn - The Lord is my light and my salvation ... Whom then shall I fear ... The Lord is the strength of my ... of whom then shall I be afraid?"

"The lower parts of the earth" - a reference to the depths of the earth- i.e. the grave.

V. 10

"Fall by the sword" - "Those who live by the sword shall die by it." David is evidently implying that the very sword with which his enemies intended to kill him will become the instrument of their own death. (EX: Hamon's gallows)

"A portion for foxes" - food for the jackals (scavengers).

V. 11

The outcome is joy and glory for the man who trusts God, but liars will be silenced (Rev. 21:8).

CONCLUSION: