

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of July 2020

God is Alive

(Psalms 42:1-11)

Week of Sunday, July 5, 2020

At various times, we think God is far removed from us. The Author of Psalms 42 felt that way. The Psalmist here has been exiled from Jerusalem and the temple and tormented by enemies. The Psalmist longed to know God.

Various circumstances make us long for the living God. The Psalmist longs for God.

I. God is Real!

Many people deny the existence of God. Though we may not conclude that God does not exist; we may doubt God's existence during some of life's trying experiences.

- ❖ **The Bible affirms the reality of God.** The Bible records the deeds of God and reveals His Character.
- ❖ **Experiences affirms the reality of God.** When you experience the God revealed in Scripture, you know the reality of God. Logic can be challenged, but the change that God makes in a person's life defies challenge. One of my favorite Theologians is an anonymous blind man. Listen to his theology after Jesus healed him: *"One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see"* (John 9:25).

Week of Sunday, July 12, 2020

II. God is Great!

The Psalmist longed for God, for he knew that God was alive. He knew something of His greatness, but he wanted to know more of the glory of God. Humankind never exhausts the truths about God. Each day we can

learn more about Him, and the more we know, the more we rejoice in His greatness.

- ❖ **God is Powerful.** Nothing can compare to the awesome power of God. God spoke and the world came into being. With His creative hand, He formed human beings, and He infused them with the breath of life. Not only did He create the universe, but He also has power to sustain it.
- ❖ **God has Supremacy.** The God revealed in Scripture has absolute supremacy. The world and its affairs are in His control. Satan seeks control over the affairs and destiny of humankind, but God has absolute supremacy over Satan. Paul said, *“and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shrew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Col. 2:15)*. Jesus defeated Satan by dying on Calvary. John records how Jesus has ultimate supremacy over the evil world. *“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Rev. 20:10)*. Only God is great; for He has absolute supremacy.
- ❖ **God does not change.** God is great because He never changes. He has a continuous settled disposition against sin. He also has a constant, unfailing love toward sinners. James said, *“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17)*. You can always count on God to be the same way He has always been.

Week of Sunday, July 19, 2020

III. God is Knowable!

The Psalmist longed for God; for God had made Himself known. The Psalmist desires to know God more and more. He wants to go to the temple and be admitted as a worshipper in the presence of God. For those of you who long to know God, you can know Him, for He makes Himself known.

- ❖ **God made Himself known on Stone Tablets.** In the history of Israel, God made Himself known on Mount Sinai on two stone tablets on

which He wrote the Ten Commandments. These commands revealed God's Righteous Will for His People. God desires that people honor Him with priority, sovereignty, sincerity, and sanctity (first four commandments). He also demands that they honor and respect other human being and their property (last six commandments). On these stone tablets, God reveals Himself as a God of law and order.

- ❖ **God made Himself known on the Sand.** He made Himself known supremely in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The episode of Jesus' confrontation with the adulterous woman and her accusers furnishes us a truth about God (John 8:1-11). The Pharisees had caught a woman in the act of adultery. They tested Jesus to see what He would do with the law, which commanded that the woman be stoned. In an unusual gesture, Jesus wrote on the ground – then He said, *"he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her"* (John 8:7). Eventually something that Jesus wrote on the ground convicted the Pharisees, for all the accusers left. Someone has said that Jesus wrote the sins of the Pharisees nevertheless, from this story we learn that God does not desire to condemn anyone but seeks their highest good.
- ❖ **God made Himself known on a piece of Wood.** He made Himself known when Jesus died on the Cross. On a rough piece of wood, Jesus disclosed His love for humanity. *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we are yet sinner, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8).

Week of Sunday, July 26, 2020

IV. God is Able!

The Psalmist longed for God. He knew that God was real, that God was great, and that God was knowable, and he also knew God's ability.

- ❖ **God is able to give strength during the troubles of life.** God is alive, and many have experienced His strength during the vicissitudes of life. Paul found that God was able to strengthen him during trouble. The Psalmist said, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"* (Psalm 46:1).
- ❖ **God is able to deliver from temptation.** When evil is strong in our life, our God can deliver. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you*

to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

- ❖ **God is able to deliver from the fear of death.** He causes people to be able to face the future without fear. Listen to Paul's confidence in the face of death: *"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).* God can deliver you from the fear of death.

God is alive! The God of the ages wishes to be alive and active in your life!!