7 reasons to begin your day with God.

- 1. It fills you with Truth
- 2. It prepares you for temptation
- 3. It quards you from sin
- 4. It recalibrates you from pride to humility
- 5. it emulates Your Savior
- 6. it expresses your dependence
- 7. it exemplifies godly self-discipline (rising over sleeping)

Before the WORLD fills your heart—be with God in secret prayer.

THESIS — Psalm 5 gives HELPS ON "HOW TO BEGIN YOUR DAY WITH GOD". Prioritize morning communion with God in very ungodly times.

So, in your morning communion with God, you can maintain these 4 truths...

- 1. I must pray! (1-3)
- 2. I know God is holy (4-6)
- 3. I consider their doom (7-10)
- 4. I'm safe in God (11-12)

I. <u>I MUST PRAY!</u> (1-3)

v.3 - I order my prayer to you...

✓How do you do this?

II. I KNOW GOD IS HOLY! (4-6)

A. The morning meditation shifts from self TO God (v.4—"FOR YOU")

III. <u>I CONSIDER THEIR DOOM!</u> (7-10)

A. his ambition - v.7-8

B. his opponents - v.9-10

IV. <u>I'M SAFE IN GOD!</u> (11-12)

- A. the REQUEST to rejoice in God (v.11)
- B. the REASON to rejoice in God (v.12)

"He would be much troubled if he heard smiths or other craftsmen at work at their trades, before he was at communion with God: saying to me often, 'How this noise shames me! Doth not my Master deserve more than theirs? So Joseph arose early every morning to spend time with God"

(Theodosia Alleine, speaking of her husband Joseph Alleine).

Early Morning Scriptures:

Some Scriptures >>>

- "Then Joshua rose early in the morning." (Josh 3:1)
- "Then King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord." (2 Chron 29:20)
- "She also rises when it is yet night." (Prov. 31:15)
- "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." (Mark 1:35)
- "Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen." (Mark 16:2)

Aids for Morning Prayer:

Psalm 5 — "Morning Communion with God in Very Ungodly Times"

- You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan. (John Bunyan)
- Give me grace to walk more closely with You in the time to come. Being forgiven much may I love You all the more. May my life be one habitual effort of self-crucifixion and sin-crucifixion, seeking to consecrate my soul's best energies to Him who is willing to "blot out as a thick cloud" all my transgressions. Overrule the discipline of Your providence for promoting within me this death of sin, and this life of righteousness. Amid earth's many disquietudes, its crosses and its losses enable me with joy to look forward to that blessed hour when there shall be no more sin, and therefore no more sorrow when every tear shall be wiped from every eye, and when I shall be permitted to know all that is comprehended in the holy beatitude, how "blessed" indeed are "the pure in heart," who are to "see God." (John MacDuff)
- Grant us an enjoyment of Your covenant salvation. Bless us in Christ Jesus—warm our hearts—raise up our minds
 —fill us with the gifts, graces, and consolations of the Holy Spirit. O let our souls be under the mighty, allconstraining, all-conquering influence of Your everlasting love this day. We beg You to keep us this day from
 sinning against You. Lord, we are in ourselves, and when left to ourselves—as unstable as water. O support us. O
 defend us. O be near unto us this day, and uphold us with the right hand of Your righteousness. (S.E. Pierce)

Galatians 3:22-29

But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ

have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

PSALM 5: *THE PSALTER* Isaac Watts)

Tune: Amazing Grace

Lord, in the morning thou shalt hear My voice ascending high; To thee will I direct my prayer, To thee lift up mine eye;

Up to the hills where Christ is gone To plead for all his saints, Presenting at his Father's throne Our songs and our complaints.

Thou art a God, before whose sight The wicked shall not stand; Sinners shall ne'er be thy delight, Nor dwell at thy right hand.

But to thy house will I resort, To taste thy mercies there; I will frequent thine holy court, And worship in thy fear. O may thy Spirit guide my feet In ways of righteousness! Make every path of duty straight, And plain before my face.

My watchful enemies combine To tempt my feet astray; They flatter, with a base design To make my soul their prey.

Lord, crush the serpent in the dust, And all his plots destroy; While those that in thy mercy trust, For ever shout for joy.

The men that love and fear thy name Shall see their hopes fulfilled; The mighty God will compass them With favor as a shield.

"O God, the Author and Fountain of all goodness, who governs the whole world by your marvelous wisdom, Do not permit that we be any way moved with the prosperous success of the ungodly, but that we may the rather give ourselves wholly to Your service, and to the continual meditation of Your holy law, that in the end we may effectually find You to be our Savior and Redeemer, when You shall come to judge the whole world, through Your well-beloved Son, Christ Jesus. Amen."

— from the prayers from the Scottish Psalter of 1595.