

The Psalms are a story about the search for the true King.

Here in Psalm 92, we are faced with the question – how would you like to spend some time with Him?

SI – About 20 years ago, I lived in Pennsylvania, and I went to hang out with a friend of mine. (a guy). The two of us were going to see a movie, and eat a hamburger, and talk like friends. Well, we saw the movie, we ate the hamburgers, and the first thing the man said to me was, “I want to go home.” I had a wife at home. He had a wife and children at home. But it showed me that he did not want to spend time with me. Is that what we say to God?

Do you want to spend time with the King of Kings?

My wife and I have been married for 28 years, and our date is going to the grocery store. It is okay. It is not an emotional hardship. Life is busy right now. But what if we could have a whole day, once a week, to spend with each other? That would be cool. But do I feel that way about My Lord and Savior?

In Amos 8:5, the people were asking, “...*when will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain?...[and when will the Sabbath be over,] that we may offer wheat for sale...?*” They just wanted the day with God to be over, so that they could do what they really wanted to do.

Let me ask you a question – is Sunday the best day of the week for you?

Since we love God, Sunday is a joy, because we get to enjoy Christ today!

If you listen to some husbands talk about their anniversary and their wife, it grieves us for the condition of their marriage, like it grieves us how we hear some Christians talk about Sunday, and the condition of their walk with God. It should not be, “Honey, what restaurant do I have to do take you to, on our anniversary, and how long is it going to take, because I would really rather be at _____ doing _____?” Truth be told, we ask the Lord, how many religious thins must I do on Sunday, and how long is it going to take, because I would really rather be at _____ doing _____.

Listen to the vision of the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 58:13-14, “*“If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;*

I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

What if Sunday is a gift?

One whole day in seven, we get to praise and thank our God; this is an early taste of heaven’s rest and joy.

What is this gift of time?

1. We praise all day. (vv.1-4)

Maybe this is the problem. Guys don’t like anniversaries because anniversaries are like weddings. The woman plans everything, and there are flowers, candles and doilies, whatever doilies are. The meal at a wedding is not steak fries. Instead, it is a baked potato with fluff and an imprint in the fluff somehow. A man at a wedding looks and that and is thinking – is this even safe to eat?

This extends to how Christians view heaven. Many Christians falsely believe that heaven is all of us dressing up in choir robes and having church services for eternity. For a sports-minded, deer-hunting, car-racing man’s man, this is not the idea of heaven that they want. Nor is it their idea of Sunday.

So, my first point – “We praise all Day”, is not even attractive to this mindset. Why?

Because they are approaching it from their selfish mode of personal pleasure.

And from that mode, if they were going to be completely honest, they would say, “It is bad to be in church singing.” Period.

Rather be at _____ doing _____.

How can we take such a man, and move him from that mindset over to a new mindset of verse 1? How can we bring such a man to the point that he can say with the Psalmist, *“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.”*

HOW DO YOU GET HIM THERE?

THE KEY IS VERSE 4.

GOD DID SOMETHING. God made him glad by God’s work.

So that now, *“at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.”*

The man has to come to the end of his own abilities, his own work.

If he is chasing pleasure, he has to find out that it doesn’t satisfy.

If he is chasing work, he has to find out that he gets tired.

If he looks at his life from God's perspective, he finds he is sinful and in need of the work of redemption.

Any of these issues point him to God's work.

God's work points us to God's rest.

God's work and rest makes us thankful.

We come to a different vantage point in our outlook on the world. We understand and we desire to praise God all day.

2. Fools don't understand. (vv.5-9)

God's works are great. God's thoughts are deep. The fool does not know this.

Thinking about the works of God gets us thinking about the thoughts of God!

Thinking about the thoughts of God gets us wanting to spend time with God.

Wanting to spend more time with God, gets us thankful for the Sabbath.

We go to church, and the fool says, where are you going? We respond, "I'm going to the house of God." and the fool says, Yuck.

We used to say Yuck.

All the stuff that fools chase, we used to chase.

No more.

What do we want out of life? If all you want out of life is today's thrill, then go watch the next game or read the next story. Someone who is made with eternity in your heart is supposed to say Yuck to mindless existence.

Low ambition? No. It is darker than that. It is fighting God. Fools don't understand that.

It is fighting our very nature, and the creation around us, made for us to rule and enjoy.

Verses 6-7, the fools and evildoers may *sprout like grass...and flourish* – they may do quite well in this world, but we see their end. Their end is, as verse 7 says, "*doomed to destruction forever.*" Why? Because they would not acknowledge God's works in Creation, and their place in creation, and would not look past today.

They would not live as one made in the image of God.

Would not think God's thoughts after Him.

Would rather live like an animal.

SI – every August, a lot of animals think that they are enjoying an incredible vacation at the Wisconsin state Fair, and what they don't realize is that they

are doomed to destruction. Is that all you want? A cow could say I have grain and water, what more can I want? Some men never come to church on a Sunday because all they want is a wife and a drink and a ballgame. What more could they want?

But verse 8 expresses what only children of God understand, because we think God's thoughts after God, "*You, O LORD, are on high forever.*"

Anyone who is a fool or evildoer is actually fighting God. Who will win a fight between fools and God?

Verse 9 actually says that God's "...*enemies shall perish.*"

The enemy is my flesh! Christ saved me from myself. Christ saved us from sin and death and the devil. Christ saved us from all our enemies.

3. Equipped to praise, my whole life through. (vv.10-15)

How can we be certain that God will treat us differently from the way God treats the enemies in verse 9? Because of verse 10, "*BUT You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox, you have poured over me fresh oil.*" What?

"My horn" is like saying my life box. IN my life box, I have abilities, like a resume, I have good grades or good looks, I have money or trophies for my achievements.

Pouring fresh oil is a consecration. In the Old Testament worship, they brought offerings of grain, and moistened them with oil.

It is a picture of a personal commissioning service. We are called again to go and use our abilities for God. God Himself exalted our life box of abilities. What you can do.

Why is this here? Because we get tired!

We don't want to go on doing what we can do. We feel like machines, so we want to quit. We lack purpose and meaning, so we lack the will to go on. God says, come to Me one day in seven, and I'll energize you afresh. I will keep you going and going. I will re-commission you for your whole life through.

You are good at sports or you are good at music or you are good at painting or welding or biology and medicine or business.

Your life box is held high, and God says He will bless us in it.

Christ has come and died in our place, to turn away the wrath of God. We get blessings from God, guaranteed our whole life through, and on to eternity. Not always comfort, but always blessings. The cross of Christ, and the resurrection, has secured for us the favor of God, and so we are well equipped to praise God constantly.

Maybe your job is to care for someone else as a spouse, a child, a parent, or as a church officer or even in the workplace – your task is to take care of someone else. That is your horn, your life box, and God will bless you in it.

In verse 11, our enemies fall down, because God’s enemies fell down in verse 9.

Verse 12 – a palm tree becomes a picture of a person gracefully standing tall. In those days, cedar trees from Lebanon were a well known image of being strong, dignified and even majestic. Stability, with an air of royalty, speaks volumes about what we are commissioned to go and do in our roles in the world!

Verse 13 – where are the dignified cedar trees planted? Where do the people with an air of royalty serve? The cedar tree people are planted in the house of The LORD.

Where do they flourish? They “*flourish in the courts of our God.*”

They are honored. They are protected. They have abundant provisions.

It is good.

Psalm 52:8, “*...I am like a green olive tree in the house of God, I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.*”

Isaiah 40:31, “*...even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*”

How does it all end?

Verse 14, “*They will bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green*”.

Verse 15, “*...to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*” This is a promise of spiritual strength, not a promise of physical strength. 2 Corinthians 4:16, “*Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day...the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*”

Conclusion: Wait, preacher, this was a sermon about the Sabbath day. Did you get off track? No. We could lay down a list of rules and dos and don’ts about Sundays, and get us feeling all legalistic. But the approach of this Psalm was very different, so we followed the tone of the Psalm. The Psalm says it is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

SI – when I was growing up and in college, I remember when we would get to church and instead of a sermon, there was a missionary report. I would always be disappointed. I am glad for this church whenever we have missionary reports, they do not take the place of sermon. Why? Because we need the refreshing of

Christ and His Word to feed our souls. If you have ever had hungry young men to feed daily – if you say to them, tell you what - instead of having supper tonight, we are going to show slide pictures of other people on the other side of the world eating supper, they would not be pleased. The young men might be tempted to eat the slides. We are highly supportive of missions. But what we NEED is to be fed ourselves, so that we can go back into the workweek and keep on doing what God has called us to do this Monday, this Tuesday, and this Wednesday.

We need the spiritual nourishment of words like verse 15, “*God is my rock.*”

The storms of our souls are only settled by hearing from God Himself, through His Word.

Worshipping God is a delight, like a young man eating pizza.

I remember years ago when one of my sons asked me, “Could we have bacon, wrapped in bacon?”

Our souls ask the pastor, “Could we have Christ, wrapped in Christ?”

I’m going to need Him every single day this week, and I have six days to go before the next fueling station.

I remember coming to the end of a Bible camp with families and someone asked a young boy at the closing campfire, what was the best part of your Summer, and he referenced a meal. The boy needs the food to keep coming, so that he can be refreshed and enjoy all of the other activities.

The Sabbath is our delight, because here we get the Word of Christ wrapped in the Spirit of Christ.

Sunday is the best day of the week.

Here we get refreshed. Here we praise. In verses 1-3 we declare His praise, and in verses 14-15, we live His praise. We LIVE HIS PRAISE.

Ephesians 1:11-12, “*In [Christ] we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ, might BE TO THE PRAISE of His glory.*”

Here is my fuel. Christ is my rock. One fine day, we will see Him face to face. This is the closest we can get on this planet.

Live for Christ on the days in between Sundays.

If you mess it all up, come anyway.

Isaiah 58:13-14, “*If you call the Sabbath a delight, ... then you shall take delight in the LORD.*”