

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 • Read Psalm 63

Questions from the Scripture text: Who penned this Psalm (superscript)? When? Whom does David address in v1a? Whose is He? What will David do (v1b)? When? What does his soul do? What does his flesh do? In what sort of land? For what (Whom!) has David looked (v2)? Where? To see what? What is better than what else in v3? How will David respond? How long will he do this (v4a)? What else will he do (v4b)? What will be the result for his soul (v5)? How will his mouth respond to this satisfaction? When else will he remember God (v6)? By doing what for how long? What has God been (v7)? Where then will David go? What will he do there? How does v8 describe going through life in this way? What will the result be? About whom do we hear for the first time in this Psalm in v9? What three things will happen to them (v9–10)? What will the king be doing at that time (v11a)? And who else will be doing what (v11b)? What about others' mouths (v11c)?

What does it look like to have God as your own, covenant God? Psalm 63 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **having God as our very own covenant God means praising Him as our Priority (v1–4), Pleasure (v5–6), and Protection (v7–10), all unto His Praise (v11).**

Praising God as Our Priority, v1–4. The Psalm begins, literally, early in the day. The land may be dry and thirsty (v1e–f), but David is thirstier for something (Someone!) else. The thirst of his soul for the Lord (v1c) is so intense that he feels the longing as if it is physical (v1d). Why? Because God's covenanted love (v3a) is better than life itself, and praising Him for it is the point of that life (v4). So this seeking is not just praying, but especially praising, as thrice repeated in the last three lines of this section.

Praising God as Our Pleasure, v5–6. The phrase "marrow and fatness" joins two words that usually indicate the richest portion and the choicest portion. Together, they communicate extreme delight and satisfaction. But what can satisfy a soul like this? Only the Lord Himself.

So for true pleasure, rather than filling his mouth with royal food, David fills his mouth with divine praise (v5b)! v6 finds him still licking his lips, as it were. Now, he's sleepless through the night watches. Hour after hour passes, but by meditating upon (v6b)—reminding himself of (v6a)—the Lord, he finds himself not hungry upon his bed but well-satisfied.

Praising God as Our Protection, v7–10. God has been not only loving (v3a) but help (v7a), not only pleasure but protection. The images here are as tender as they are strong: nestling under the shadow of God's wings (v7), following closely behind (v8a), being held up by His right hand (v8b). There's not just safety here, but singing (v7b). By contrast, the wicked are not only killed but brought low (v9b), as the humiliation of becoming jackal-food emphasizes (v10b).

Praising God through Eternity, v11. The demise of the wicked introduces another contrast. In the grave, their mouths will be shut (v11c, cf.). But the mouths that have been full of praise (v5b) will continue forever. The king, and everyone who swears by Him, will rejoice and glory forever. But Who is the Him—the King or God? Yes! For Christ is the perfect King-singer of this Psalm, and it is He through Whom we belong to the Lord, delight in the Lord, are protected by the Lord, and praise the Lord—Forever!

In Christ, from early in the morning, through all the watches of the night, may praising God be our priority, pleasure, and protection!

What time of day are you more forgetful of God? How/upon what can you meditate to remedy this?

Sample prayer: Lord, from early in the morning through the watches of the night, we are well-satisfied with Your power, Your glory, Your covenanted love, Your help... indeed You Yourself are our desire, delight, and defense! Be praised now, as You will be forever, filling Your people's hearts with joy in Christ the King, through Whom we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP63 "O God, You Are My God" or TP63 "God, Thee, My God, I'll Early Seek"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 63. These are the words of God. A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. Oh God. You are my God early. I will seek you. My soul thirsts for you. My flesh longs for you and a dry and thirsty land. Where there is no water.

So, I have looked for you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory because your loving kindness is better than life. My lips surprise you Thus, I will bless you while I live. I will lift up my hands in your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips.

When I remember you on my bed, I meditate on you in the nightwatches because you have been my help. Therefore, in the shadow of your wings. I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind you. You're right up your right hand up. Holds me. But those who seek my life to destroy it.

So, go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword. They shall be a portion for jackals. But the king So rejoice in God, everyone who swears by him shall glory, put the mouth of those who speak lies. Shall we stopped?

So far the reading of God's inspired and and Aaron tort

This is a song about prayer about praising. God, the conclusion is but the king shall rejoice in God. Of course, talking about David. It is. It's all of David. But especially talking about our Lord Jesus. Who in his divine nature of course has lived and mutual, adoration and fellowship with the saw with the Father.

And with the Spirit as the sun, from all eternity and in his human nature there's nothing that he desires more than the praise of God. And so he sets forth in the first 10 verses. The praise of God as our priority in verses 1 through 4, the praise of God as our pleasure here versus 5 through 6.

And the praise of God as our protection in verses, 7 through 10. And really verse 11 because verse 11 is the praise of God. And to perpetuity and you'll see how that connects with protection when we get there. So the Psalm begins with the praise of God as our priority O God.

You are my God early. I will seek you that the first thing, the top priority at the beginning of every day is the seeking of God and the praising of God who might be thirsty or we might be hungry. But even in a dry and thirsty, land. What he says in verse 1, is that his soul thirsts for God, more than water has flesh longs for God.

More than water. It is God, whom he will early seek when he goes to the sanctuary and There are the religious people there and the religious feelings that you might get there. And the clearing of your conscience is one, who's going to worship. There are many other, many other things that might be in it for you to attend the public worship.

But he goes to look for God to see God's part to see God's glory to see God himself. In fact the whole purpose of his life is to enjoy the steadfast love of God, Your loving kindness is better than life. He says, verse 3 and because of that, I will praise you.

He says, thus, I won't bless you while I live. So, as long as I live, I know the purpose. I know the priority of my life as for the praise of God. Thus, I will bless you while I live. I will lift up my hands and your name. So that's the first thing praising.

God is our priority as the purpose of our life in the first and most important thing every day. As the main reason why we go to the public worship itself. The second place, praising God as our pleasure. It says, when I remember you on my bed, I meditate on you in the night washes because you have been my help therefore, in the shadow of your wings, I will rejoice.

I'm sorry. Five and six like, that sounds like protection. That is protection, five and six praising. God is our pleasure. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness the words translated marrow, meaning the richest portion and the word translated fatness meaning the choicest portion. And so he finds God more, satisfying, more richly, satisfying more, intensely satisfying more pleasantly satisfied than anything else.

Than everything else put together. So, as he praises God, he says, my my soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall be shall praise you with joyful lips. It's an experience. You should have and worship and if you don't have it, you should ask the spirit to help you to give you satisfaction of in God and enjoyment of God, that you would find enjoying him and the hour to before the meal, much more pleasant and satisfying.

Then when you come to enjoy the food at the meal time, and so praising. God as our pleasure, And the third place. Praising God is our protection. Now we start in verse 7, Because you have been my help Therefore in the shadow of your wings, I will rejoice. So there's something that is threatening you that you might be afraid of or anxious about and you trust in the Lord.

And you find, you find safety with him. And you're sure that all things are working together for your good because he has called you, and he has made you to love him. And he has not withheld or spared, his only son from you. But together with his son, he will give to you all things.

And you realize, the reason that you needed protection was so that you could find out what great protection, the Lord Himself is so that you might praise him. And so as you shelter under his wings as it were, you're not just huddling in place. Sheltering in place. God have mercy on our culture that phrase that grew up in the last couple of years.

You are rejoicing in place. Your rejoicing in your shelter. Listen to it again because you have been my help. Therefore, in the shadow of your wings. I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind you. Your right hand upholds. Me and so there are these pictures of God covering us with her His wings, or allowing us to advance because we can, you know, we can walk behind him and the enemy can't attack us through him.

He is our shelter shield, as we are even able to advance, or when we're weak and faint. In ourselves is right hand up. Holds us we like strength or perhaps health like you if you have ever needed help because one of your feet or one of your legs wasn't doing well and someone comes around you and puts their arm around you and you rest on their shoulders.

And so, all of those pictures of the Lord, being our protection and rejoicing to have him as our protection. We don't have to fake it. Of course, but many a lady has faked faintness so that she could rest upon the right arm of the gentleman to would uphold her, we don't have to fake it because weakness is inherent to us.

And as the Lord carries us through life, we get the benefit of not just being sustained and upheld. But the enjoyment of the personal connection that he who loves us and he who has created us and redeemed us in order to love Him would have held by his right hand or covered by his wings or blocked shielded that we may advance closely behind him.

But those who seek my life to destroy it, they shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword. They shall be a portion for jackals. And so there's a thrice, there are threefold defeat or destruction for them that corresponds to the threefold protection that we have.

In God. How sad for those who are without God, who are without hope, who are without help that they don't know him to be their protection. But the king verse 11 shall rejoice in God, everyone who swears by himself glory, put the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

It's a double stopping. Of course, mouths go into the grave and they can praise God. No longer. There are several Psalms that say and the one who is in the grave. Praise you. And the Psalms thus conclude than. If we are been redeemed to praise God, we must live forever.

There must be a resurrection. There must be an everlasting life in which we may praise. God put those who have used their mouths to attack the righteous. Their mouths will be stopped, they will go to their graves and they will attack no more. And then once more again, in a final and devastating way for them, when they are resurrected unto wrath unto judgment and they stand before the Lord, Jesus Christ, the king and the judge, it will not be able to say anything.

Their mouths will be stopped forever, but those who are resurrected and to life, their mouths will be opened forever. Since he is our protection. And since we are redeemed by him in order to praise him we may know that we were redeemed even unto resurrection even unto everlasting life and we will praise him forever and ever.

So, the phrase of God is our priority, the praise of God is our pleasure. The praise of God is our protection and the prayers of God. And to perpetuity forever. Amen. Let's pray, Father. Thank you for the Psalm. Thank you for how it shows us that times of trouble or given for to us to remind us that praising.

You is the main thing that even on our desperately thirsty, you're hungry for more needy of you than we are for water. Thank you. That just as the psalmist is full

of his desire for you. And we don't even find out that he is in trouble until there's two or three verses left in the Psalm.

So also, you are the priority of our lives. You ought to be forgive us for the extent to which you're not and help us by your spirit that we would seek you early that. We would consider praising you the purpose of our life when we pray that you would make us to find you.

Satisfying more than any creature more than any position, more than any possession, more than any praise that we might get from others. That you would satisfy our souls that we would be content with you and upon you and we pray O, Lord that you would be our protection that we might enjoy the fact that you have made yourself personally, Our guarantee, our safety, our security.

So that we may enjoy not only the safeness and the soreness, the confidence of that, but we may enjoy resting upon you. And your personally engaging us into holding us and bless your name. That knowing you to be our purpose and our pleasure, and our protection. That We know that we must have you forever.

And that praising. You must be something that continues forever. That's what we pray. Lord that you would give us day by day even now, as we prepare to go to our beds, that you would give us to be praising, you to get a portion now. Enjoy a little bit.

Now of that, which will be our joy forever. Our purpose forever, make our hearts to rise up to you. And praise turn our thoughts to you and praise. Open our lips to you and praise for. We ask it in Jesus name Amen.