Sunday, October 3, 2021

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Earnestly I Seek You

Text: Psalm 63

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to develop an ACTION PLAN to daily SEEK GOD.

Introduction:

- ~ Last week's devotional was from Psalm 25
 - To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul:
 - 1. Prayer of DESIRÉ
 - 2. Prayer of FAITH
 - 3. Prayer of CONFESSION
 - 4. Prayer of THANKSGIVING

~ Charles Spurgeon added a note of interest to Psalm 63: "Chrysostom tells us that among primitive (early) Christians it was decreed and ordained that no day should pass without the public singing of this psalm."

~ Psalm of David; believed to have been composed either when fleeing King Saul or fleeing from his son Absalom.

1. Prayer of Personal Confession:

Psalm 63:1 - 2 ~ vs. 1, "O God, you are my God;"

O God, H430 el-o-heem: is in the plural (the three in one?!!) rulers, judges my God, H410 el: mighty one or the strong one.

That is exactly what I need when I feel persecuted, defeated, tired and in need – a mighty or strong one.

~ vs. 1, "earnestly I seek you;"

Have you ever lost or misplaced something important or of great value; how did you search for it?

David is expressing his desperation; he is not looking for material or spiritual help. He is looking for God and him only!!! Compare with Moses in Exodus 33:18, "Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ~ vs. 1, "my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." The realization of my desperate need for God should be a daily experience, not just in times of great need.

~ vs. 2, "So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory."

David is in the wilderness; is the sanctuary that he is referring to that within his own soul?

2. Prayer of Praise:

Psalm 63:3 - 4

~ vs. 3, "Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you."

Praise is NOT an emotion, it is an act of the will in response to an awareness of the truth of the depth of God's love for us!

~ vs. 4, "So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands."

Praise is to be expressive! Not showy. Not foolish. Also not stone cold! It flows from a heart overwhelmed by the love of God.

3. Prayer of Remembrance:

Psalm 63:5 - 6

~ vs. 6, "when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;"

Count your blessings (Hymn 563)

Remembering takes time and deliberate thought! Hope Princeton trip! Lyn and Johnny!

4. Prayer of Faith:

Psalm 63:7 - 8

~ vs. 7 & 8, "for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. (8) My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me." Illustration from physics!

5. Prayer of Hope:

Psalm 63:9 - 11

~ Two observations from these three verses: 1) God is the righteous judge, and 2) God is the eternal King!

Conclusion:

Time of prayer!