

## THE THIRST OF THE SOUL

Text:Psalm 42:1-2;63:1

INTRO: Psalm 42 was written by the descendants of Korah; Psalm 63 by David during the time of Absalom's rebellion. Both psalms speak of a thirst more powerful than the physical thirst for water-- the thirst of a human soul for a harmonious relationship with its Maker.

### I. WE ARE DEPENDENT ON GOD TO SUSTAIN LIFE ITSELF.

A. God not only brought mankind into existence but His providence sustains us from the cradle to the grave whether we know it or not, Heb. 1:3.

[Paul to idolaters at Lystra:] He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food & gladness. (Acts 14:17).

Matt 5:45, Your Father in heaven... makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

James 1:17, Every good gift & every perfect gift is from above, & comes down from the

Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Acts 17:25, 28, Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things... for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

B. Man is a 2-fold creature, JS 2:26; Gen 2:7. The breath of life was more than a breath of air. Man has a spirit that needs spiritual sustenance just as the body needs physical sustenance.

1. Sons of Korah, King David understood.

2. Samaritan woman didn't know, but the need was there. "If you knew the gift of God & who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him & He would have given you living water" (John 4:10).

John 15:5, I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Acts 17:26-27, And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the

face of the earth, & has determined their pre-appointed times & the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him tho He is not far from each one of us

## II. ALL MAN-KIND HAS A NEED TO FEEL & EXPRESS THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

Ps 107:8-9, Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, & for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, & fills the hungry soul with goodness.

A. Jesus once healed 10 lepers & was saddened that only one of them returned to give thanks, LK 17:11-19.

B. Unwillingness to acknowledge God & give thanks to Him is the major cause of idolatry.

Rom 1:20-23, For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power & God-head, so that they are without excuse, because, altho they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, & changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like

corruptible man--& birds & 4-footed animals & creeping things.

C. Tombstone of atheist: "All dressed up & no place to go." Worse: life, breath, rain, sunshine, fruitful seasons, food & glad-ness-- and no one to thank!

### III. WE NEED TO COOPERATE WITH GOD BY OBEYING HIS WILL TO THE BEST OF OUR UNDERSTANDING & ABILITY.

A. His His choicest blessings are showered on those who seek & serve Him. JS 4:2 Psa 78:41; Matt 23:37

B. We can know His will by studying His word, Eph 3:4.

C. We must obey what we learn or lose all benefit from that knowledge.

Rom. 1:21, 24, Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts... therefore God gave them up.

D. God will help us as we learn & obey, 1 Cor 10:13; 1 JN 1:7

CONCLUSION: Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy & find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 13, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 15, 2006