

David's Worship, Part 5

Psalm 139:17-24

November 15, 2009

Summary: David's nearness to God is profoundly expressed in this poetry of Scripture. But so is his sense of God's holy justice. Even in his worship, David gives place for righteous anger, even hatred as he pours out his heart to God whom he loves. No sugar coating the facts with David; he gives us a wonderful picture of one who *worships God in Spirit and in truth*, an example God intends for us to follow.

1. A. To examine Psalm 139:17-18 we will read the chapter for context. What kind of psalm is this? What one phrase describes what really matters to David here?
 - B. When David prays, "*When I awake, I am still **with Thee**,*" does he mean in this life or the next life? Why?
Psalm 3:3-5, 16:7-11, 17:15, 49:15, 63:6-8
 - C. Asaph in Psalm 73:25 & 28 said it another way, "*Besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth...as for me the **nearness of God** is my good...*" Is this true enough for you, so that you give the Lord solid, non-distracted time alone with Him on a regular basis? David did. No Twitter, no Face Book, no cell phone or regular phone or radio or MP3 or texting or driving or anything else that imposes on God. Does anyone deserve our **undivided attention** more than Him?
Psalm 119:38
2. A. Remembering that the Psalms are poetic literature, in what fashion does David express the frustrations of his heart regarding the violent injustice of the ungodly?
Psalm 139:19-22
 - B. Who else poured out his heart in the midst of his adversities and depression? Why?
Jeremiah 20:7-18
 - C. The message of Jeremiah was not "good news!" It was from God, but it was all hard for him; about judgment and punishment for the sins of God's people. He lived through the warfare of the Babylonians and the exile of his people in 586 BC. Do you endure pain in your life? Should we not pour out our hearts to God as they did?
I Peter 5:6-7
3. A. God is a God of justice, and because of our sin, the wrath and judgment of God are major themes. What do Psalm 89:30-32 and 90:7-11 have in common?
 - B. In Psalm 89:14 we find that "*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne.*" Why would this be the case?
Isaiah 6:1-3, Hebrew 7:26, Revelation 4:8
 - C. We Christians are sometimes lukewarm, self important and clueless regarding what we have in Jesus so that the Gospel itself is compromised. How good can the Good News be if we don't understand what we really deserve? Along with the Scriptures about love and heaven, what else must we share with others regarding the Gospel?
Isaiah 53:5-6, John 3:36, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 1:18, 3:10-20, 5:8-9, II Corinthians 5:15, 21
4. A. How would you describe the worship contained in the Song of Moses?
Exodus 15: 1-13

- B. Is there a place for suffering and death of the wicked even in worship? What is God worshiped for besides love, love, love?
Revelation 15:1-8, 19:1-6
- C. There is so much more to worship God for than what favors us. How about “*salvation and glory and power?*” “*Because His judgments are true and righteous.*” Is that not what authentic worship is, releasing your heart to exalt God for who He really is, and not what we want Him to be?
Psalm 145:5-13, John 4:23-24
5. A. How did David feel about his enemies in this prayer of worship? Why?
Psalm 139:19-22.
- B. David was careful not to presume and take matters of justice into his own hands. What are some examples of self control and trusting in God in this regard?
I Samuel 24:10-12, II Samuel 16:5-13
- C. How does God want us to handle our enemies?
Psalm 139:23-24, Matthew 4:19, Luke 6:27-35, Romans. 2:4