

IN THE DESERTS OF LIFE (Psalm 63)

In the deserts of life...

I. **There must be SEEKING after God (vv. 1-2)**

- A. David sought God early in the morning (v. 1) and at night (v. 6). These were no doubt private periods of devotion—including both prayer and meditation upon God's word (Psalm 1:2).
 - 1. How wonderful would the world be if everyone sought God in this way (Isaiah 26:9)! - Jesus would go by Himself to pray (Matthew 14:23) and encouraged others to do so as well (Matthew 6:6).
 - 2. Jesus pronounced a blessing upon those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6).
- B. David longed to worship God publicly as well, in the temple (v. 2). God's glory was in the literal temple in David's day (Exodus 40:34-35), even as He is glorified in the spiritual temple today—the church (cf. Ephesians. 2:19-22; 3:21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Fully seeking after God involves devotions both private and public. We must study and pray on our own, as well as assembling faithfully with the church (Hebrews 10:25).
- C. God will bless those who truly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

II. **There will be SATISFACTION from God (vv. 3-6)**

David acknowledged that God's lovingkindness is better than life itself (v. 3). Even "in the deserts of life," God's many mercies are "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-26). God assures His children over and over that, if they seek Him first, they will be blessed:

- 1. Man's physical needs will be satisfied (Matthew 6:33).
- 2. Man will be blessed by seeking and doing God's word (James 1:25).
- C. God's child will be like the tree planted by the waters (Psalm 1:3).
- D. Such satisfaction results in man's desiring to worship God (v 3-5).
- E. There may not be relief from the pain of the situation, but there will be relief knowing that our brethren care about and God cares about us.

III. **There will ultimately be SALVATION by God (vv. 7-11)**

David knew God as his Divine Helper. He rejoiced in the "shadow of His wings" (v. 7).

If indeed this psalm pertains to the rebellion of Absalom, then David had already weathered a number of storms in life. He had learned to trust in God (cf. 1 Peter 1:21).

David knew that God would uphold him (v. 8), and that he would eventually be restored to his throne (v. 11).

- 1. Unfortunately (in a sense), the salvation of the righteous also means the condemnation of the wicked.
 - a. It did in Noah's day (Hebrews 11:7).
 - b. It will also be the case in the Final Judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).
- 2. In order to enjoy God's salvation, one must "follow hard" after the Lord (v. 8). Living the Christian life requires diligence—much diligence (2 Timothy 2:15,

ASV; 2 Peter 1:5-11).
(From a sermon by Cliff Goodwin)