

*** The Heights Baptist Church * Series: The Psalms ***
*** Topic: Seek God! * Psalm 63 * 10/05/25 ***

MAIN POINT

God's holiness means that He is separated from sin and absolutely morally pure.

INTRODUCTION

If you asked a random 100 people about where they think we can find true meaning in life, what different kinds of answers do you think you'd hear?

The Pew Research Center polled Americans on this question*. The results showed the most popular choices were as follows, ranked in order.

Family, career, money, faith and spirituality, friends, activities and hobbies, health, home, and learning.

* www.pewresearch.org/religion/2018/11/20/where-americans-find-meaning-in-life/

Note to study leader: We are between two sermon series at The Heights. Today's Lifegroup lesson is a stand-alone lesson that will be looking at Psalm 63. In this Psalm, David describes how much he valued his relationship with God as he lived his earthly life.

UNDERSTANDING

David wrote Psalm 63 when he was in the desert of Judah. It sounds like David was already king when he wrote this Psalm (verse 11), so it is thought he wrote this when he was fleeing from his son Absalom during Absalom's treasonous attempt to overthrow David's kingdom (2 Samuel 15).

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 63:1-8

What does the opening statement, "Oh God, my God" in verse one reveal about David?

He acknowledges that God is both the God of the universe, and also the God whom David worships.

What phrases in these eight verses describe how much David values his relationship with God?

I earnestly seek you; I thirst for you; my whole being longs for you; your love is better than life; I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods. I cling to God.

How does the fact David is using these analogies after having fled into the desert magnify these analogies describing how much he values his relationship with God?

He is in a place where he is concerned for his life, and has limited water, and has a limited food supply, and no longer has access to God's temple.

What actions is David taking based on how much he desires his relationship with God?

He is earnestly seeking God, his lips will glorify God; he will praise God as long as he lives, he remembers God in his bed, thinking of him throughout the watches of the night. He views God as his help.

David was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14). David desired God more than he wanted anything else. When we recognize God for who He is, it drives us to worship Him.

What benefits does David say he receives from his relationship with God?

He has seen God's power and glory. He knows God loves him. In God he is fully satisfied. God is his help. God shelters him like a chick under its mother's wings. God's right hand upholds him.

Why is it so easy for Christians in America today to desire other things more than we desire God?

God has given us a world in which there are many enjoyable things.

Why is it fruitless to try to find fulfillment in anyplace other than in God?

God has created us to bring glory to Him and find fulfillment in our relationship with Him. So, we have a natural need to glorify God and enjoy relationship with Him. If we seek to try to fulfill this need in anyone or anything other than God, it will fail us.

Sometimes, I feel I'm living a meaningless life and I get frightened.... I know I'm one of the luckiest dudes in America right now. I have a great house. My parents don't have to work. I've got money. I'm famous. But it could all change, man. It could go away. You never know.... I have no idea where this insecurity comes from, but it's a God-sized hole. If I knew, I'd fill it, and I'd be on my way. Shia LaBeauf, Interview with Parade Magazine, 2009

Note to study leader: Since this quote, Shia LaBeauf claims to have become a Christian and has joined the Catholic Church.

Putting these thoughts together, what would you say David is doing to keep his focus on God rather than on anything else?

David remembers God, worships God, and meditates on Him.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 63:9-11

In the first eight verses, David has focused on God and his relationship with Him. What does he add to these thoughts in these last three verses?

David remembers what the final outcome will be for those who are trying to harm him.

Why would these thoughts be especially relevant to David in the circumstances he was experiencing?

It appeared that evil was winning the day.

It seems that we are seeing more and more evil become seen as common in our culture. As we process these events, what lessons can we learn from David's thoughts?

We can take great comfort in knowing God is still sovereign.

"Praying for Charlie's family. Charlie is okay. I believe that. Better than he's ever been! His faith has become sight. We lose a unique and godly voice who waged a great battle where few are effective, the college campus. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but there are flesh and blood losses in the battle." Pastor Randy Hahn, Facebook post, Sept. 10th, 2025

"God is winning; act like it!" Pastor Randy Hahn, The Heights Baptist Church, 11/19/23

We can take comfort that one day, God will eradicate all evil and make everything right.

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” Matthew 13:40-43

*“If there’s a standard, that means somebody’s getting left out..... If God gets rid of a standard, then instantly heaven is no longer what we think, and are looking to heaven being. If there’s no standard, then heaven just becomes earth part two. And after earth part one, I’m not interested in earth part 2.”
Pastor Randy Hahn, The Heights Baptist Church, 12/10/23*

We as sinners saved by grace must take Christ’s commission to share the gospel with our culture seriously and urgently.

*“We are not fighting against people, but for people.”
Pastor Randy Hahn, The Heights Baptist Church, 3/19/23*

*“We deal with the world by sharing the gospel and leaving the rest to God.”
Pastor Randy Hahn, The Heights Baptist Church, 3/12/23*

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 1 PETER 1:3-6 and 13-15

How might remembering that Christ will one day return encourage us in our pursuit of holiness?

As Christians, we are blessed to be living between Christ’s first coming and His final return. God has revealed to us the “living hope” that we are looking forward to and has sealed for an “inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 Peter 1:3-4). In light of this, Peter not only reminds us of the salvation that is ours in Christ, but he also challenges us to actively pursue holiness. Christians are to live out their eternal hope by daily choosing God—and by doing so, they are daily choosing holiness.

APPLICATION

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MATTHEW 5:39-44 AND 1 PETER 2:21-25

One question to diagnose your spiritual health is: “Do I long for God?” How would you answer this? Do you know what it looks and feels like to long for God, just as David did? If not, what needs to change?

Is there any area of my life where I have fallen into an attitude of hatred or judgment toward non-Christians?

Is there any area of my life where I have fallen into the trap of feeling like evil is winning and we are just victims?

How can I better focus on God and view others the way Jesus viewed them.

PRAYER

Praise God for His holiness and glory. Thank Him for saving us through the blood of Jesus Christ and for the hope we have in Him. Thank Him that He is completely sovereign and that He is still on “plan A”. Ask Him to restore our desire for Him in our life. Ask that He would help us to see others and Christ did.

COMMENTARY

Psalm 63

Introduction: “This was probably written while David was fleeing from Absalom; certainly at the time he wrote it he was king (verse 11), and hard pressed by those who sought his life.” Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

“This psalm has in it as much of warmth and lively devotion as any of David's psalms.... And here we have,

- I. His desire towards God (v. 1, 2).
- II. His esteem of God (v. 3, 4).
- III. His satisfaction in God (v. 5).
- IV. His secret communion with God (v. 6).
- V. His joyful dependence upon God (v. 7, 8).
- IV. His holy triumph in God over his enemies and in the assurance of his own safety (v. 9, 10).”

Matthew Henry, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:1. “You God, are my God”. What a beautiful way to start this Psalm. David acknowledges that God is both God overall and God of his life.

“In all our addresses to God we must eye him as God, and our God, and this will be our comfort in a wilderness-state.” Matthew Henry, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:2. “He longed not so much to see the sanctuary as to see his God; he looked through the veil of ceremonies to the invisible One. Often had his heart been gladdened by communion with God in the outward ordinances, and for this great blessing he sighs again; as well he might, for it is the weightiest of all earth's sorrows for a Christian man to lose the conscious presence of his covenant God.” Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:3. “Life is dear, but God's love is dearer. To dwell with God is better than life at its best; life at ease, in a palace, in health, in honour, in wealth, in pleasure; yea, a thousand lives are not equal to the eternal life which abides in Jehovah's smile.” Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:4. Lifting up hands is a gesture for praying.

63:5. Rich food is a combination of two Hebrew words for “fat,” implying being satisfied beyond one's need. Fat represents prosperity in the OT (73:7; Dt 32:15; Jer 5:28).

63:6-7. “Meditation had refreshed his memory and recalled to him his past deliverances. It were well if we oftener read our own diaries, especially noting the hand of the Lord in helping us in suffering, want, labour, or dilemma. This is the grand use of memory, to furnish us with proofs of the Lord's faithfulness, and lead us onward to a growing confidence in him.” Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:8. “The divine power, which has so often been dwelt upon in this and the preceding Psalms, is here mentioned as the source of man's attachment to God. How strong are we when the Lord works in us by his own right hand, and how utterly helpless if he withhold his aid!” Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:9. "David earnestly sought for God, so there were men of another order who as eagerly sought after his blood; of these he speaks: "*But those that seek my soul, to destroy it.*" At his life they aimed, at his honour, his best welfare; and this they would not merely injure but utterly ruin. The devil is a destroyer, and all his seed are greedy to do the same mischief; and as he has ruined himself by his crafty devices, so also shall they. Destroyers shall be destroyed. Those who hunt souls shall be themselves the victims." Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

"*Shall go into the lower parts of the earth.*" Sheol is viewed by the Jews as being in the lower parts of the earth, and scripture backs this up. This is the destiny of those who reject God.

63:10. "They that take the sword shall perish with the sword; bloody men shall feel their own life gushing forth from them, when their evil day shall at last come, and they shall be given up to feel in their own persons the horrors of death." Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63

63:11. "Usurpers shall fade, but he shall flourish; and his prosperity shall be publicly acknowledged as the gift of God. The Lord's anointed shall not fail to offer his joyful thanksgiving; his well established throne shall own the superior lordship of the King of kings; his rejoicing shall be alone in God." Charles Spurgeon, Commentary on Psalm 63