

TBC – 10/27/02 p.m.

WAITING ONLY ON GOD

Psalm 62:5

Intro: It is a solemn but tragic fact which is supported by Scripture, that man by nature is content to live and to die without God. The Apostle Paul in his indictment of human nature in the third chapter of Romans quoted from the OT when he wrote, “There is none that seeketh after God” (Rom. 3:11; quoting Psa. 14 and 53). And then later on in that chapter he said concerning people as they are born into this world, “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:18; quoting Psa. 36:1). In a past message I pointed out to you from Psalms 14 and 53 that the fear with which both of those Psalms begin, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God,” was not basically a denial of the existence of God, but simply a statement that man does not want to have anything to do with God.

We, as Christians often say concerning people who do not know the Lord, and are facing some tragic situation in their lives, or perhaps even death itself, “We don’t understand how they can do it without the Lord.” And yet, if we think about it for a moment we have to realize that most people find it easy. It is what they want to do. Even the most tragic situations do not cause people to turn to the Lord unless the Lord is drawing them. We all ought to be familiar with those words of our Lord in which He declared, “No man can come to me, except the father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44). Often even Christians will argue with you about that verse.

With the tragic events of September 11 last year we have heard the testimony of some who know the Lord, or whose loved ones knew the Lord who died in that tragic event. But we have not seen any great movement toward God among the people of New York or in any other place in our country. And when the snipers were randomly killing anyone they wanted to kill, our authorities were not telling us that this was a call for us to seek the Lord, nor were people calling in to say this. As I mentioned this morning in a quotation from James Packer, by nature we are inclined to think highly of man, to the point of deification, but if we think of God at all it is no more than making Him someone like we are.

Don’t we hear quite frequently that we can do anything that we want to do, or that we can be anything that we want to be? Those are two of the greatest lies ever spoken. The fact is that our sin has given us such feel-

ings of self-confidence, and self-importance, and self-love, that by nature we have no conception of our need for the Lord. And all of this started back in the Garden of Eden when the Devil approached Eve to question the Word of God, and to question the goodness of God, and to make Eve suspicious of God. He wanted her to think for herself, and to believe that there was really no benefit in obeying God. In fact, he told her that there would be the greatest advantage for her to disobey God! He said that she could be like God if she would do what God had told her not to do. There could not have been a greater lie! But the sin of the first man did this: It made him feel that he really didn't need the Lord. And that is what has marked human experience from that day until this. And it seems that the closer we get to the coming of the Lord, the more pronounced this characteristic becomes prominent in human behavior. And to us who know the Lord it is not only astonishing, but very, very ominous.

One thing that has contributed to this is the widespread acceptance of the false theory of atheistic evolution. When some of us were children, it was no crime for teachers to say that they believe that God created the heavens and the earth, but today in high schools and universities teachers may find that they may lose their jobs if they talk about God as the Creator. And to do away with God, as many would like to do, has thrown morality into hopeless confusion, so we have a situation today where absolute truth is denied. It is all relative, and up to each person to decide for himself. And you just need to turn on your TV or look at your newspaper to see where all of this has gotten us.

The truth is that God is our Creator. All of creation declares His glory. None of these things could be without God. But let me mention another point with regard to creation. Man was created in the image and likeness of God for the purpose of bringing glory to God. Referring to Romans 3 again, the Apostle Paul has given us a very clear definition of sin in a verse which probably all of us know by heart. I am referring to Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

In Isa. 43:7 the Lord said that He had created the people of Israel for His glory. And concerning the church, the Apostle Paul said three times in almost the same words each time that we are to be "for the praise of His glory." See Eph. 1:6, 12, 14.

Sin is anything that does not glorify God. And that is exactly where every person is who is born in this world. Some people show that they are

sinner by the wicked things that they do, for which society is going to punish them. Others show that they are sinners because they take the Lord's Name in vain. And have you noticed how common that becomes. It used to be that you couldn't talk like that on radio or TV, but now we hear it all of the time – not only from men, but from women, and even from young people and children. But Paul said all of us have sinned because we have failed in all things to glorify God. Well, now a good question for all of us to ask is, How do you get from being a person who wants nothing to do with God, to become a person Who loves God and wants to glorify Him, to please Him.

And the truth about God is that there is only one God. Isaiah preached this in his day. He proclaimed that God said,

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me (Isa. 46:9).

The Apostle Paul enlarged upon this in the NT, and yet he was saying just what Isaiah said before him. Here are Paul's words as he wrote under the direction of the Holy Spirit:

6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him (1 Cor. 8:6).

People don't believe that today. Or they believe that Moslems are talking about the same God as Christians are, but they just use a different name. All of the names that God has are in the Bible, and "Allah" is not there! When the writers of Scripture talked about God they were talking about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – Three Persons, but one in nature. They were all active in Creation. They are all worthy of our worship and our trust.

The answer is, *by the Gospel!*

You see, and you all know this, man needs to undergo a change. He needs what he cannot do for himself (although he thinks he can), nor can anyone else do it for him (although there are plenty of people around who say that they can). I was grieved, although I cannot say that I was shocked, to learn that since September 11 psychologists and psychiatrists and other secular counselors have had more work than they have ever had before. You see, this is more of our humanism. But there has been no great movement toward God. There may have been some movement toward religion, but not toward God!

The problem is that when you start to talk to people about salvation and the forgiveness of sins, and you say that it is only possible to get right with God on the basis of the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ, you find yourself in trouble. People consider that so much foolishness. But the fact is that they always have considered it foolishness. Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth, said that “the preaching of the cross is to them that perish,” or *are perishing*, “foolishness” (1 Cor. 1:18). But then he added in the same verse, “but unto us which are saved,” or *are being saved*, “it is the power of God.” In Rom. 1:16 Paul said that he was “not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth . . .”

So the truth is that there is a God, and only one God Who exists in Three Persons. And that man’s alienation from God and condemnation by God was so great, that no one but a member of the Godhead could meet man’s need before God, and He could only do that by taking the penalty of those who were going to be saved, and this the Lord Jesus Christ did when He became a Man in order to die as a substitute for sinners.

And the Bible teaches that those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are not only forgiven by God, but they are made new creatures in Christ, and desire then to live lives that are pleasing to God.

All of this is foolishness in our world today, *but it is the truth of God*. And the Bible clearly teaches that there is no other way to find acceptance and forgiveness with God. (Quote John 14:6. Also, Acts 4:12.)

Now it doesn’t bother me that people don’t like this truth. I don’t expect them to like it. But the reason I continue to preach it, is because I know that it is the truth of God, and that this is the message which God uses to bring people to see their need before God so that they will be saved. This is the message that the Spirit of God bears witness to. We are not to water it down. We are not to precede it with a lot of entertainment to make people receptive to what we have to say. We are to faithfully, and graciously, preach the Gospel, telling people that their main problem is sin, and that their sin can only be removed through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is just one God, one Savior, one Bible, and only one way for the heart to be changed. God still honors His Word, and only the ministry of His Word if people are to be saved.

By now you are all inclined to say, “But what does this have to do with Psa. 62:5 (and I will read verse 6 with it) where David, King David, said,
5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.

6 He only is my rock, and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

I couldn't begin to tell you how many times this Psalm has ministered to my own heart. When you think about kings, have you ever heard a king during your lifetime speak words like this? I haven't. I am sure that David has not been the only king who said this. But it is important to see that he did! He was a good king because by the grace of God He had been brought by the Lord to see that he was a sinner, in need of a Savior. Christ had not yet come, but David knew that He was coming, and that Christ was going to be a descendant of his in the flesh, and that only that coming Savior could make him righteous before God. For God to mean to David what He did mean, is evidence of David's salvation.

Notice how he began this Psalm. Verses 1 and 2 give us David's testimony of his faith in God. And notice the word “only.” It was not the Lord plus anyone else, or anything else. It was just the Lord upon Whom he was waiting.

The word “wait” is an interesting word. It is a word which means to be silent before God, to be quiet and submissive. Among other things David was a great military leader. He had experienced many victories. But every fresh attack gave him the opportunity to express again his own great confidence in the Lord, and his believe in the sufficiency of his God to meet his need.

I want you to notice that David did four things in this Psalm with respect to waiting upon the Lord.

First, he stated very clearly where he stood in his relationship with the Lord. He didn't just do this when he was in danger from his enemies; *this was the way David lived*. I am speaking now of verses 1 and 2.

Second, he issued a warning to his enemies, and a statement about them. This is in verses 3 and 4.

Third, he spoke to himself, reminding himself of where his faith, his

confidence was. This is in verses 5, 6, and 7. When I was growing up and had done anything that displeased my Dad, he would say to me, “I want to have a little talk with you.” Through the years I learned that if I had a little talk with me, my Dad didn’t have to. And that was a lot more pleasant for me if I talked with myself. Notice in the Word when the writers talk about saying something to their souls. Psalm 103:1 and 2 is another example of David talking to himself. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones recommended this to his people as well as to other ministers.

And then in the closing verses of the Psalm David was ministering to his people (vv. 8-12). This is a good place to point out what is important for those of us who are elders, or deacons, or teachers, or parents. But it is important for all of us. If we want people to wait on the Lord, to be submissive to Him, and to glorify Him, then we need to be sure that this is what we are doing.

Concl: David certainly had to work with people, and to trust people to help him, but what he was saying in this Psalm was that pleasing the Lord was the main objective in his life, and that basic to pleasing the Lord is a willingness to wait upon Him in faith, knowing that he could not wait in vain.

David was a strange person in his day, a trophy of the grace of God. And it is only when we know the transforming power of the Gospel in our lives will we be able to join the ranks of the redeemed whose greatest joy in life is to wait upon Him and find strength in Him for each day’s needs.