

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PSALMS-LESSON 13
WEEK OF DECEMBER 15–DECEMBER 19
PSALM 63

The title of **Psalm 63** identifies it as a Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. David, the king (**vs. 11**), was living in exile in the desolate desert region of Judah, isolated and separated from the City of Jerusalem and the temple in which he joined with the redeemed to worship and give praise to Yahweh. His wicked and rebellious son Absalom was pursuing David to kill him and take over the nation. It is in this desperate and lonely setting that David expresses his deep satisfaction in God alone. David does not complain about or despair in his circumstances, rather, he turns to God with deep and intense devotion. This Psalm clearly teaches that true contentment is found in God alone through communion with Him and not from our circumstances.

“Commentator Derek Kidner says, “There may be other songs that equal this outpouring and devotion; [but there are] few if any that surpass it.” JJ Stewart Perowne says, This is unquestionably one of the most beautiful and touching Psalms in the whole Psalter.” Psalms, Vol. 2, James Montgomery Boice, pg 517.

As you study and meditate upon **Psalm 63**, pray that you too would find your greatest satisfaction and joy in seeking personal communion with and deep devotion to God.

Read Psalm 63:1-4 God My Great Desire.

1. What is David’s opening declaration in **verse 1**, and what does that declaration reveal about his relationship with God? How does David describe his pursuit of God?

The point is the desirability of a regular, early, daily longing after God. Do you have the desire for God?... Are you willing to develop it? There is no better way to start each day than by earnestly seeking God's face through personal Bible study, meditation and devout prayer. Psalms, Vol. 2, James Montgomery Boice, pg 518.

2. What is David remembering in **verse 2**?

“It is a precious thought that the divine power and glory are not confined in their manifestation to any place or locality. They are to be heard above the roaring sea, seen amid the glare of tempest, felt in the forest and the prairie, and enjoyed wherever there is a heart that longs and thirsts to see them.”

The Treasury of David, C.H. Spurgeon, pg. 524.

3. Why does David praise God in **verse 3**? How does Paul express the same truth in **Philippians 1:21**?

4. Read **Psalm 118:1-4**. How do these verses describe God’s lovingkindness?

“Verse 3 expresses the central theological idea of the Psalm: “your loyal love is better than life.” Life with all its blessings as well as troubles, changes; but God’s faithful love does not. His loyal love can provide covenant blessings for His people; and it can change the trials of life so that by means of them life is enriched. And God’s loyal love lasts forever (cf. **Ps 118:1**), whereas this life, no matter how good it might be, will end.”

A Commentary on The Psalms, Vol. 2, Allen P. Ross, page 384-5

5. As David considers God’s lovingkindness (**vs. 3**) what commitment does he make in **verse 4**?

Read Psalm 63:5-8 God My Great Delight.

6. Because of God’s lovingkindness (**vs. 3**), how does David describe the condition of his soul in **verse 5**? How does David respond to that truth?
7. In **verse 6**, how does David’s nighttime worship and meditation on God’s Word combat worry, fear and anxiety that can otherwise cause sleepless nights? What verses have you memorized to provide confident trust in the Lord to replace fear and anxiety?
8. What does David add to his praise and worship of God in **verse 7** and what does this picture convey about his relationship with God?

“The very shade of God is sweet to a believer. Under the eagle wings of Jehovah we hide from all fear. We do this naturally because we have tried and proven both his love and his power.”

The Treasury of David, C. H. Spurgeon, pg. 526

9. How does **verse 8** address both human responsibility and God’s divine care and provision?

What do the following verses add to describe God’s care and provision:

- **Isaiah 41:10**
- **Romans 8:38-39**

Read Psalm 63:9-11. God My Great Defense.

10. What is the great contrast between the future of the wicked, unbelievers and the future of the redeemed from **verses 9-11**?
11. What encouragement and hope do you find in **verses 9-11**?
12. David looked beyond his isolation, his hardship, his enemies and his difficulties to meditate upon the truth of God’s Word, to cling to God and God’s lovingkindness which is better than life itself. What action will you take to shift your attention from your difficulties and challenges to God who holds us by His power?

From the Devotional Commentary on the Psalms, Awake O Harp, William Varner, pg 167 from Psalm 63 offers this prayer: “Lord it is so hard to slow down to think about and consider you and your works. Teach me the way of meditation and remembrance, that in all the barren places of my life I may be able to find the fountain of your presence, and so be refreshed for your service.”