



Have you read all the Psalms?

This question came in our summer youth study during the session on the importance of being into God's Word daily.

I could've stopped with the simple, one-word answer: "Yes," but I got the sense that they wanted a bit more detail. So I added, "Some of them quite a few times. The Psalms are songs and like songs today they were written about situations and express emotions that people can relate to. Just like you find yourself listening to certain songs over and over, it's the same way with the Psalms. Some of them just seem to "strike a chord."

Of course that leads to questions like, "Which ones do you read over and over?" Here are a few that I gravitate to:

Psalms 1; Psalm 2, Psalm 8; Psalm 23; Psalm 32; Psalm 46; Psalm 100 Psalm 111, Psalm 119 (Yes, the longest one!); Psalm 121, Psalm 130; Psalm 141, Psalm 146, Psalm 148 and Psalm 150.

And then the natural final question: "Which one is your favorite?" The answer to that question varies from day to day, but recently I find myself turning to this Psalm quite often:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
14 For he knows our frame; [a]
he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass;
 he flourishes like a flower of the field;
16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
 and its place knows it no more.
17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
 and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant
 and remember to do his commandments.
19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
 and his kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
 you mighty ones who do his word,
 obeying the voice of his word!
21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
 his ministers, who do his will!
22 Bless the Lord, all his works,
 in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In case you're wondering it's Psalm 103.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net