



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

July 06, 2008

INCREASE (More God less me)

“Contemplation”

What is your strategy for facing the difficulties of life? In Psalm 27 David shows us that there is one thing, that if we have it, we can face any difficulty in life without fear.

Psalm 27

What Is True About Life?

Verses 1-3 Life is a Battleground! (John 16:33; Eph. 6:12; 1 Pet. 4:12)

- Darkness v1a “The Lord is my light...”
- Danger v1b “The Lord is the stronghold of my life...”
- Deficiency v2 “When evil men advance against me...foes attack me...”
- Desertion v10 “Though my father and mother desert me...”

What Is The One Thing I Need To Thrive?

Verses 4-6 To have a sustained Satisfaction in God! (Ps. 16:2, 11; 34:8; 36:7-9; 37:4)

v4 “...dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

Note: This is not a prayer of petition asking for God to take the heat off, change his circumstances or to make life better. He is looking for satisfaction not from God, but in God. If I have a sustained satisfaction in God I’ll be able to face anything!

Gaze = More than looking, it’s being enthralled, captivated, enamored.

Beauty = something we find satisfying in and of itself. (Beauty creates community, gives a sense of meaning to life, and gets you out of your self-absorption)

LORD = Jehovah, “the existing One”. Proper name of the one true God.

Any Beauty other than God that you make the ultimate in your life will lead to elitism, oppression, obsession, & exclusivity.

How Do I Develop This One Thing?

Verses 7-14 The Discipline of Contemplation. (Ps.63:1-6; 46:10; Jer.29:13; 2 Cor. 3:18)

Meditation focuses on God’s Word. Contemplation focuses on God Himself. Another word for it could be adoration.

“Love is the response of the heart, aroused in our will, by means of our mind’s enthralling vision of the goodness of God.” (Richard J. Foster)

- Prayerfully v7 *Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.*
- Relationally v8 *My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.*
- Intellectually v9 *Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior. v10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.* (Never petition God for something until you see how the very thing you’re after is there in God already.)
- Obediently v11 *Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. v12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.*
- Expectantly v13 *I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*
- Patiently v14 *Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

I have access to the face of God through Jesus Christ:

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [18] No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

Psalm 32 (Communion)	“ Confession ”	July 13
Psalm 119	“ Bible Study ”	July 20
Psalm 95	“ Worship ”	July 27
Psalm 103	“ Self-Talk ”	August 3
Psalm 137 (Communion)	“ Bitterness ”	August 10

End of Summer New Teaching Series - Starting August 17th

SUFFERING

(Answering Life’s Toughest Questions)
(Six Week Survey of the Book of Job)



Growing

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1) According to scripture is life more of a playground or a battleground? (Ps. 27:1-3, 10; John 16:33; Eph. 6:12; 1 Pet. 4:12) How do you think most Americans see life? What role do expectations play in handling life's difficulties?

2) In this Psalm David is running the full gambit of human nightmares but is saying that he can face anything if he has this one thing. What is this one thing? What does it mean to "gaze upon the beauty of the Lord?" (Ps. 16:2, 11; 34:8; 36:7-9; 37:4)

3) How does a person develop this one thing? What is the discipline of contemplation? (Ps.63:1-6; 46:10; Jer.29:13; 2 Cor. 3:18) Why is this so difficult for us excessively busy Americans?

4) What are the six characteristics from verses 7-14 that teach us this discipline of contemplation? Which one(s) are strengths and which one(s) growth areas?

5) How is it that I have access to the face of God through Jesus Christ? (John 1:14, 18) Prayerfully walk through the six characteristics of contemplation.