

Psalms 5:7

Sunday 01/21/2024

I. Review

Last week we looked at Psalms 5:4-6, and what I'm trying to do with the book of Psalms is to really open it up for you. So many people read the book of Psalms at face value. They may get something out of it that means something to them, but the real key to any book of the Bible, and certainly to the Psalms, is being able to open the book up—to see what's going on behind the scenes of the verses and see how it's playing out, not only in the historical context with David writing these Psalms, but the future application such as with the tribulation or millennium; and most importantly, how it impacts your life and my life.

A). God uses Nations and God wanted Israel to be a Separate People

In those verses last week, we saw some solid principles and some good teaching for all of us on how to build what I call a working relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We saw in verse 4 how **God is not a God that takes pleasure in wickedness, and neither shall evil dwell with Him**. I showed you how this is a great commentary on God's relationship with the Nation of Israel, and how He held Israel to a different standard than the rest of the nations. And yet, it applies to any nation. America is going through some tough times right now, and you certainly can see these things at work in our own country which is bringing about the decline of America. There's no question about it—for either good or for evil, God uses nations. He can take the most evil nation, and He did this all down through the Bible—places like Babylon and Egypt which are totally corrupt and against God; yet God uses them for His own pleasure to accomplish, through those evil nations, what he wants to accomplish.

God sent His people to Egypt for 430 years, and during that time of slavery He made them a strong nation. Then what did He do? He destroyed Egypt. He did the same thing with Babylon. He used Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon and Sennacherib in Assyria to chastise the nation of Israel and then wiped out those nations. God certainly uses nations, and you see it all through the Bible. Daniel chapters 2 and 7 are probably two of the greatest chapters which show you the collective understanding of how God uses nations down through history.

In the Old Testament, God's plan was that through one nation, the nation of Israel, the whole world would come to a knowledge of God for their salvation. In the New Testament, in any nation which respects the word of God and has the right attitude toward God and the Bible, God will use the saved people in that nation to take God's truth to other nations. He'll either use the nation and then destroy it, or He'll use it as a nation that honors His word and will bless them.

B.) God Used England and America

In history, the two greatest examples will be England from 1600 thereabouts to 1900 and America from about 1700 to 1900. The little island of England was God's nation; He had His hand on that nation and literally took the word of God, your King James 1611 which comes out

of England, around the world for 400 years, and God used America as probably the greatest nation in the world to get the gospel out.

In history, when you look at it, England set the stage for worldwide evangelism. We call this the Philadelphian church age in church history. Then America comes on the scene, coming out of England, and was the nation built on the word of God to carry on what England had started. America had greater resources, greater ability, more land mass, and more to offer than that little island over there, although God used England mightily. But you see it was a two-stage process. And yet, during all that, looking underneath the surface, you see God's dual plan. **Not only was He using those nations to get the gospel to the world, but at the same time, He was using those nations to establish His people (the nation of Israel) back to the land and bringing about their regathering unto Him.** You see this in Ezekiel chapter 37:24-25, and clearly, He tells you about the regathering of the nation of Israel, and He used these two countries to do it. It's an incredible study of God's hand in nations down through history.

C.) God will have no Pleasure in Wickedness & No Evil Will Dwell with Him

I showed you how God hates the unsaved workers of iniquity, and how they cannot stand in the presence of God in their wickedness. Psalms 14:1 says, *The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God.* I tied all of this around the key chapter in the Bible which really defines us as Gentiles—Romans 1. It's the definitive chapter on us as Gentiles—how God views the Gentiles, how God sees the way we operate, what we do with God, how we view God, how we think about God, and how easy it is for us to get off track. If you want to get the definitive chapter on the Nation of Israel, then you go to Romans 2. And that's how Romans lays itself out.

D.) Two Words Most of Christianity & the World want to get Rid of—Hate and Hell

And then we talked about the two key words and teachings in the Bible that have been altered or completely dismissed. First is the word hell, and the second is the word hate. **The world, as well as much of Christianity, wants to get rid of hell.** All we want to do is focus on the love of God. The love of God is an incredible aspect, and certainly nobody wants to take away from you understanding the love of God, but **you've got to understand that a loving God also has a judgment against sin because He is holy. He may love us through Christ, but you need to understand that the judgement of God is a very real doctrine in the Bible.** So, to get rid of it in the day and age we live in, Satan uses churches, pastors, and teachers to do that. We remove the word hell from sermons, books, podcasts, teaching, and literature; yet if you keep coming back to the Bible, you'll find that in the four Gospels Jesus Himself preached on hell 14 times. So, it's very important in the Bible even though man will try to get that thought as far from him as he can.

And then I showed you why a man or woman has to spend an eternity in hell or the lake of fire. This will be the doctrine of eternal judgement. I think understanding it really gives you a perspective of things, which maybe you know the concept of, but you don't really know why. We believe there is a hell and lake of fire, but we don't understand sometimes why a person has to go there. **People will ask how God could send a man into hell or the lake of fire to burn for eternity in a place where he's tormented. And the answer to that is simply this—He**

didn't. It says in 2 Peter 3:9 that God is *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

And in Matthew 25:41 you find that **God prepared hell for the devil and his angels—he never intended for a man to go there. He came down and died on the cross so man would have the choice not to go there.** And we want to blame it on God. I heard a guy say one time that God let sin come into the world; therefore, He's responsible, so how could He judge me? The answer to that is easy. **The same God that let sin come into the world is the same God that came down and paid the price to take it out**—and he exonerated Himself from that. So, if someone asks how God can send a man to hell—He doesn't. You send yourself. **He never intended for you to be there, and if you go there, it's because you chose to go. God is not willing that any should perish, but God cannot dwell in the presence of unrighteousness.**

Then we looked at the word hate. That's a big word today. If you disagree with somebody in their politics, want to close the borders to keep millions of people from coming across, or want to talk about morality in our country—you're a hater. **But nobody wants to think of the fact that God can hate.** And I explained how God hates the workers of iniquity based on Psalms 139:22—that God hates with a perfect hatred. I told you that God's perfect hatred is based on man hating God and especially His word, which are both perfect and holy, but God has no ulterior motive in hating the workers of iniquity or an unsaved person. **It's based on Him being holy and cannot stand in the presence of sin. A perfect holy God cannot hate or love any other way. It has to be based on His perfection,** and this is why nobody could go to heaven before Christ died. We're told in the book of Hebrews that the sacrifices they made were not perfect. They could cover sin, but they couldn't pay for sin; therefore, nobody could go to heaven. So God made a holding tank called Abraham's Bosom, and that's where they went. But once Christ died on the cross, from that point on, the people in the Old Testament forward who were looked at as sinners of unrighteousness, God now looks at them through the kaleidoscope of Christ's death on the cross. He sees you and me through His blood. And now God can reach out to us to be saved through His son's sacrifice because God is not willing that any should perish, and God made a way for a holy God to allow people like us to go to heaven. It's an amazing concept.

In Proverbs 6:16, I showed you the six things that God hates, there's actually seven—the seventh is an abomination, making it a perfect thing that He hates. And I showed you that **before salvation, we were the embodiment of these things that God hates.** And it all came from fallen Adam, and our souls were stuck to our flesh. Let me show you something about us being the workers of iniquity before we got saved, how God viewed us, and how we really were the embodiment of Proverbs 6:16 and the seven things that God hates.

I Corinthians 6:9-11. (Paul is speaking here). *Know ye not that **the unrighteous (there it is—unsaved man) shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators** (notice that it's not fornication; it's fornicators), **nor idolaters** (it's not idolatry; it's idolaters), **nor adulterers** (it's not adultery; it's adulterers), **nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are***

sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. It clearly says that before salvation, we were these things. But God saved us through the death of His son on the cross and was calling us and seeing us while we were yet in our sin through that sacrifice on the cross.

II. Psalm 5:7

Psalm 5:7. But as for me, I will come [into] thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: [and] in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

When we read this verse, we first read it at face value. And there's stuff you can see at face value, but today I want to open this verse up. I want to give you three things out of this verse that you really need to see in dealing with your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are several good solid Biblical principles here.

Historically, when David writes this, the house that he's talking about will be the Old Testament tabernacle which was carried from place to place. It was a temporary structure. The tabernacle housed the seven key pieces of furniture for the priests to do the work. It also contained the holy of holies where the ark of the covenant sat which was Jesus Christ's presence in the nation of Israel in the Old Testament.

At this time, when David is writing these things, there is no physical temple yet. The temple has not been built in Jerusalem. Solomon is going to build the temple after David's death, and that brings up a great study in your Bible. David is not allowed to build the temple because the Bible says that he's a man of war. Solomon builds it then brings in the 40 years of peace in Israel where there are no wars, but here's the picture—David is a man of war who fights the last battles of the enemies that are in the nation of Israel and kicks them out of the land. He's a type of Jesus Christ at the second coming of Christ. Solomon then is a type of Christ after the second coming in the millennium where the temple is now built (Ezekiel 40-48). It's little things like that where we see how the Bible will always stay consistent.

Doctrinally, this will be a reference to the millennial temple in Ezekiel Chapter 40-48 where there is a literal temple built in the millennium. From Ezekiel 34:24, we know that David is the prince in the millennium. He sits next to Jesus Christ on the throne.

Inspirationally, it is for you and me. **In the New Testament, our bodies are the temple of God (I Corinthians 6:19). But that tabernacle in the Old Testament, when we begin to lay it out and study it, is a picture of multiple things. Each one of them is an incredible study unto itself. One of the incredible pictures will be that it's a picture of our inner workings with God in our life after salvation.** Most people don't see this—they just see it as the Old Testament temple. They understand some things about it, but we want to open it up. It's an incredible picture of the real worship that should be in our lives today when we talk about worshipping God. **I want you to notice that only the priests were allowed to do the work in the tabernacle. And that's a picture of you and me because the Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews that, if you're saved, you also are a priest after the order of Melchisedec.** That's why it's a picture of the ministry, and you and I today working in the inner sanctuary of the

tabernacle, which is a picture of the real ministry and worship that we should have with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one of the most incredibly detailed pictures, and it will show you what a real spiritual Biblical ministry and a relationship and a work with God should be.

Now, for a moment, let's talk about the anatomy of the tabernacle. The tabernacle had three compartments. And the thing that I want you to understand is that it was temporary. It was covered with animal skins (badger skins). **And if you would have seen the tabernacle out there in the wilderness, you would see that it was just an ordinary plain tent; however, what was really special was what was inside.** That tabernacle is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, who on the outside looked like a common ordinary man, but on the inside was the very Deity of God. It's also a picture of you and me—if you're saved. It's a picture of us just looking like an ordinary person, but the real value is what's on the inside. And you begin to understand how this tabernacle is a picture of that. There was an outward area in front of the tent, then an inward section that had some furniture, and then there was a veil and inside the veil was the holy of holies.

III. The Floorplan of the Tabernacle

Let's talk about the first section. The first section on the outside has the brasen altar and the laver of water right beside the entrance going in. Now what does that picture for us in our spiritual relationship with Christ?

A.) The Outer Area

The Brasen Altar

The brasen altar is where the sacrifice was made. The priests were the only ones able to do the work in the tabernacle, so when they did the sacrifice, they did it on the brasen altar. **It's brass—a picture of God's judgment. The brasen altar will be a picture of the day you got saved. That's where the sacrifice was paid. And it's a picture of Calvary's cross for us, and when you accept that sacrifice, then you become a priest after the order of Melchisedec.**

The Laver of Water

Near the entrance to the inner area was the laver of water. It was there for the priest to wash his feet. There was no floor in the tabernacle; it was dirt. And every time the priest, who would come in and go out, to do the work from the outer court into the inner court, he would wash his feet. **That's a picture of you and I doing the work of God, that before we try to do it, we get clean in our walk with God.** Before he would go in, every time, he'd wash his feet. Then he'd go in and do the work, and come back out and go back in, and he'd wash his feet again. The laver of water was in the outside area of section number one.

B.) The Inner Area

When he walked into the second section, there were a number of things there that the priest used to do the work. All of these picture the inner workings of your life and my life in our worship

with God, and certainly our work and our ministry for God. There were four things in this second section.

The Golden Censer

The first thing was a golden censer. You've probably seen something similar to this in Catholic services—a stick with little chains on it with a cup with incense burning being swung back and forth. That's what you have here. **It is a picture of our prayer life because incense in the Bible is a picture of prayer. The priest went in there swinging it back and forth, and it was giving off the smell of incense which is a picture of our prayer life; we're to *pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).**

The Table of Shewbread

On the other side, you'd have what is called the table of shewbread. It was a wooden table, and it had loaves of bread on it which were baked fresh every day by the priests. And they were placed in two rows of six. **It represents the word of God in your life because the Bible says *man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** Notice on the table, it's six and six. Whoever laid that bread out knew there were going to be 66 books in the Bible. And that is a picture of the word of God in your life.

The Seven-Pronged Candlestick

When you first walked into the second section of the tabernacle, it was completely dark until your eyes adjusted to the light that was in there. You're coming from the outside brightness and walking inside where the only light inside was across from the table of shewbread—the seven-pronged candlestick. **The seven-pronged candlestick is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God that is lighting the inside of you to do the work of God and to be the basis for your worship.** And what happened? When you walk in, it's going from the bright sunlight of the world to the seven-pronged candlestick of God's Holy Spirit; therefore, you've got to stop for a little bit and let your eyes get adjusted to the change in light. You see, when you first get saved, that's why we disciple you, and that's why we have created things in your life to help you get your eyes adjusted to the new light—you're coming from the light of the world into the light of God.

The table of shewbread is across from the seven-pronged Candlestick. When the priest does the work with the bread, a picture of you and me in the word of God, he can't do it in front because he blocks the light and can't see what he's doing; therefore, he's got to go around on the other side, and through the light of the candlestick, he can see to do the work. It's a picture of you and me getting in the way of the Holy Spirit of God, and Him not being able to do the work. It's incredible stuff. When I talk about a working relationship with Jesus Christ, that's what I'm talking about. I'm talking about you having the inner workings of these things in your life.

The Altar of Incense

This will be right up before the veil before you enter into the holy of holies. **It's a picture of intercessory prayer.** The golden censer is your prayer life, but the altar of incense is a picture at the throne of God, God praying—making intercession for you (Romans 8).

Everything in there had a purpose for the Old Testament priest, but it is also an incredible picture of the inner workings of the Holy Spirit of God in your life once you get saved. The real work of God takes place right there.

C.) The Veil & The Holy of Holies

Then we had the veil. **The veil is what separated all the other priests from the ark of the covenant, which is the throne of God where Jesus Christ sat in the Old Testament.** Only one man could go in there—the high priest. He was the only one allowed beyond the veil. I've read accounts, and of course nobody knows for sure, where the veil was 14-15 inches thick. No light got out and no light got in. The high priest, once a year, would go in there and offer the sacrifice that he had to offer. To me, that's a picture of a lot of God's people who get saved at the brazen altar then go in and do the ministry. **But how many of God's people cross the veil into that relationship with Jesus Christ that is beyond understanding?** Not very many.

There are two aspects to this, and it's an incredible picture of what our life should be. You're going to find a picture there of the priest and individuals (you and me) ...who do the work in ministry within that tabernacle, but then connected to that tabernacle are three families. They are the Kohathites, the sons of Gershon, and the sons of Merari. So it not only shows you our job, but these three families whose whole lives were that tabernacle. Whenever it was moved, they had a job of picking it up, putting it back, setting it up, and taking it down—and they had to be exact in every detail. **When it comes to the ministry and the word of God...you'd better be exact. You can't leave the parts out that you don't like, and they did that for 40 years.** Do you know what the priest and these three families did, or what you ought to do as a priest and your families with you? **They took ownership of the tabernacle.** It was theirs. It may have been God's, but just try to take it away from them!

IV. Digging a Little Deeper into Psalms 5:7

Psalm 5:7. But as for me, I will come [into] thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: [and] in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

❖ *But as for me*

The thing that I want you to see about what David says here, or rather the way he says it in verse seven: *but as for me*. I like that. **That tells me that going into God's house to do the work is a choice that not everybody is going to make.** It becomes a personal choice. We use the same terminology when we say *well, I can't speak for you, but as far as I'm concerned, this is what I'm going to do*.

Joshua probably said it better than anybody in Joshua 24:15. *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.* You see when he says *as for me*, he's talking about a choice that people have to make, and if you read on down through Joshua Chapter 24, not everybody made that choice.

Now, when you got saved, you made a choice. If you're here this morning, and you're not sure if you died right now that you'd go to heaven—hey, that choice is the easiest simplest choice, and it is the best choice you'll ever make in life. But if you got saved, you made a choice. Nobody forced you. You made a conscious choice that others didn't choose. You made a choice to get saved, and in time as we grow, we learn another great key to life—**all life is about the choices we make. It will be about good choices or bad choices, and in some cases...no choices.** When a man or woman makes the right choice of salvation, in time through the word of God, they too can make the right choice to go into the house of God and do the work of a priest.

❖ *I will come [into] thy house*

Over the years, I've seen and dealt with so many people that make the right choice for salvation, but they never make the right choices after salvation. **They get into the body of Christ, but they never go into His house to do the work. They never develop those pieces of furniture in their lives, and they never get to the point where they ever do the spiritual work of God.** Like the Old Testament priest working in the tabernacle, God has a job for each of us in the New Testament once we make the choice of getting saved. Now in the New Testament, the house of God will not only represent your body, but it also represents the church.

*I Timothy 3:15. (Paul speaking to young Timothy) But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, (Definition...) **which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

Then he told us in I Timothy 3:4-5 (talking about somebody wanting the office of a bishop, or pastor; ... *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5. (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*)

We already know the church of God is God's house. Now this is a great principle. If we took pastors legitimately out of the ministry based on the Bible; God forbid, but if we just followed that principle, we'd lose half the pastors in this country because they didn't rule their children with gravity. I like that. **You know what gravity does? It holds you in place, and of course when you hold your kids with gravity, you hold them in place.** If gravity is gone, you just float off someplace.

In 2 Timothy 2:20 it tells us, *But in a great house (now I understand that house is the church) there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.*

In God's church God has vessels of honor, and He has vessels of dishonor. One of the greatest studies you'll ever take in the Bible is to lay out and study the seven components of the household of God. The family of God has seven members to it from Genesis to Revelation and each one fits into a different dispensation, and when you get all done, you've got the household of God. But the church, according to I Timothy 3:15 is the house of God.

And in the New Testament, when you got saved, the house you decide to go into or not will be the church. **You all decided to get into the body of Christ when you got saved. The next question you've got to ask is are you going to, like the priest, go into the house and do the work.** In the book of Acts, every man and woman that got saved did two things—they got baptized, then they got into the house of God and went to work. Again, God's people will choose to get saved, but not choose to go into the house—the church. We have an idea today that the church is a secondary thing. People say you don't have to go to church to be a Christian. No, but you've got to go to church to be a good Christian—it's part of God's program. It's like saying I'm saved, but I don't have to read my Bible, or I'm going to go get gas, but I'm not going to take my car. What's the point? **You see, it's understanding about going into the house of God—what it does for you and why God set it up that way.** David said, *I will come [into] thy house.*

There has to be a house for God's people. In the Old Testament it was the tabernacle, and in the New Testament it's the church. Now in the Old Testament tabernacle, it was filled with those furnishings which all had a spiritual meaning. In the New Testament, it's our bodies but inside we have to have those spiritual furnishings. That's why the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:17, *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* **All of the new Bibles say “thoroughly finished” which goes to show you they know nothing about the doctrine of the Bible. You're thoroughly furnished—the furnishings.**

❖ In the multitude of thy mercy

When most of you that are here this morning got saved, you got into God's house—the church. And one of the things it does, when it teaches you the Bible, it not only gives you everything you need for your protection, but it develops you. It will give you wisdom and understanding if it's the right church; moreover, it will help you see things in your life that you couldn't see before. And then at some point, through God's house and through the development of what it does for you, you'll have the ability to look back and see even before salvation, the multitude of God's mercies in your life. For many of God's people today, it's all about what they can get from God. In the big mega churches, it's all about entertainment. And I've learned that people in time, if they're not careful, take God for granted because they cease to look back and see the multitude of miracles that God has done in our lives.

But in time, you'll have the ability to look back and see even before you were saved, but certainly after you were saved, the hand of God getting you here and getting you to the cross. Us seeing, through the death of Christ, the hand of God orchestrating the events in every one of our lives to get us here—to get us to the place where we can have what God wants us to have—to get into God's house and do the work.

I look at my own life and think back at the stupid chances that I took and the situations that I found myself in. I've thought a hundred times that I should have been killed. I think about how I've dealt with people who are alcoholics, and I think to myself what the difference is between them and me. For the first 19 years of my life, I didn't do what was right. I ran with that crowd; why am I not a drunk? My dad died of lung cancer when he was 50 years old, and when I turned 50, that hit me like a ton of bricks. I'm 73 years old, 23 years past that point, but I often wonder

why him and not me. I've seen guys in wheelchairs from wars, and I think to myself why them and not me.

You see... when we're young, we don't think about those things, but **you get saved and you grow up in God's house with all the blessings and let the house develop you, and there will come a time in your life when you'll look back and you'll see His hand in your life and the multitude of mercies that He gives to us.** Often that will keep you going when you want to quit. It will keep you when you go through the rough times; **you'll look back and see the multitude of mercies and realize that God didn't bring you this far to drop you off now.** And when we think about the multitude of mercies, the greatest thought that comes to my mind is that most certainly none of us deserve them; however, even in the multitude of God's mercy, we have a tendency to take it for granted. **If we were honest with ourselves, every one of us would look back in our lives and see how God got us here. And we would see and understand how important it is to go into the house of God.**

On page 370 of our hymnal, you will find one of my favorite hymns—*Count Your Blessings*.

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

Count your blessings, see what God hath done... all on the multiple mercies. We don't deserve any of it. The truth of the matter is that if we got what we deserved, we'd all be in hell this morning. You know why we're not...the multitude mercies of God.

❖ [And] in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Doctrinally, this will be the millennial temple. Historically, this is the temple David is talking about. Inspirationally, for me and for you, it shows us the inner understanding of our own worship. We know in John 4:24 it says, *God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.* I get that, but what does that mean? What's the definitive on that? I've told you many times that the Biblical concept of worship is completely lost today...much like prayer. It produces along with a false worship, a false fake spirituality and Christianity that has nothing to do with the word of God.

So, for us ...worshipping God in spirit and truth. **Concerning real Biblical worship, it will have to do with our spirit and God's truth but directing it towards God's holy temple. You have to have those pieces of furnishings in your life before you even think about having a worship time with God.**

Now this opens one of the greatest, deepest studies in all the Bible, and I'm about to show you the key to a successful, fruitful, sustained Christian life. Now maybe you've had problems in your life; maybe you have problems today; maybe you're not even sure you're saved. We can fix all of that today, but the bottom line is that I want to show you now the easiest, most practical solution that will solve any problem in your life, or keep it to a minimum, and give you the

ultimate relationship with God...if you will do it. And having said that, I understand that not all of God's people will do this.

A couple of months ago, I showed you that there was a physical Mount Zion on earth, but also a spiritual Mount Zion up in Heaven. Well, it's the same thing with the tabernacle or the temple. It's very important that you see this.

*Hebrews 8:1-5. (Now watch it very carefully) Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: (then he's going to sum it all up) We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2. **A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.** (Now, you'd better mark that one). 3. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore [it is] of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: (Watch it very carefully) 5. **Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.***

So...there is a literal tabernacle down here, and then there is one up in heaven that is the true one. When Moses made the one down here, it was after a pattern that God gave him. **The key to the Christian life will be the patterns that God has sustained and given us in the Bible.** You want to live your Christian life...it needs to be lived by the patterns that are laid down in the Bible. You want to build a ministry...there's a pattern for building ministry. You're married...there's a pattern for your marriage. You have a family...there's a pattern in training up your children. You want to have a walk with God...there's a pattern to that walk. You want to build a relationship with God...there's a pattern to that relationship. You want to work with people and deal with people...the key to understanding why people do the things they do is understanding the patterns that people fall into. Last Thursday night (01/18/2024), we talked about the pattern of your glorified body. If you want to build a church...there's a pattern to building it. It's not complicated; they're all in the Bible.

And most certainly, my friend, there is a pattern to worship. I told you before the worthlessness of 99% of the worship of God's people. It has to be spirit and truth, but with no Bible, there is no worship. I get that. But here's the kicker...**pretending you worship God without knowledge of Hebrews Chapter 8 and directing your worship toward that temple, and without knowing those same things that are in that temple are working in your life as God's furnishings; it's a total waste of time.**

There's a pattern for prayer in your Bible, and you're already told that we don't know how to pray (Romans 8). And we don't. You see, the pattern for prayer in the Bible is found there again in the Old Testament tabernacle. The altar of incense that is a picture of intercessory prayer and the censer...do you know where they got the fire to light that incense? It came off the brasen altar. When Aaron's sons offered strange fire before the Lord, God killed them. The fire they used in the censer wasn't from off the brasen altar.

You know why we don't know how to pray? Because your prayer life has to start at the brazen altar. If there's any other motive and reason behind the prayer, other than going back to Christ's death on the cross and the brazen altar which keeps it clean, you are wasting your time. But this is Laodicean Christianity; nobody wants to hear this today. Nobody wants the truth today. Everybody wants to talk about how smart they are, but nobody wants to get down to the real basic inner workings. Taking the book of Psalms and opening it up and looking on the inside to see what it really takes to have the relationship that God wants us to have, and I believe that most of you want to have.

You're told in Hebrews 8:5 that we all live under the shadow of the patterns that are up in heaven. Every day of our lives...whatever choices we make, we are under the shadow of all those patterns. Our refusal to learn the patterns and/or to operate our lives by them will be the fundamental reason why we fail in our relationship with Christ. It will be the fundamental reason why our walk, family, ministry, churches, prayer life, and our worship fail.

People become creatures of habit. They're very predictable because they follow the same pattern—up at 6:00, coffee by 6:30, head out to work by 8:00, lunch at 12:00, out at 5:00, and then they take the same route home. God is a God of habits. God has established patterns. Understanding God is not complicated. God in 99% of situations will always do the same thing the same way. He follows the same patterns in everything He does. So He, too, is in most cases predictable.

I can see a situation, many of you can too, where we're working with somebody and we see the mess they get into, and you can almost make predictions with uncanny accuracy. You've been in the word of God, and you've learned the patterns. You see where it's going. It's the same way with teenagers. When they start to become disrespectful and begin to go the wrong way, you try to correct them because you know what got you in trouble. You could see where they were headed, and it was predictable where they were going. Once you learn the patterns, it's predictable what's going to happen, and you can better be in a place to help them or not help them if they don't want the help. **But it's about patterns, and God is a God of habit. You learn His patterns and know what He will do in almost any given situation.**

In the world there is a saying that *All Roads Lead to Rome*. That is one of the truest statements the world ever put out that is based on what we know about the Bible. How do we know that all roads lead to Rome? It's because Rome has established patterns all down through history. **And in the Bible, all roads will lead to the patterns of God.** He's predictable. **And what we do in any area of our life is to follow the pattern. I think sometimes, as Christians, we don't see how easy it really is, and I know most of it is because we complicate it ourselves.** It's like I said last week, no man will deceive you; you will allow yourself to be deceived, but stop and think about this. As a child of God, right now if you're saved this morning you have it all. We just don't use it.

V. Summary

1. We have a Book that shows us the agony and the price that God paid for our salvation found in the book of Job.
2. We have a Book that shows us every device that the devil has to try to stop us found in the book of Ecclesiastes.
3. We have a book that shows us how Christ looks at us, how He thinks of us, and how He wants us to look at Him found in the book of Song of Solomon.
4. We have a book that shows us God's heart. We're studying it right now—the book of Psalms.
5. We have a Book that shows us God's opinion on every issue of life found in the book of Proverbs.

And with all that, we have now the complete perfect word of God that will show us the pattern that God follows in every issue of life. And you learn how to use it all by getting saved and getting into God's house—allow the church to do for you what God intended it to do.

And as the Bible says in Hebrews 10:25. *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner (pattern) of some is; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

What a great verse. There's no greater reason why you should be in church, being part of what God is doing, and doing everything that you can because of the day that's approaching. But even more than that, you're a priest. You now understand the tabernacle and what it represents. Those pieces of furniture, furnishings, that God wants in your life for you to do the ministry and to do the work. But it's your choice. As for me, David said, I'm going into the house of God.

You'll learn the patterns of God as you do the work of God. It's going into God's house, the New Testament church, and seeing the patterns at work, and then like the priests, taking ownership of it all. Don't look at your salvation, your church, the ministry, or whatever as though that's just what we do. No, no, no...you own it. Taking ownership of the things that God has given us so that you say these are mine just like the priests. They didn't walk around in the tabernacle saying the table of shewbread was God's bread. No... they ate the bread every morning, and they baked it fresh every morning. You know why? They took ownership of it. They lit the censer and the candlesticks...they didn't wait for God to come down and light it. They took ownership of it. **And until we, as God's people, take ownership of the things that God has given us, the furnishings will mean nothing to us.**

The book of Psalms is an incredible book, and I made up my mind when I decided I was going to teach this that I could teach it just like everybody else teaches it—surface stuff; go through and give you a lot of neat, good stuff—but that ain't me. I want to crack this thing open and show you the inside of everything that is in the book because that is where it's going to make the difference in our lives.