Clips from Psalms
Psalms 89:46-48
Jehovah's Covenant with David and Israel's Afflictions

"How long, O Jehovah? Will thou hide thyself forever? How long shall thy wrath burn like fire? Oh remember how short my time is: for what vanity hast thou created all the children of men! What man is he that shall live and not see death, that shall deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?"

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seek to pluck specs out of other's eyes while a giant glaring obvious sin lies squarely on their own personal eyeball (see Matthew 7:1-5).

Have members of the church grown arrogant to the point of being blinded by their own sin? Jeremiah writes, "Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number... Yet thou said, I am innocent; surely his anger is turned away from me. Behold, I will enter into judgment with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned" (Jeremiah 2:32-35).

When speaking of sin, worldliness, and false teachers brethren are quick to point out the error of the world and their fellow brethren yet fail to see their own error. It seems that the hardest sin to actually identify on this earth is my own sin. The hardest false doctrine for a man to acknowledge is the faulty doctrine of his own personal convictions and opinions that he elevates to the level of divine revelation. Those who elevate their personal opinions and convictions to the level of divine revelation have usurped the authority of God and have, in a moment of futility, attempted to shove the Lord God Almighty off of his throne. Such a man stands condemned (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

Brethren, we need a good dose of humility. While exposing other's sins is the greatest show of love and a commandment of God don't you think that we ought to begin with ourselves? The apostle Paul wrote, "Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor" (Galatians 6:1-4).

There is a fine balance between duty and responsibility when sin is involved in men's lives. There is a possibility that we find ourselves so bent on straightening everyone else out that we lose sight of our own faults. If this were not the case we would not have warnings in the scripture regarding this. If you find yourself talking with others or posting on the web statements about everyone else's ignorance and your self perceived intelligence there is a high probability that you have a "holier than thou" attitude. You are likely arrogant and so filled with pride that you cannot see the real you. Read Matthew 5:3-5 a few times and it may be that you will be healed of this heart disease.

**The Beatitudes**

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled"

Matthew 5:6

**Introduction:**

We come to the fourth of eight Beatitudes in our study. Happy is the man that is poor, mourns, weeps, and hungers and thirst for righteousness. The quest for true happiness does not find satisfaction at the end of a rainbow filled with the things of this world but rather in a proper approach and outlook of life. Truly happy people understand that there is more to this current life than getting married, having children, getting a job, paying bills, and buying things. Truly happy people see the need for a life of godliness now so that an eternity of grace may be experienced. To experience eternal happiness in heaven man must "hunger and thirst for righteousness."

**I. What is "Righteousness?"

A. Righteousness is God's commands and laws (Psalms 119:142, 172)

B. Righteousness is "Word of Jehovah" (I Samuel 15:22-23 compared to Proverbs 21:3).

C. Righteousness is the "way" of Jehovah (Jeremiah 10:23; 2 Peter 2:21).

D. Righteousness is the standard set by God for man to meet (see Isaiah 28:17):

1. A pattern (Exodus 25:9, 40) or scale (Daniel 5:27).

2. Landmark that set man's boundaries (Hosea 5:10) and a plum-line (Amos 7:7-9).

E. Consider these examples: Able (Genesis 4:4; 1 John 3:12-13), Noah (Genesis 6:8-9; Hebrews 11:7), Abraham (Genesis 15:6; James 2:21-24), David (1 Kings 3:6), and Jesus (1 John 2:1).

**II. What is so appealing about Righteousness that makes a man hunger and thirst for it?

A. No treasures the earth over can compare to the value of righteousness because its benefits are eternal (see Romans 5:21; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Proverbs 8:11; 16:16; 23:23).

B. Those who recognize its value will do all to obtain it (Proverbs 2:1-9; Isaiah 55:6-7; Luke 11:9-10)

C. The things of this world (1 John 2:15-17)?

1. Riches (Proverbs 11:4-6, 27-28; 13:7-8, 11; 18:11, 23; 24:4-5)

2. War (Isaiah 13:17; 21:2)

3. Sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6)

4. Glory of men (John 12:43)

5. A passion to do evil as opposed to good (Jeremiah 4:22)

6. A passion for laziness (Proverbs 21:25)

**Conclusion:**

Blessed is the one who hungers and thirst for righteousness because such a one will be filled. An insatiable appetite will be satisfied. The man or woman whose desire is heaven will recognize in value of righteousness and do all within their power to obtain and hold on to it.