

A. WHO GOD IS

- Our friend Moses wrote one psalm. It seems he'd meditated on Who God is and how knowing Him and His ways could significantly impact our earthly pilgrimage.
- Scholars believe that he wrote this at the end of the wilderness journey when the children of Israel were poised to enter Canaan and his life was coming to an end: Ps 90 NAS95 -- Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. ³ You turn man back into dust and say, "Return, O children of men." ⁴ For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night. ⁵ You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; in the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. ⁶ In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; toward evening it fades and withers away. ⁷ For we have been consumed by Your anger and by Your wrath we have been dismayed. ⁸ You have placed our iniquities before You, our secret *sins* in the light of Your presence. ⁹ For all our days have declined in Your fury; we have finished our years like a sigh. ¹⁰ As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away. ¹¹ Who understands the power of Your anger and Your fury, according to the fear that is due You?
¹² So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
¹³ Do return, O LORD; how long *will it be*? And be sorry for Your servants.
¹⁴ O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us, *and* the years we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children.
¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands.
- Moses enjoyed an intimate relationship with God asking Him, "show me Your ways that I might know You." He discovered that God could be his Dwelling Place. (Ex 33:13)
- Those who are in Christ will dwell with Him for all eternity. But here and now, our eternal creator God has promised to be with us and never leave us: Dt 31:8 NLT -- Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.
- As we pursue the Lord's Way of Wisdom, let us seek to know Him as our Dwelling Place. He offers to be our refuge, retreat, and the home of His people (Strong's H4583)
- Insights:

B. WHO WE ARE

- There is a sharp contrast between the greatness of the God Who created us and us! We are frail creatures bound by time and space. Our lives on earth are brief. (vv.6 -11)
- Because of sin, we will all die one day and after that face God's judgment. (Heb 9:27)

- Life can feel futile unless seen in light of the redeeming work of Jesus. He took our judgment and transforms the years we've been given from meaningless to abundant:
 - John 5:24 -- He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life
 - John 10:10b MSG -- I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.
- Insights:

C. WRATH OF GOD

- Wisdom and Fear of the Lord help us to see the relationship between God's wrath over sin and the brevity and brokenness of life after the fall: v. 11 AMP – Who knows the power of your anger? Who worthily connects this brevity of life with Your recognition of sin? And Your wrath, who connects it with the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord?
- When the Hebrews lost faith in God and refused His ways, He was angry. (Num 21:4-9) The repentant, who looked to His provision, were rescued just as Jesus rescues us: Jn 3:14-15 – As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- God repeatedly keeps His covenant promises to His people despite their sin. Our promised Messiah, Jesus, has now delivered us from wrath, sin and death. (Rom 5:8-9)
- LISTENING EXERCISE:

The fall affects our lives every day. Reflect on these common ways it impacts us:

-- Feeling the weight of the demands and hardships of life:

-- Realizing that life is moving faster than you like or can keep up with:

-- Lacking a sense of purpose or meaning:

-- Feeling like God is mad at you:

Take a few moments to focus on what it would be like to feel at home with God:

-- What is your internal reaction to this idea? (relief, fear, reticence, eagerness, etc.)

-- Lord, help me picture You as my Dwelling Place in the large and small things that are part of my everyday life:

-- Holy Spirit, remind me in the moments of my days that You are always with me.

- Insights:

D. WISE HEARTS

- Moses spent many years observing the harsh realities of the human condition. But as one who made God his Dwelling Place, he can point us to the Way of Wisdom.
- Psalm 90:12-17 provides us with wonderful prayers and practical ways to cultivate wise hearts:
- Listen to God
 - For our lives on earth to count, God must teach us to number our days (v.12) In order to be taught of the Lord, we must be willing to listen to Him: Deut 6:3 NIV -- Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you
 - Numbering our days is more about wise qualities and priorities than about our schedules. Distraction* and busyness* are regular hindrances to this pursuit.
 - If we take a portion of our precious time each day to be still and listen, then at the end of our days we will have hearts of wisdom to present to the Lord.
- Let Him Satisfy
 - When we experience God's nearness, we experience His lovingkindness. Every human heart was made to know this love and the fulfillment that it brings. (v. 14)
 - Moses learned early that worldly wealth* and power* tempt people away from the true satisfaction that is only found in God: Eccl 3:11b AMP -- He also has planted eternity in men's hearts *and* minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy]
 - Even though we experience frustrations and affliction, we can be joyful people as we dwell near to God and follow His Way of Wisdom. (v. 15)
- Look to God
 - Both at the beginning and at the end of this psalm, Moses exhorts us to look to our eternal God and Dwelling Place. May we see Him and His works! (v. 16)
 - When we turn our attention toward our great God, we find meaning and true hope. We can then stop our analyzing* and attempts to fix* that only wear us out.
 - God's beauty and wisdom are ours to behold when we make our home in Him: Ps 27:4 NIV -- One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
- *In our pursuit of gaining hearts of wisdom we must beware of the obstacles: distraction, busyness, possessions, power, position, analyzing and trying to control.
- As we seek to live in God our Dwelling Place, may we grow in wisdom and joy: Eccl 5:19 NLT -- To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God.
- Insights:

E. TESTIMONY

F. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING
- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.