

Theme: Christians should use the Book of Psalms as a manual for godly living and biblical prayer.

I. Intro – A Few Concluding Tips

- A. We have covered a lot of ground!
 - 1. 17 teachings
 - 2. 13 different Psalms
- B. Overview of series
 - 1. Intro – structure & introductory psalms
 - 2. Overview of genres of Psalms
 - 3. Psalms and believer today - Word & prayer
- C. Today – practical tips for using Psalms
 - 1. Notice Paul related Psalms with Christ in us
 - 2. A rich Christian life includes Psalms
 - 3. How do we do this?

II. Psalms: A Manual for Godly Living

- A. The Psalms are God's Word to us
 - 1. The five fold structure
 - 2. Entrance – Torah as path to blessing (1:2-3)
 - 3. Remember the statistics!

B. The Psalms give us the heart of the Torah

- 1. The Psalms poetry gives heart – not detail
- 2. Should guide our own reflection on Torah

C. The Psalms show us the path to blessing

- 1. The purpose of Torah – blessing!
- 2. If you want the blessed life – get in Psalms!

D. Using the manual today

- 1. Get into the spirit of the writing, not just words
- 2. Let Psalms stir up your intensity & intimacy!
- 3. Meditate on Psalms – don't read fast!

III. Psalms: A Manual for Biblical Praying

A. The Psalms are our words to God

- 1. They are prayers and songs to God
- 2. Show response of people of God to our Lord

B. The Psalms teach us how to pray

- 1. Breadth of prayer – all life, all types of prayer
- 2. Depth of prayer – true intimacy, true intensity

C. Using Psalms in prayer today (see additional list)

1. Possible objection to praying Psalms

- a. Objection – shouldn't pray pre-written prayers
- b. We sing pre-written songs – same thing!
- c. This can still be done in a fresh way

2. Ways to use Psalms in prayer

- a. Pray verbatim as intro to your prayer time
- b. Pray verbatim to express needs/desires (list)
- c. Model you own prayers after the psalms,
 - i. Use select phrases in your prayers
 - ii. Paraphrasing the entire Psalm
- d. Use old hymn versions of Psalm as prayers
- e. Sing a song based on a psalm as a prayer

D. Let the Psalms be a rich part of walking with God

Using the Book of Psalms Today

Colossians 3:16

February 22, 2004

Response: Your Mercy and Kindness

Benediction: Psalm 23:6 Paraphrase

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1. 17 teachings
2. 13 different Psalms

B. Overview of series

1. Intro – structure & introductory psalms
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Praying the Psalms

1. Pray them verbatim as an introduction to your prayer time
2. Pray them verbatim to express your needs/desires in a certain situation (use the list above as a starting guide).
3. Model you own prayers after the psalms, either using select phrases in your own prayers, or paraphrasing the entire psalm **I have done this during series – Psalm 13, 137**
4. Use old hymn versions of the psalms as prayers **O God Our Help**
5. Sing a song based on a psalm as a prayer to God **Our response today**