

Psalms for the Soul

Love

Jim Hoffman

Class work

***What can we do to
respond to God's love?***

Our approach.

1. ***Psalms that tell us of MERCY. (Psalm 123)***
2. ***Psalms that tell of God's PROTECTION. (Psalm 121)***
3. ***Psalms that tell us of PRAYER. (Psalm 3)***
4. ***Psalms that tell of God's BLESSING. (Psalm 1)***
5. ***Psalms that tell us about LOVE. (Psalm 36)***
6. ***Psalms that tell us God's MAJESTY. (Psalm 97)***
7. ***Psalms that tell us of PEACE. (Psalm 120)***
8. ***Psalms that tell of God's WORD. (Psalm 119)***
9. ***Psalms that tell of the MESSIAH. (Psalm 110)***
10. ***Psalms that tell of WORSHIP. (Psalm 89)***
11. ***Psalms that tell of PRAISE. (Psalm 145)***

Ps 36

An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. 2 For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. 3 The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. 4 Even on his bed he plots evil; he commits himself to a sinful course and does not reject what is wrong. 5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. 6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O Lord, you preserve both man and beast. 7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. 9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. 10 Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. 11 May the foot of the proud not come against me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away. 12 See how the evildoers lie fallen — thrown down, not able to rise! NIV

***5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your
faithfulness to the skies***

- ***His love is without limits; it reaches to the heavens.***
- ***John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. KJV
(Romans 5:6-10)***
- ***1 John 4:10 Herein is love , not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. KJV***

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies

- ***His love is without limits; it reaches to the heavens.***
- ***Ps 103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. NKJV***

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies

- ***His love is without limits; it reaches to the heavens.***
 - ***Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross NKJV***

***5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your
faithfulness to the skies***

- ***In the story of the prodigal son, we see God father fleshed out in the prodigal's father.***
- ***From the day his son left home he had been waiting and watching for his son to return.***
- ***And there was just one reason for his vigil; he loved his son and he could not stop.***

The Prodigal Son

***Luke 15:14-20** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. NIV*

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***His love is beyond a price.***

- ***When God sets his love upon us there is nothing that is of greater value.***



- ***Better to be loved by God than to be the richest man on earth.***

- ***What (price) will a man give in exchange for his soul?***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***His love is beyond a price.***

- ***David does not even try to quantify the price for us; that is left to us.***



- ***It is our responsibility and duty to experience his unfailing love.***

- ***We are to let his love roll over us, bathe us, and allow it to change us into his likeness.***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***How does one experience the love of God?***
- ***We must pursue him; He is the God who wants to be known, but he is not a God who will show us more than we are ready for. (John 16:12)***
- ***He wants us to know him and experience his love. The degree to which we get to know him and experience his love is our decision to make.***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***The shadow of his wings?***
- ***Matt 23:37-38 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!** NKJV***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***The shadow of his wings?***
- ***Heb 9:3 Then a curtain was stretched, and behind it a smaller, inside tent set up. This was called "the Holy of Holies." 4 In it were placed the gold incense altar and the gold-covered ark of the covenant containing the gold urn of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, the covenant tablets, 5 and the angel-wing-shadowed mercy seat. But we don't have time to comment on these now. (from THE MESSAGE)***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.


- ***The shadow of his wings?***
- ***I believe the psalmist was speaking of the refuge that we enjoy when we are close to God.***
- ***Where better to enjoy his love than in his presence? Then it's no longer theory, no longer just words, but a reality to be experienced!***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***The mercy seat on the ark of the covenant had two winged cherubim that would have cast a shadow when God's Shechinah glory was present.***
- ***That's where God met with his people and today we are his temple.***
- ***We can still take refuge in his presence.***

7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

- ***Those who are able to find refuge under his wings includes a full range of people, (both high and low among men).***

 ***Our God invites all to come, and he accepts all who come. (John 6:37)***

- ***The rich, the poor, the famous and the infamous all have essentially the same need for a refuge.***

10 Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

- ***His love is without end.***
 - ***Jer 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love : therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee. KJV***
 - ***Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. KJV***

10 Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

- ***His love is sure and steadfast to all, but it finds expression in those who know him.***
- ***Those who know him are able to draw close to the most powerful being in the universe and have no fear.***
- ***We have been given the privilege of being called the children of God and a family relationship has no end.***

How does it feel to be loved by God?


- ***It's more than a feeling; it's the testimony of the entire Bible.***
- ***God has set about to love us despite the fact that without his initiation of love none of us would love him. (1st John 4:19)***
- ***1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us. NKJV***

How does it feel to be loved by God?

- ***Because he loves us, life has meaning and life has purpose.***
- ***Because he loves us, we are capable of loving and being loved.***
- ***Because we can love, we give testimony to the fact that we are made in his likeness.***

Ps 33:18-19

18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love , 19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. NIV

- 
- ***How about this? God watches over those whose hope is tied to his love.***
 - ***That is no doubt due to our knowledge of our unworthiness and knowing that if he doesn't love us we are without hope.***
 - ***When all of the evidence points to our guilt all of his love declares a path to forgiveness.***

Ps 33:18-19

18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, 19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. NIV

- ***When I am feeling guilty and so unworthy because I have failed him, I remember that his love never fails me.***
- ***There is something incredibly powerful about being able to fall back on 'Jesus loves me' no matter what is going on in my life.***
- ***Is it just good psychology? Or is the truth so powerful that it calms the soul and the mind better than any psychology?***

Ps 63:3-4

3 Because Your loving kindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. NKJV

- ***God's love is better than life because it lasts longer.***
- ***When this life is over, there will be no end in sight for God's love.***
- ***When we mess up in life, he still loves us; it's not based on our performance.***

What do you think?