Thirst For God

12-1-24

Psalm 42:1–2 (ESV)

¹ As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Here at BCC, I believe we thirst after God. We can understand the deer panting for water. Like that deer our soul, our inner being, pants, thirsts, for the living God. We seek HIM and want to know what HE is doing with our lives. Also, there is this mystery between the sovereignty of God and the heart of man.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Within this mystery, we see God has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom the depth of God. Not only can we not fathom what God has done, HE conceals things.

Proverbs 25:2 (ESV)
It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

It is God's glory to conceal things and it is our glory to search them out, thirst for HIM. It is our glory to be thirsty. If we think we know everything about God, it is no longer possible to worship HIM. If we believe we know everything, religion becomes ordinary and flat. Our faith grows as we thirst for HIM. It is God's glory hold things back to stir an awe and curiosity of the majesty of God. God rests in the majesty of the unknown and stirs kings to glory having them search out the glory of God. We see this in the OT prophets.

Daniel 9:22 (ESV) NO/OH

Gabriel made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding."

The NT confirms the OT prophets thirsting after God.

1 Peter 1:10 (ESV) NO/OH

The prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully (to understand the things revealed).

Once God reveals something to them, they developed a desire to thirst after God. Even though the understanding came hundreds of years later, the glory and the revelation was in the thirsting.

Matthew 13:17 (ESV) NO/OH

For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

God will reveal HIS truth and fulfill HIS promises. In their thirst for God, those at the church of Berea, searched the Scriptures to understand the concealed things of God.

Acts 17:11 (ESV) NO/OH

Now these Jews at Berea were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Even the angels don't have full revelation and watch in anticipation the unfolding glory of God at work on earth. Our salvation is fascinating to the angels of heaven.

1 Peter 1:12b (ESV) NO/OH
These are things into which angels long to look.

The words "long to look" literally mean "stoop over to look". All the angels of heaven are stooping over and watching us, the church, observing the mighty work of God. The plan of the mystery hidden for ages is revealed in Christ -so that:

Ephesians 3:10 (ESV)

So that "through the church" the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

"Manifold" an adjective meaning "very varied." Used multicolored cloth. The wisdom of God displayed in creation and embodied in Christ is a many-splendored thing, iridescent with constantly unfolding beauties. *much variegated*

The church is the *much-variegated* wisdom of God. Certainly, the *much-variegated* wisdom reflects the people attending the church. What the angels couldn't understand is now to be declared through the body of Christ, the church, on earth. The Church is the lens the angels can now see for the first time the full glory of God. Through Christ, the *much-variegated* believers making up the church.

What was the title of our message? Thirst For God. Approximately 3,000 years ago, God's people were thirsting for God. Now with God's crowning jewel and HIS glorious purpose revealed, Christ and the church, we have abundantly more understanding than all those before us. As glorious as this is, we also know that God has still infinitely more concealed glory to be revealed for us. Therefore, like the saints if old, we still earnestly seek God like a man dying of thirst in a barren desert.

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Psalm 63:1 (ESV)
O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
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Earnestly seeking God our soul thirsting for God as in a dry and weary land where there is no water is our glory. All this comes from our heart attitude.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.