

A person wearing a red jacket and a dark hat is sitting on a large rock in a snowy mountain landscape at night. A lantern is lit on the rock next to them, casting a warm glow. The background shows snow-covered mountain peaks under a dark sky.

Psalms

The Book of Praises

Lesson 7

Thanksgiving Psalms:

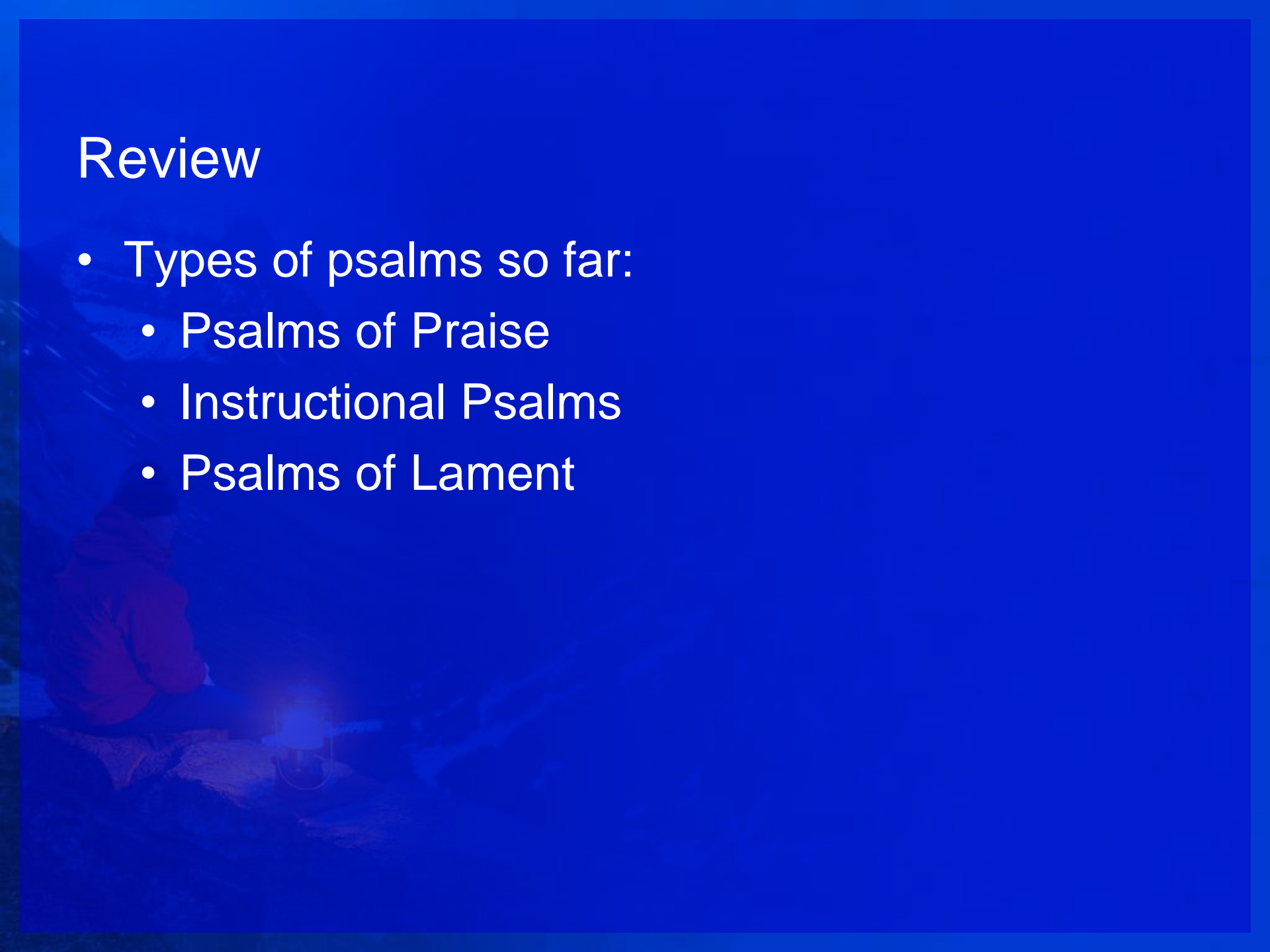
God's Mercies to the Psalmist and Others

Review

- What is a psalm?
 - Poems that are sung to the accompaniment of music played on strings.
- Original title of this book?
 - Sepher Tellihim – book of praises
- How many books make up the psalms?
 - Five
- Over how many years were the psalms written?
 - They span about 1000 years of history.

Review

- Types of psalms so far:
 - Psalms of Praise
 - Instructional Psalms
 - Psalms of Lament



Review

- Some lessons so far:
 - Praise should come from within
 - To the righteous, God's omniscience is not a fearful thing but a source of comfort
 - "Sin is not committed in the secrecy that we naively assume darkness affords."
 - How blessed we are to have the complete revelation
 - Turn to God in times of distress; use the power of prayer and trust in God to deliver you.
 - Sinful behavior can have life-long consequences
 - Be more open to rebuke and correction

Psalm 141

To the tune “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning”

Lord, please hasten to my pleading;

Listen to the prayer I bring;

Let it be like fragrant incense,

Like the evening offering.

Keep my lips from speaking evil

And my heart from loving sin

Lest I share the work of sinners

Or partake with wicked men.

Psalm 141

To the tune “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning”

Let the just rebuke me kindly,
As with oil upon my head;
May I not refuse their wisdom
But condemn the proud instead.
God will overthrow their judges;
He will hurl them from their height;
Then the people all will hear me
And regard my words as right.

Psalm 141

To the tune “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning”

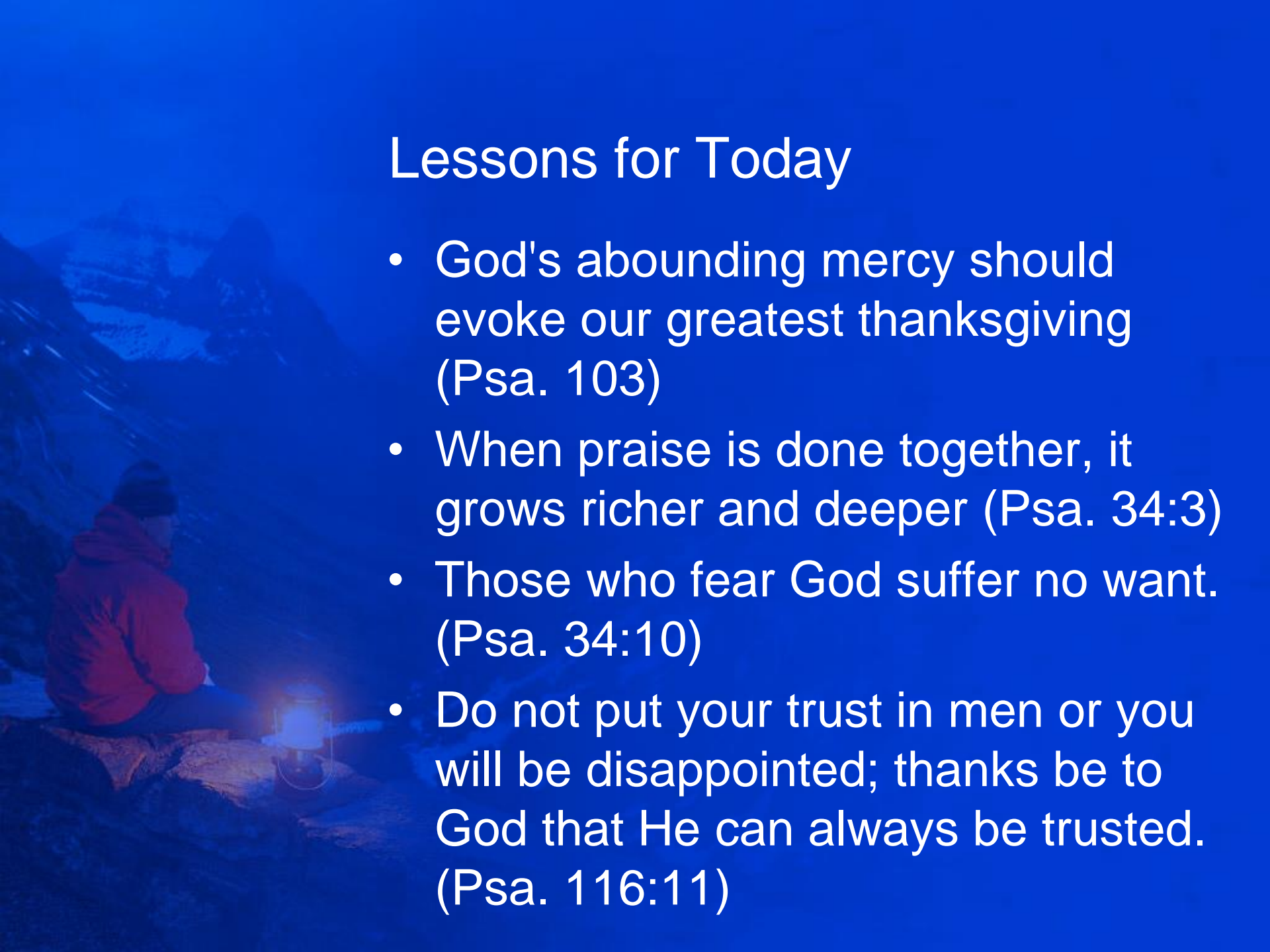
As the plow turns up a furrow,
So the wicked strew our bones;
Lord, my eyes are longing for You;
Do not leave me here alone!
Keep me from the traps they fashion;
Guide me safely past each snare;
Tangle them in their devices
While You lead me in Your care.

Psalms of Thanksgiving

- “We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.”
(Ps. 75:1)
- Express thanks to God for all that He has done
- These are for things done specifically for the psalmist or other individuals

Lessons for Today

- God's abounding mercy should evoke our greatest thanksgiving (Psa. 103)
- When praise is done together, it grows richer and deeper (Psa. 34:3)
- Those who fear God suffer no want. (Psa. 34:10)
- Do not put your trust in men or you will be disappointed; thanks be to God that He can always be trusted. (Psa. 116:11)



Thanksgiving Psalms

- Answered prayer
 - Hearing the cry of the righteous
- God's mercies
 - Spiritual healing, Redemption, Forgiveness, God's tender mercies, Salvation, Strengthening his soul, Regarding the lowly, God's lovingkindness
- Physical healing
 - Healing, Deliverance from afflictions, Healing of diseases
- Prosperity
 - God's favor, Prosperity, Satisfies his mouth
- Deliverance in battle
 - Deliverance, Protection, For refuge, Deliverance from enemies
- God's righteousness
 - Discipline, God's judgment, God's justice, God's slowness to anger
- God's awesome works
- God's truth

Psalms for Reading

- Psalm 30 - The joy of answered prayer
- Psalm 66 - Thanksgiving for God's awesome works and deliverance
- Psalm 103 - Bless the Lord for His abounding mercy



Psalm 103

“Doubtless by David; it is in his own style when at its best, and we should attribute it to his later years when he had a higher sense of the preciousness of pardon, because a keener sense of sin, than in his younger days. His clear sense of the frailty of life indicates his weaker years, as also does the very fullness of his praiseful gratitude. As in the lofty Alps some peaks rise above all others, so among even the inspired Psalms there are heights of song which overtop the rest. This one hundred and third Psalm has ever seemed to us to be the Monte Rosa of the divine chain of mountains of praise, glowing with a ruddier light than any of the rest. It is as the apple tree among the trees of the wood, and its golden fruit has a flavor such as no fruit ever bears unless it has been ripened in the full sunshine of mercy. It is man’s reply to the benedictions of his God, his Song on the Mount answering to his Redeemer’s Sermon on the Mount.”

(Charles Spurgeon)

Psalms for Reading

- Psalm 30 - The joy of answered prayer
- Psalm 66 - Thanksgiving for God's awesome works and deliverance
- Psalm 103 - Bless the Lord for His abounding mercy
- Psalm 118 - Praise for God's everlasting mercy
- Psalm 138 - Thanksgiving for God's lovingkindness and His truth
- Psalm 144 - Thanks to God the One who always rescues

Psalm 34

- A song which tells of the nearness, the tender sensitiveness, the ready help, the mighty power of Jehovah on behalf of all who trust Him. It is rich in its lack of selfishness.
- Background - 1 Sam. 21:10-15
- David attributes the deliverance to God, however. Not to his deception.
- Outline
- Vv. 1-10 - a hymn
 - Praise to God for His gracious help, inviting others to share in the experience
- Vv. 11-22 - a sermon
 - Instruction as to what leads to such heartening experiences: primarily, living in the fear of the Lord.

Psalm 34

- Vv. 1-3
 - The resolve to praise the Lord at all times
 - When praise is done together, it grows richer and deeper
- Vv. 4-7
 - Reason for praise – “I sought the Lord, and He helped me.”
 - Seeking – prayer for deliverance
 - V. 7 reminiscent of 2 Ki. 6:16-18
- Vv. 8-10
 - “taste and see that the Lord is good”
 - Those who fear Him suffer no want

Psalm 34

- Vv. 11-12
 - “Come, you children” – intimacy, teacher/student
 - Fruits of the ‘fear of the Lord’ are ‘Life’!
- Vv. 13-14
 - 1) watch your tongue, 2) seek the good, 3) seek peace with your fellow man
- Vv. 15-18
 - The Lord is ever watchful and ready to help His own
- Vv. 19-20
 - Even righteous are afflicted, but the Lord delivers him out of them all!
- Vv. 21-22
 - “The Lord redeems the soul of His servants”

Psalm 34

To the tune “The Gospel is For All”

At all times I will bless the Lord;

His praise I will proclaim;

Oh, magnify the Lord with me;

Let us exalt His name!

I sought the Lord; He answered me

And kept me from despair.

Where those who look to Him are found,

His angel guards them there.

Psalm 34

To the tune “The Gospel is For All”

Oh, taste and see that He is good,

And find in Him your rest;

While others faint, His holy ones

Shall prosper and be blessed.

Come near, O children, hear my words,

And learn to fear the Lord:

Depart from evil, seek His peace,

And see His full reward.

Psalm 34

To the tune “The Gospel is For All”

His eyes and ears are toward the just;

His face, against the vile,

And when the righteous cry for help,

He rescues them from trial.

The righteous soul the Lord will bless;

The hateful heart, condemn,

And He is sure to save the life

Of all who hide in Him.

Psalm 75

- This psalm very naturally follows the previous (74) which was a plea for relief and to "forget not the cry of Your enemies"
- This psalm is an answer
 - God takes issue with those who rise against Him
- The note of positive victory is strong throughout
- God declares that in the set time He judges
- This truth gives great confidence to God's people

Psalm 75

- V. 1 – Theme: “We give thanks”
- Vv. 2-3
 - God will always act at the time best suited for the results He desires
 - May appear that all is lost and hopeless – but God upholds all things
- Vv. 4-6
 - Pride of men causes them to think they are in control
 - May cast about to other nations, but of no help
- Vv. 7-8
 - “God is judge!” He is in control
 - God’s wrath will come to bear
- V. 9-10 – Asaph will declare these truths and praises

Psalm 116

- Triumph over death
- The psalmist apparently had been in some grave peril, but was delivered by God
 - Now he sings God's praise and gives thanks
- Outline
 - Vv. 1-11 - a summary of the psalmist's experience
 - Vv. 12-19 - the payment of his vows

Psalm 116

- Vv. 1-2 - read
 - Psalmist loves God who always hears no matter what
- Vv. 3-4
 - How precarious his situation; implores for deliverance
- Vv. 5-6
 - Gratitude ... for God is gracious, righteous, merciful
- Vv. 7-9
 - Again and again recounts his deliverance
- Vv. 10-11
 - Defending himself; has not lost faith
 - Essentially said all men are utterly unreliable
 - Do not put your trust in men; you will be disappointed

Psalm 116

- Vv. 12-14
 - A symbolic gesture; tells all the Lord had done
 - Vows he will pay his vows
- V. 15
 - God is watching; the death of one of His saints never goes without notice (Ps. 72:13-14)
 - “If we have walked with Him in the land of the living, we need not fear to die before Him when the hour of our departure is at hand.” (Charles Spurgeon)
- V. 16
 - Stands in relation of a servant to the Lord
- Vv. 17-19
 - He is offering this prayer of thanksgiving
 - Does so before all to give it more veracity

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