

God is Our Source

01/13/08

Rev. David G. Bostick

SERMON IDEA STATEMENT:

What does God mean to you? Who is He to you? In this current series we are discovering that God is everything to us as individuals and as a church. Last week we started to look at how God is our **source**.

Part II: (01/13/08)

Our text is found in **[Eph 1:4 (NASB)]** just as **He chose us / in Him / before the foundation of the world, / that we would be holy and blameless before Him**

Last week we discovered that when Esther, Araunah, Mary, and Joseph took hold of God's hand and did what He created them to do, they were showing us that God was the very **SOURCE** of their life. Everything they had, every dream for the future, every action of life, every talent and ability came from God. He was their **source**. He made them who they were. He was the answer to the question, "Who are you?" The answer to the question is seen in what they did with who God created them to be.

There is another biblical character that we should look at. His name was David and he was one of the greatest warriors and kings that ever lived. But who was King David? I mean, who did he perceive himself to be? Because of his writings we have a detailed picture of who David said he was.

He was a man of mood swings, depression and anxiety. He does not appear to have what it takes to be a great warrior or king. On the surface it does not appear that he can be of any use to God. Look at just a few comments he makes about himself. These kinds of comments are found throughout his writings.

- Ps 6.2 – I am pining away.
- Ps 6.6 – I am weary.
- Ps 13.4 – I am shaken.
- Ps 22.6 – I am a worm.
- Ps 22:14 – I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me.
- Ps 25.16 – I am lonely and afflicted.
- Ps 31.9 – I am in distress.
- Ps 31.12 – I am forgotten as a dead man.

In spite of these types of comments which are found throughout the Psalms, he was a man that often stood before God and presented himself in prayer. In fact every instance cited above was contained in a prayer. Always remember to search out the source and context of everything you read. The source is the word of God, the author is David inspired by God, the context is prayer. Let's put the verses we read above in their context.

- Ps 6.2 – **Be gracious to me, O Lord, I am pining away.**
- Ps 6.4 – **Return, O Lord, rescue my soul, save me...** Ps 6.6 – I am weary.

- Ps 13.3 – ...O Lord my God... Ps 13.4 – I am shaken.
- Ps 22.1 – My God, my God... Ps 22.2 – O my God... Ps 22.6 – I am a worm.
- Ps 22.10 – You have been my God from my mother’s womb. Ps 22:14 – I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me.
- Ps 25.15 – My eyes are continually toward the Lord... Ps 25.16 – I am lonely and afflicted.
- Ps 31.6 – I trust in the Lord... Ps 31.9 – Be gracious to me, O Lord, I am in distress.
- Ps 31.12 – I am forgotten as a dead man. Ps 31.14 – I trust in you, O Lord, I say, “You are my God.” Ps 31.15 – My times are in your hand...

King David is a great example of someone who suffers from mental difficulties like depression, mood swings, and anxiety because he was severely afflicted with these. But in spite of this handicap he was one of the greatest servants of the King of kings. If you suffer from any of these take note; God can use you. He can use any of us, no matter what our handicaps are, if we are willing to believe that he created us with talents that He wants us to use in His kingdom.

One of King David’s greatest talents was belief. It was hard wired into him when God created him. By hard wired I mean that it was naturally part of who God created him to be as a unique individual. It is not something he learned, it is not a skill he developed, it was the way God created him as a unique individual. Why did David go to God in prayer like this? Because King David believed that God was his **source**. He believed that any hope he had for victory over his enemies or peace for his troubled mind would come from God. God was his **source**.

Think about this for a moment. Of all the mighty men in Israel who were on the battle field when the giant Goliath came out to challenge them day after day, who had the courage to go out and fight him? Not one of the great warriors of Israel would go out and they were all there on that battle field. Then the young boy David comes along and he had the belief in God that it takes to face this giant. So he steps onto the field for battle. He is no warrior; he has no expertise in the weapons of warfare. He has no great strength or courage in any military or fighting abilities. He only has a belief in God, and with that belief he is willing to risk his life. He knows that God is the **source** of everything. So he steps out onto the battle field with 5 smooth stones, a sling, and faith in His God. All he has is what God created him to be, a unique individual to accomplish the will of God here on earth, at a specific place and time in history. He is a picture of the church. As he races forward toward the giant, he shows us the church racing forward, toward the gates of hell, to break them down and free souls who have been captivated by Satan. That’s the mission of the church and it is what God **sourced** all of us to do, break down the gates of hell. Not alone, but working together, meshing our unique talents together, to accomplish His will.

If we are going to build the Kingdom of God, the Body of Christ here at Mt. View we will have to do things differently. By building the church here at Mt. View I do not mean in numbers, those are in God’s hands not ours. Our church may grow in numbers or it might remain small but that is in God’s hands not ours. So what does it mean to build the church?

- First, by building the church I mean sharing the love of God with our world. This is the method for breaking down the gates of hell as Christ demonstrated to us. There on the cross he forgives those who are torturing and killing Him.
- Second, by building the church I mean having a church family and home where we can be open and honest. Our church must be a place where we can grow in our relationship with each other and in our relationship with God.

God will place those who He brings into the Kingdom of God through us, wherever He pleases, wherever He needs them. The numbers are in His hands not ours.

I think it is time that we begin to look at Mt. View as a house that a family lives in. Not just the

physical buildings, but every aspect of the church. Now the physical buildings are important but they are not the most important aspect of Mt. View. We need to especially look at the aspects of family and relationships. Now we do a good job here at Mt. View in making people feel welcome and in building relationships with each other, but in 2008 we need to learn to better work together to accomplish the mission Christ has given us as a part of the Body of Christ in His Eternal Kingdom.

So how do we build our house here at Mt. View so that we can better accomplish our mission in the Kingdom of God? Let's look at **Psalms 127** together. Psalms 127 talks about prosperity.

I do not believe that the primary purpose for God's prosperity is focused on individuals, for their personal pleasure. The Word of God declares that everything God has done and is doing in human history is done for the purpose of His Eternal Kingdom. The resources you have are from God. Your talents, your gifts, your house, your food, every dime that you have, all are a gift from God. He is our **source**. He gives us these resources to use, to build His Kingdom here on earth. Doctors, Lawyers, the Wealthy, the Poor, the Influential, the Famous, the Meek, the Farmer, the Teacher, the Preacher, the Musician, the Pilot, the Warehouse Laborer, the Housewife, the Programmer, the Security Guard, the Mechanic, the Banker, the Custodian, the Gardner... all of us are, who we are, and have, what we have, for the purpose of God's Eternal Kingdom. Once that Eternal Kingdom is established, and all who want to be a part of it are safe within, then the focus of God's prosperity will turn toward His children, that's what heaven is all about. That is not to say that we will never have some measure of prosperity here on this earth but we must understand that the prosperity we have on this earth is to use for His Kingdom. And as Jesus says, it does not last. Earthly riches do not come close to the prosperity God is preparing for us.

Psalms 127:1-5 (NASB)

[1] Unless the LORD **builds** the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD **guards** the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.

[2] It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He **gives** to His beloved even in his sleep.

[3] Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

[4] Like arrows in the hand of a **warrior**, So are the children of one's youth.

[5] How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

I want you to notice four important words in these verses.

1. **Builds:** Unless the Lord builds... (verse 1)
2. **Guards:** Unless the Lord guards... (verse 1)
3. **Gives:** The Lord gives... (verse 2)
4. **Warrior:** Who is a warrior? Children are. (verse 4)

Now these words are significant in that they reveal the character of God in relationship to man. The Word tells us that God is the creator. He **builds**, in that He supplies everything that is in existence and gives us the wisdom to use it. It is also true of the church or the Body of Christ, the Lord must build it. And God works and builds more than in just the miracle of salvation. God uses His people. He created them in a unique and specific way so He could use them in His Kingdom. The **guard** of the universe is God. He guards even the tiniest speck of a cell. He sustains everything in the universe, including the Church, the Body of Christ. He **gives** us everything, He provides our needs. He created us unique so we could perform a function in His Body the Church. We are **warriors** for Him. The way He created us, was for the specific purpose of providing a unique function in the Body of Christ so that He, through us, could break down the very gates of Hell. We were created to be warriors to help accomplish His mission for His Church. That mission is the

building of the Kingdom of God. We serve the King of kings to do His will using His resources. He is our **source**.

If the Lord builds the house and we are going to be a part of that, we need to listen to and act upon what God says we should do. In fact He prepares us before the foundations of the world in that He created us as a unique individual to fill a place and function in His Kingdom. Sort of like a heart that has a function in the body. Ask anyone who has had a heart problem and they will tell you how important the function of that individual part of the body is. Ask anyone who has had a kidney infection and they will tell you how important the function of that individual part of the body is. Every single part, healthy and working together, builds a properly functioning body. You are an individual part of the Body of Christ. You have a contribution to make and God is your **source** for making that unique contribution. There is a beautiful picture of this intimate and unique creativeness of God concerning each individual human being in **Psalms 139**.

Psalms 139:1-18 (NASB)

- [1] O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
- [2] You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.
- [3] You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
- [4] Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
- [5] You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
- [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.
- [7] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
- [8] If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
- [9] If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
- [10] Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
- [11] If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,"
- [12] Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.
- [13] For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.
- [14] I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.
- [15] My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
- [16] Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.
- [17] How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- [18] If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

God made you, unique. He sustains and provides all you need. Will you use your talents and resources for His Kingdom or for yourself? That is an individual choice that only you can make for yourself.

Getting There (HIGH) Oswald Chambers June 13, 2008

"... come, follow Me."

"... **Lk 18:22**

Where our individual desire dies and sanctified surrender lives.

One of the greatest hindrances in coming to Jesus is the excuse of our own individual temperament. We make our temperament and our natural desires barriers to coming to Jesus. Yet the first thing we realize when we do come to Jesus is that He pays no attention whatsoever to our natural desires. **We have the idea that we can dedicate our gifts to God. However, you cannot**

dedicate what is not yours. There is actually only one thing you can dedicate to God, and that is your right to yourself (see [Ro 12:1](#)). If you will give God your right to yourself, He will make a holy experiment out of you — and His experiments always succeed. The one true mark of a saint of God is the inner creativity that flows from being totally surrendered to Jesus Christ. (In other words we are to give ourselves, who we are, who He created us to be, back to Him to be used by Him in His Body the Church.) In the life of a saint there is this amazing Well, which is a continual Source of original life. The Spirit of God is a Well of water springing up perpetually fresh. A saint realizes that it is God who engineers his circumstances; consequently there are no complaints, only unrestrained surrender to Jesus. Never try to make your experience a principle for others, but allow God to be as creative and original with others as He is with you. (In other words, God created you and everyone else unique so don't try to cram everyone else into your mold. Surrender to what God created you to be and don't let anyone else cram you into their mold. Be the unique individual in Christ that God created you to be.)

If you abandon everything to Jesus, and come when He says, "Come," then He will continue to say, "Come," through you. You will go out into the world reproducing the echo of Christ's "Come." That is the result in every soul who has abandoned all and come to Jesus.

Have I come to Him? Will I come now?

Notes & Copyright Information:

NASB - Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

NASGK - NASEC - New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Copyright © 1991, 1998; (including Greek NASGK and Hebrew NASHB words)

MHCC - Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible by Matthew Henry, L A R I D I A N, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

HIGH - My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers - Copyright © 1992 by Oswald Chambers Publications Association, Ltd. Original edition copyright © 1935 by Dodd, Mead & Company, Inc. Copyright renewed 1963 by Oswald Chambers Publications Association, Ltd. All Rights reserved.