

- B. The psalmist is not willing to sacrifice loyalty to God in order to achieve “results.”
- i. Is “Who will bring us prosperity?” the right question?
 - ii. *What does God require?* (Micah 6:8)

What question drives your life?
Jerry Cisar — February 21, 2016

Text: Psalm 4

Introduction: Who will bring us prosperity?

B. #Blessed

C. #Whowillbringusprosperity?

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Have you seen evidence in the culture around us that “god” is apparently *whoever or whatever works* and makes me happy?
- Have you seen evidences that the culture around us worships the perceived answer to the question, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Explain.
- Have you seen examples of this in the church world? Explain.
- Why must a believer not turn to whatever works for help in times of trouble?
- Read the 2nd Allender and Longman quote on pg 2 of this handout. How does this help show that idolatry can be anything we think has the power to deliver us peace (wholeness, security)?
- How does the psalmist instruct us to walk through tumultuous times in verses 3-5?
- Which of the following questions should be central to what drives our life? “*What can I get God to do for me?*” and, “*What does God require of me?*”
- Explain which of the two questions in the previous point can naturally lead to the Gospel, and why the other won't.

In Psalm 4 the psalmist rejects the false gods which promised prosperity and appeals to the community to trust the Lord and then cries out to YHWH to make Himself known to them as well.

I. An Answer Needed for Difficult Times (1)

- A. To Whom is the psalmist praying?
 - i. CSB: “*God, who vindicates me.*”
 - ii. This psalm is a declaration of confident trust in God.
- B. The request? *Give me relief from my distress.*
 - i. He knows what we should all know.
 - 1 John 5:14-15
 - ii. He knows that it is better to wait for God's answer than to have the answer we want sought in the wrong way.

II. Cease Seeking Answers in the Wrong Places (2)

A. How long will you people turn my glory into shame?
i. Psalm 3:3 *"But you, O LORD, are ... my glory..."*

ii. Psalm 106:20

iii. Jeremiah 2:5-7, 11-12

B. They were loving delusions and delighting in false gods.

Allender and Longman: *"Shame arises because I am an idolater and I feel foolish when my idol topples... Shame is an internal wake-up call — we are worshiping a god who is not God. But most idolaters are oblivious to their idolatry, and therefore they are hardened to feeling shame."* (The Cry of the Soul, pgs. 199, 201)

Allender and Longman: *"The idolater knows he is not worshiping God. In fact, at some core level, the idolater recognizes that in worshiping his car, bank account, art work, freedom, reputation, service, he is worshiping himself. The object of his desire is little more than a symbol of his own grandiose self. But he hides his self-worship in the sweat and busyness of commerce and creativity. His idol-making is a thinly veiled glorification of his desire, but he refuses to face the shameful idiocy of his labor. Does this sound extreme? If so, stop and consider how easily we slip into idolatry. A godly man admitted to worshiping the god of debt reduction. After laboring for twenty years to pay off his mortgage, he succeeded. In tears he confessed, "I have never felt so empty. I thought I would be on top of the world, but I realize the dream of paying off my mortgage was a passion more important to me than pursuing righteousness."* (Pg. 201)

C. Who are the people of vs 2?

i. Psalm 62:9

ii. What makes idolatry appealing is that it works. It is successful... at least for the ones we pay attention to.

III. How Do We Wait Until He Answers? (3-5)

A. *...that the Lord has set apart His faithful servant for Himself.*

B. *Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.*

When you are deeply distressed, do not sin; talk in private before God thinking through it, but remain silent before others.

C. *Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD.*

IV. What Question is Driving Your Life? (6-8)

A. *Who will bring us prosperity?*

➤ Numbers 6:24-27