

- C. Will we? How do we “do valiantly” through God?
- i. Do not shrink back from speaking to God about our worst perceptions of Him.
  
  - ii. Remember what God has said, no matter how much it appears to have failed. We serve the God who raises the dead.
  
  - iii. Do not shrink back from risking our lives, our purpose, our fulfillment for the sake of God’s kingdom and people.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Is the Christmas season “the most wonderful time of the year” for you or is it a difficult season emotionally?
- Can you or have you ever been able to relate to the psalmists seeming disappointment with God?
- Why is the way the psalmist saw the world important to understanding what he says?
- What is meant by the imagery of God setting up a banner for us?
- What is at the center of this psalm? Why might it be said that the whole psalm hinges on that?
- What do the two groupings of place-names represent in the middle of the psalm? Why is this relevant to the whole psalm?
- Does the resolution which the psalmist has in vv10-12 rooted in his experience? Explain. If not, then what? If so, how so?
- In what empty or vain hopes of human help are you tempted to place your hope for experiencing the “abundant life”? How does placing your hope in God alone change things?

## Waiting for the Advent of God

Jerry Cisar — December 6, 2020

Text: Psalm 60

### Introduction

Fleming Rutledge rightly notes that “the disappointment, brokenness, suffering, and pain that characterize life in this present world is held in dynamic tension with the promise of future glory that is yet to come. In that Advent tension, the church lives its life.”

### I. God Must Stop! (1-4)

A. Turn away because we can’t take anymore!

i. Is God really angry?

ii. The Psalmist’s Worldview

B. Miroslav Volf, “*The Gift of Infertility*”

C. “You have set up a banner...”.

i. God our banner (Exo. 17:8-16)

ii. When God sent serpents (Num. 21:1-9)

iii. Christ is our banner! (John 3:14-15)

## II. God has Spoken (5-8)

A. Truly answer us!

B. The Places

i. The 1<sup>st</sup> group has to do with God's promises.

a) Shechem and Succoth

b) Gilead and Manasseh

c) Ephraim and Judah

ii. A triad of enemies who threatened God's promises.

a) The Song of Moses (Exo. 15:14-15)

b) What does God speak about the three of these?

- Moab is where he washes His feet.
- Edom is where he throws his dirty sandals after he takes them off to wash His feet.
- Over Philistia, He shouts triumphantly.

C. *Salt on the wound* or *Assurance*?

i. God's promise gets right at the heart of the complaint.

ii. God reminds: "I haven't forgotten my promise and I still intend to fulfill it!"

iii. It is God's word that is held up before us when we have to wait... when we are praying, "Your kingdom come!"

## III. God is Our Salvation (10-12)

A. Human Help is Hopeless

i. Regardless, the psalmist will trust in God because he knows human help is empty (vain)!

ii. Daniel 3:16-18

B. In what do we hope for salvation?

i. Alexis de Tocqueville's strange melancholy that haunted the people in the midst of abundance: "The incomplete joys of this world will never satisfy the [human] heart."

ii. Letters and Papers from Prison (Bonhoeffer)

"In faith' I can bear everything (—I hope—), even a conviction, even the other dreaded consequences (Ps. 18:29), but an anxious outlook wears one down. Please don't worry about me if something worse occurs. Other brethren have gone through it already. But a faithless wavering back and forth, an endless consulting without action, a shrinking from risk, that is a real danger. I must be able to have the certainty that I am in God's hand and not in human hands. Then everything will become easy, even the hardest privation.... When you think of me during the next days and weeks, please do so in this sense (Ps. 60:12). And if you have a word to say to me on this, please be so good and write it to me. I don't want to go through this bereft of faith."