

What Is Better Than Life Itself?

The International Sunday School Lesson for Sunday, October 31, 2010
Psalm 63:1-11

“Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You” (Psalms 63:3—NASB-U).

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you” (Psalms 63:3—NRSV).

“Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee” (Psalms 63:3—KJV).

What could possibly be better than life itself? What gives life the most meaning and purpose? Could anything give life more meaning and purpose than knowing with absolute assurance that God loves you with a steadfast love?

As we read the Hebrew Scriptures, we find the continual expression of God’s love for His people. Even if we endure severe suffering, God does not abandon us to sift for ourselves in seeking a solution. Rather, in the Bible, God reveals His love and faithfulness to us, and He promises a better future for us. We may feel afflicted by God’s discipline, but “the Lord disciplines those He loves” (Hebrews 12:6). God’s steadfast love toward His children moves Him to do whatever we need so we will turn back from rebellion or sinful behavior.

God’s love for us is unchanging, unfailing, and unwavering. God always seeks to do what is best for us. As He does His best, He achieves what is best for all those around us. God’s infinite wisdom, power, and foresight enables Him to work perfectly in the life of every individual, and in every combination of individuals no matter how many or how far apart they may live from one another—even through generations of individuals! God knows what we need, and His love moves Him to be ready at the exact moment of our need to help us (and those we love too).

Think of the breadth and depth of God’s love, of His love for friends and enemies that achieves what is best. When we meditate on the infinite love of God, we cannot restrain our hearts from loving, praising, and thanking Him. — Copyright 2010 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Questions for Further Thought

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1. What are some of the ways a person can overcome a period of spiritual dryness or the feeling that God is not close to them?
2. What do you call the place where you worship the Lord? What does the word “sanctuary” mean to you? What does it mean to you to worship God in his sanctuary?
3. In what situations might a person or group of people be physically well-fed, but spiritually unfed? In what situations might a person or group of people be physically starving, but spiritually well-fed? What are some of the ways people can be certain of being spiritually well-fed?
4. What will happen to those who try to destroy the faith of believers or who try to destroy the lives of believers?
5. How do the Psalms help you (or have helped you) face persecution or the mistreatments you receive from some, even some who claim to believe in God?