

Of I Make My Bed in Hell

Psalm 138:1 – 139:24

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~ Our previous report from our Spiritual Safari was not a nice lesson. In fact, it was disturbing. I dare say most of you have never heard the Bible taught quite the way I teach it; and I know many of you question me, you question my motives, and you question my understanding of the truth of the Bible. Well, you can be sure of one thing: my Spirit led, and Spirit-filled source allows the Holy Spirit to speak directly through me to you in these reports. If you don't think so, then allow me to set forth the admonition I have stated before: don't read them; because this report is going to be much more difficult than our last – almost unreadable; and will be unbearable for some.

See, as a Bible teacher, I am not responsible to you, friends. I answer to God Himself. My Father in Heaven is my only superior. It is Scripturally verified that I am presenting the Gospel succinctly in this so-called safari ministry. My responsibility ends when I publish a report; and your responsibility to learn begins. I admit, when I read back over these reports, I see many failures — but I have no regrets about what was written, or how I wrote it; and, further, the one statement I say with a totally clear conscience is, “.... *I did my best.*” I have never published a report that was not written to the best of my ability. If you pass them by and neglect this source of sound doctrine, my friends, it is your problem, not mine....

XXXXVVVV ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

~ This Psalm is a wonderful prophetic hymn of praise! It looks to a time in the future, when the Godly remnant of the nation Israel will take up their harps and, once again, sing praises unto God. Remember, the harps have been hung on the willow tree in sorrow at the time in which we are studying — as we saw in our last report — and, if you have not read our last

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report, I suggest you go back and do so now. See, when God gave the first commandment to Moses “.... *thou shalt have no other gods before Me*” — it was given for a reason. That reason is because there are *MANY* gods in this world — but only One True and Living God. The children of Israel went into the awful and treacherous Babylonian captivity for three main reasons:

(1) *because they had neglected to observe the Sabbath Year.*

(2) *because they were in rank idolatry.*

(3) *because that rank idolatry revealed they had other gods before Jehovah.*

Anytime we assimilate this combination of disobedience, my friend, I don't care who you are, or who you *think* you are, you're going to go into the captivity of the enemy. God Himself will personally see to it. And, yet today, the nation Israel comes to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. They seem to love that Wailing Wall. They stand there with their little book open and go through a ritual time after time; many of them actually bang their heads against the wall crying tears of sensational emotions. Well, it's nothing in the world but lip service; although I'm sure the ritual honestly touches many of their hearts — but only in some false emotionally charged and sensational way. It doesn't lead to Christ. What they are doing at the Wailing Wall is the same thing we see in ritualistic church-ianity all over the world every Sunday morning: it's a form of outward expression that means nothing in their hearts and lives. Many church services next Sunday will be precisely that.

There is coming a day in the future when the nation Israel will have been delivered out of the Great Tribulation period — the time of Jacob's trouble — and they won't be performing a ritualistic charade any longer. There will come a day when Israel will once again truly give thanks unto God with their whole hearts. You and I need to examine ourselves and determine how sincere we are in worshiping God. Do you really praise the Lord with your whole heart? Can you truly go to God and repent of your hearts coldness and indifference — and sin in your life? Once we have repented of our insolence towards God, can you then repent of your repentance? Until

you can, I hate to tell you this, but all you have is a vain, empty, external — meaningless — religion.

There are multitudes who, on Monday morning, should ask God in prayer for forgiveness for attending church the previous day! Oh, yes, my beloved, I mean that. Some go to church and lustily sing the hymns — but their hearts aren't close to God. Prayers are recited incessantly — but it's only a formality. They don't believe in or lay hold of the power of God. The sermon doesn't have any effect, and most struggled to stay awake through the end. If you ask them what the sermon was about, twenty minutes after they leave church, they have forgotten it completely. We criticize the preacher, and we criticize everything that everyone is trying to do for the Lord — but we never made a critique of ourselves. We always fail to examine our own work for the Lord. We need to ask forgiveness for the sin of going to church under those pretenses, friend; and it would make a good confession of faith for a whole bunch of people, right now.

Luther and Calvin both took the position that the '*gods*' in verse one were angels of God. Well, I don't accept that. See, anything we have in place of the True and Living God in our life is our god. It could be a job; it could be our children, or family. It could be food, or a car, or a home. It could be atheism, too. Many people I talk to say they do not believe there is a God; and that's interesting, because to make a statement like that reveals they know there is a possibility of a God — but they choose not to believe or acknowledge God for whatever reason. That is actually the theory of most so-called atheists but, naturally, it's an agnostic philosophy — most atheists are not smart enough to know what they think or believe. If you talk to one for long enough, you'll discover they actually change their minds back and forth until the hypocrisy leads them to resort to insults and anger.

We have seen the word '*gods*' before in Psalm eighty-two verse six; and there, it speaks of judges on the bench in a legal court of law who are, by de facto, representatives of God Almighty! Judges who make decisions about other people's life and liberty are standing in God's place. Very few of them realize that, if they pervert justice, they will be held *ten times* more accountable than the person they denied justice to. God is going to call them to an account someday; make no mistake about that. So, when David

said, “.... before the gods will I sing praises to Thee” — it reveals there are other gods beneath the True and Living God of Israel....

2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

3 In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

5 Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.

6 Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

8 The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

~ The Word of God reaffirms and reinforces everything God says, and everything He does, friends. God’s Word is as good as He is. He has fulfilled His Word in such a way as to bring out all aspects His Name implies. Jehovah is high; and He is over all men. He actually has to condescend to meet man on any level — and He will make that condescension to the lowly and humble — whom He regards. God, however, does not condescend Himself to the proud man; God keeps them at arm’s length — or further. Of course, they usually think they are the ones closest to Him, but when the day of calamity arrives, they fall the hardest. They crumble the most. Some people come out for many days boasting in pride and arrogance of their special relationship with God and then, one day, they suddenly disappear;

or, they fall into extreme difficulties, and their “faith” unravels overnight. The proud and pious pygmy known as mankind isn’t natural at displaying humility. There is a whole lot said in the Bible about the Lord regarding humility and the humble, too.

James 4:6*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble ~*

Isaiah 57: 15*for thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones ~*

Matthew 23: 11*but he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted ~*

1 Peter 5:5*and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time ~*

Proverbs 29: 23*a man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit ~*

1 Peter 3:4*a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price ~*

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~~CXXXOX~~ ~ (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David)

1 O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.

2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

19 Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.

20 For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.

21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

~ This Psalm is a theological playground bringing the attributes of God, in relation to His creation, into light; and it answers several pertinent questions for our present moment. Here, we see the omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence of God — all in one place. See, God knows everything — He knows you and me — and He is present everywhere we go. God also has all power over all things at all times. That means the Lord Jesus is our best hope when we have a problem — and when we are in need of a psychologist. When is the last time you made an office visit with Jesus and just told Him everything — in detail? God already knows your problems, and His office visit fee is free, too, by the way. So, there's no excuse.

Modern psychology and psychiatry are high-demand industries generating untold dollars. Tragically, their products are repulsive, still damaged — or more damaged, and neither can solve any problems for anyone — not under any circumstances. Don't kid yourself. The typical solution is to drug

people to the point where that person doesn't worry about *anything* at all. In fact, they usually medicate people to the point where the patient doesn't even know what they are doing anymore. That's not help — that's enablement — spiritual euthanasia. They're not concerned with your health, they only want money. If money is unavailable, so are they. You can visit your "*doctor*" every day, three times each day for fifty years and — guess what? — that man will still never know you. Further, they don't care to know you. They only want to know your bank account number. They don't care about you, friends. Think I'm wrong? Well, it just so happens to be *Y-O-U* who is wrong; because only God can heal those problems.

God heard those words we thought about saying, but didn't. There isn't an abstract thought conceived in our mind that God doesn't know altogether. God knows when we wake up, and when we slip off to sleep; He knows when we go to work and when we get home. He knows our attitude at work in our profession — everything. When you leave your house to go to the grocery store, the Lord has already gone before you to prepare the place; and He comes along behind us to help us, too. That's knowledge that is too wonderful to understand. The other knowledge that is too wonderful is the Word of God, friends. You and I don't understand *half* of what God is saying to us in His Word — maybe less than five percent is a better estimate. What we are studying, and what we read, is so deep it is actually a bottomless ocean.

These inescapable truths are a terror to the atheist; although an unbeliever will never admit that this troubles them in any way. They'll laugh it off, by appearance. They deny God, but what they fail to realize is: their minds are consumed denying that which they don't even believe exists in the first place. When they lay in bed at night — things get really weird. There is a scientific medical diagnosis for those who suffer from that malady: paranoid schizophrenia. Of course, they'll never admit that, either — even though they likely have the diagnosis issued by a doctor,, and receive medication for it. It's an embarrassment, of course.

On the other hand, these infallible truths spoken directly to our hearts by our all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present God, are words of indescribable comfort for those who accept Christ as their Savior. To understand and

internalize how God knew us, and yet still decided to save us, is beyond words; well, maybe not for you – but for me that is true. And, when I don't have the words - - Even after all the sin and disobedience in David's life, God said David was a man after His Own Heart. David failed God time after time. Actually, David's faith failed, but beneath his faith that failed, there was a faith that never failed. We should learn to pray, "*.... Lord, we believe. Help Thou our unbelief.*"

The natural man continues to erroneously assert there is a way he can escape God. Well, our space exploration has taught us several things; such as, you cannot live on the moon, and you cannot live on Mars. The first three astronauts to orbit the moon read the first chapter of Genesis publicly – on Christmas Eve. Even if we did somehow cultivate an artificial environment on another planet – guess what? – God is already there. Those saints who go to Heaven will be in the presence of the Lord forever and they will be loved and comforted eternally. Interestingly, those who choose hell are going to think about the Lord forevermore, too! Unfortunately for the person who denied Jesus, they will be tormented in the blackness of darkness forever; with the memories of how they rejected Him as their Savior — and how foolish they were for doing so. It's serious business, friends. Let's not kid ourselves. I don't care who you are, or where you go, or what you do — you will never escape the judgment of God!

Moreover, I hear talk about holding onto God; but we cannot hold onto God. In fact, I can't even see God. Verse ten comforts me because now I know God holds me. If God didn't hold me, I would be lost before the sun went down today, too – and so would you. Verses eleven and twelve tell us believers walk in the light; even when they feel like they are in total darkness. That's another comfort for me. Even in the darkness of my mothers womb, God knew every cell of my body. From the nanosecond conception took place, you were a viable and living human being. A complete body is not required to be deemed a person.

Today, we don't believe that anymore, of course; because man is constantly calling God a liar. I have actually heard a "*minister*" say abortion isn't mentioned in the Bible; and he used that to support a pro-choice position. Well, it is addressed right here in verses thirteen through sixteen.

Those who harm a little one, it would be better if a millstone were wrapped around their necks, and they were cast into the sea. That's dramatically harsh. The problem is that man doesn't know what's in the Bible and, when they do know, they seem to ignore what they don't like.

The Word of God has the answer for every problem – big and small – that we face in life. Of course, abortion is a huge issue; always has been and always will be. So, make sure you read what I am going to write next super duper carefully. I believe abortion should be legal — and the reason I believe that is because abortions will take place in a safe and sterile clinical setting if they are legal. If they are outlawed, they will continue to take place; but in a back-alley somewhere with a coat hanger. Abortions have happened since day one; and they always will — one way or another. Even so, abortion is murder — there is no way around that truth. Men and women will stop at nothing to attempt to hide the fruit of their sin, you see; and anytime one tries to cover up their sin, it can only be covered up with more egregious sins.

Those are irrefutable and inescapable axioms of truth. Further — and some of you aren't going to like this statement *AT ALL* — those who have abortions are likely better off not having children in the first place. To bring an unwanted child into this world to be raised in a liberal and atheistic home perpetuates the cancer and blight on the buds of this world society that we do not need, friends. Those who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and who believe the Bible is the Word of God, are not going to have an abortion — it's really that simple. I know this is harsh and paradoxical medicine; and it seems almost untenable. But this is what's real, my friends – whether you agree or not.

See, David just happened to hate the sinful, bloody man. David hated the man who hates God – and, my friends, I agree with David. We can blame God all we want to for this teaching — but I'm just giving it to you straight. If you don't like what I am saying, then you really won't like what the Lord Jesus Christ is going to say to you one day when He says, “.... *I never knew you.*” God is going to judge the wicked; and their eternal punishment is not going to be a pretty sight to behold. God only hears the prayers of His

people. So, with that said, I suggest we all read these last two verses and make them our prayer today – right now....

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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~ P.S. as our Spiritual Safari camps for the night, we draw very close to the end of this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God; and, specifically, the Book of Psalms. Allow me to leave two bits of doggerel with you in this report: Gillette Burgess said, *".... I wish my room had a floor. I don't really care for a door. But this walking around without touching the ground is getting to be quite a bore."* Someone else has said, *".... of all the sad surprises, there's nothing to compare, with treading in the darkness on stairs that just aren't there."*

We need a foundation of truth under us in this present, evil world, friends – and the only foundation that can be trusted is the Word of God revealed through the Spirit of God. We cannot find rest in the things of this earth; because God is going to shake the world someday — in order that you and I might know there is a Foundation that is unshakable. Forever, oh, Lord, is Thy Word established in the Heavens ~

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