

This psalm's setting is when David is in the wilderness likely as a result of Saul's forces searching for David or Absalom, David's son, pursuing David (2 Sam 13-19).

>The wilderness is a place that many believers have found themselves as God providentially leads His people at some point in life. Israel's spent 40 years in the wilderness before Canaan (Deut. 8:2). Jesus was led into the wilderness (Matt. 4:1).

>**Two Aspects of Being in the Wilderness:** 1) God cares for you. 2) God brings you into the wilderness for His purposes. The wilderness reveals to you your need for God.

3) Reasons Why We Need God:

1. **God is All-Satisfying:** V1-5, He is all we need. This psalm gives three stages of a satisfying knowledge of God. Stage 1) Before Satisfaction, **V1**, David thirsted for God, longed for God while he was in a thirsty land. David desired the Lord more than water itself while actually in the wilderness. **V2**, David saw the Lord's glory in the tabernacle as he looked within the tabernacle. What is the Lord's power that he saw there? The death of the animals, the blood, people offering sacrifices for sin, people of faith gathering to be right with God. 2) Reaching Satisfaction, **V3**, David is satisfied and praising the Lord. He realizes that God's lovingkindness is better than life. 3) After Satisfaction: 4 characteristics of a satisfied life: 1) Thanksgiving to God: **V4**, "bless You while I live." 2) Dependence: **V4**, "lift[ing] up my hands in Your name." 3) Contentment: **V5**, "satisfied as with marrow and fatness." Having all that is needed in abundance. 4) Joy: **V5**, "my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips." **God is all I need**, John 4:14, "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst."
2. **God is All-Supporting:** V6-8, David is dwelling upon God. God is all-strengthening, nothing else is needed. What is our response to God? Complete dependence. **V6**, meditation is intentionally filling the mind with biblical truth, over and over. This is fixing our gaze upon God. V6, in the night watches (notice the plural use of watches, one 4hr period per watch), David is incessantly meditating on the Lord. Sleeplessness is a minor sacrifice compared to being settled and fixed upon the word of the Lord. Why depend on Him? **V7**, God **has** been his help. David recalls many times that God has helped him escape Saul (1 Sam. 18-31) or conflict with Ishbosheth (1 Sam 3:1). David's response is to rejoice in all God has done. **V8**, David clings to God. God was faithful in the past and will be faithful in the present. David's theology is grounded in the history of what God has done for him. "Your right hand upholds me." David doesn't make it if God leaves him, so he clings to God.
3. **God is All-Saving:** V9-11. **V9**, who are these enemies? David is being sought in the wilderness, either by Saul's forces or possibly Absalom's. In **V10**, the literal meaning of the phrase, "They shall fall by the sword," should be rendered, "They will pour him out by the hand of the sword." The same language is used in Jer. 18:21, Ezek. 35:5, to describe pouring out blood by the sword. Who is this "him" in verse 11? Who is the king in verse 11? Christ would be handed over to be crucified and His blood shed. David did not die by his enemies but Christ did. Everyone who glories in the work and person of Christ, though they die, they will be resurrected and have eternal life. Even in death, the believer shall live.
 - a. **This is the lovingkindness of God that is better than life in verse 3.** In this life, God cares for us, but at the end of this life, God's eternal life for us is consummated. Our joy is complete in our resurrection by the Lord. The blood shed in the tabernacle ends with the sacrifice and work of Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

The mystery of the cross is hard for the unbeliever to understand. But those who have been born from above have seen the work and change granted by the Father through the Son. It is God's glory to reveal His Son to us. What was the foundation of David's trust in the Lord? David's life was filled with family issues and pain throughout. How does this psalm capture the heart of David? How does this psalm show a man who been humbled? Remembering David is the king of Judah, why does his humility shine through compared to all the other kings mentioned in Scripture? Why does David hope for Christ's return and the establishment of His kingdom? What does David realize about his frailty?

The Gospel message can be shared from Psalm 63. How would you proclaim the Gospel from this psalm? Looking at David's life, why is trouble and pain not proof of God's disapproval of us? Why is being persecuted for righteousness' sake part of the life of a believer? How do you encourage our church family when trials come? How does David's life become a great example to encourage us to persevere and see the end result of God's work in our lives?

How has God been all-satisfying to you in your Christian walk? How has He sustained you, healed you, provided for you, and demonstrated lovingkindness to you? Your salvation is certainly an example of His love for you. The Word of God causes sanctification in our lives (John 17:17). Share some of the recent Scriptures or study you have had that has increased your love and admiration for the Lord.

Read Psalm 61. What promises does David describe in this psalm? Why is eternal salvation so important when considering our weakness as humans and our weakness with regards to obeying and pleasing God? Reference Romans 1:17, how do we know we are pleasing and obeying the Lord? Why should our heart be fixed upon the Lord? Apply V8 to your life. What is David's hope in praising and keeping his vows to the Lord? What will David realize in his obedience to the Lord? Do we see the preciousness (of salvation and love for the Lord) of desiring to please the Lord?