

## LIVING FAITH CHAPEL

### How To Read the Psalms: Introduction<sup>1</sup>

“In the Psalms we looked into the heart of all the saints, and we seem to gaze into fair pleasure gardens – into heaven itself, indeed – where blooms in sweet, refreshing, gladdening flowers of holy and happy thoughts about God and all his benefits.”

He called the book of Psalms, “a little Bible, and a summary of the Old Testament.”

– Martin Luther

“What various and resplendent riches are contained in this treasury, it were difficult to find words to describe....I have been wont to call this book not inappropriately, an anatomy of all parts of the soul; for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. “

– John Calvin

#### Why study it?

- It is the Word of God
- This is a divinely inspired songbook/prayerbook
- We see the Old Testament people of God in worship
- The Psalter is a microcosm of the teaching of the whole Old Testament.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to deepen our knowledge and love for the Lord by increasing our understanding of this important portion of His Word.

#### The Significance & Appeal of the Psalms

- The book of Psalms is the most quoted book in the New Testament.
- The Psalms are poetry, and they appeal to the whole person in a way that prose does not
- At the heart of the psalms is the divine-human encounter
- The conversation between God and His people in the Psalms is direct, intense, intimate, and above all, honest.

#### Challenges to Reading the Psalms

- Historical
- Cultural
- Theological

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted from Tremper Longman’s book, “How to Read the Psalms.”