

Sermon Series: Let's Talk To God

2/2/25 "Reasons to Hope," Isaiah 55:12-13, MEV

INTRODUCTION What do you live for? Vacation? *Someone dies*. New car? *Hit a deer*. See the Swiss Alps? *Bronchitis hits*.

World: for world's abundance, "peace," happiness, riches

Matt 6:20, MEV: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

God: His gifts, presence, promises, eternity (forever)...**Life doesn't end at death but continues...**

MAIN IDEA: Live for a better life. How do I do that? Do these two things.

I. First, seek God's presence

A. acknowledge the thirst (1)

Ps. 42:5, MEV: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and appear before God?

1. for companionship
2. for peace, wholeness
3. for love, acceptance
4. for forgiveness

B. listen to Him (2-3, 11)...*good, true, holy, pure, humbling*

1. His word
2. His Spirit in us...*helping, counseling, leading*
3. His spokespeople (*evangelist, prophet, teacher, pastor, bro/sis...testing vs. word*)

C. call upon Him (6)

Call upon: proclaim or praise the excellence of Yahweh, to worship Him, or to summon Him by name for help (*Kohlenberger/Mounce*)

1. for help (salvation, forgiveness)
2. in praise of Him
3. in worship of Him

D. repent (7)

Luke 13:3, MEV: unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

1. of our way(s)
2. of our thoughts

ILLUSTRATION: *child*...God real, bowling, cold feet/hands; tree; child's prayer, Gideon NT; **BUT** broken, **unsure God was real**; despondent, hopeless; *Barbers*, real again, **sought (a-d)**

II. Second, remember the hope (3, 12-13)

Covenant: "to cut"; cut by God; a selfless, permanent relationship

- A. joy forever (12a) **Joy: gladness, pleasure, delight**
- B. peace forever (12b)

Peace: shalom = safety, prosperity, well-being; wholeness

1. with God
2. leading to internal peace
3. leading to peace with others

C. celebration everlasting (12:c-f)

Rom. 8:20-21, NLT: 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, **21** the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

1. with all of creation
2. in joyful worship

D. restoration everlasting...*no illness, death, pain, suffering*

1. of nature
2. of good in place of evil/painful/hindering

ILLUSTRATION: Heb. 11:35, MEV: Others were tortured and did not accept deliverance, so that they might obtain a better resurrection.

CONCLUSION: better life starts now with God, but with Him we persevere toward REAL life with Him, without these troubles

ALTAR: Would you taste God's goodness now? Let us seek Him at the altar, pray for one another