



Sermon Questions

Date: *July 23, 2023* | Scripture: *Psalm 63*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. This psalm is full of imagery. What imagery stands out most to you?
3. Have you ever gone through a season where you believe in God but don't really feel him? What was that like?
4. Have you ever had an experience where God felt incredibly near and real and powerful? What was that like?
5. Who or what in your life helps you feel reconnected to God? What has God given us to regularly connect with him?
6. How has God protected you from enemies?
7. How was this psalm sung by Jesus? How can we sing this psalm about Jesus?

Inward Grace in Action (continued on the back)

In Ryan's sermon at McLean this week he gave an illustration from the life of seventeenth-century French philosopher and theologian Blaise Pascal. He had become a Christian late in his life, and after his death a small patch was discovered on the inside of his coat. Stitched right above his heart, it retold of a significant encounter he had with God one night—so significant, he wanted a physical reminder of it on himself wherever he went. The full text of that patch is included below.

- What do you make of Pascal's patch? What stands out to you about it?
- When have you felt about God as Pascal did? How did you express that feeling?

ACTION: What is your version of Pascal's patch sewn in his coat? Do you have a physical reminder of a significant encounter with God in your life? If not, take some time this week to make or buy one. It could be a framed picture of the place you had that experience, or a rock or knickknack to keep on your desk that reminds you of it, or a watch or piece of jewelry you can wear as a reminder. Use it as a token that whenever you see or remember it you say a short word of prayer to God "Thank you for meeting me at that time, Lord, and for being with me now."

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 15:22-16:21
- Psalm 25
- 1 Samuel 24
- John 1:1-18
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
- 1 Peter 4:7-19

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for Brad Wallace as he works with Serge organizing short-term missions trips around the world. Pray for teams going to Spain and the Dominican Republic, that their work might be a blessing for those they serve and that they might see the beauty of the gospel.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

Pascal's "Night of Fire"

The year of grace 1654

Monday, 23 November, feast of Saint Clement, Pope and Martyr, and of others in the Martyrology.

Eve of Saint Chrysogonus, Martyr and others.

From about half past ten in the evening until half past midnight.

Fire

'God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob,' not of philosophers and scholars.

Certainty, certainty, heartfelt, joy, peace.

God of Jesus Christ.

God of Jesus Christ.

My God and your God.

'Thy God shall be my God.'

The world forgotten, and everything except God.

He can only be found by the ways taught in the Gospels.

Greatness of the human soul.

'O righteous Father, the world had not known thee, but I have known thee.'

Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy.

I have cut myself off from him.

They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters.

'My God wilt thou forsake me?'

Let me not be cut off from him for ever!

'And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.'

Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ.

I have cut myself off from him, shunned him, denied him, crucified him.

Let me never be cut off from him!

He can only be kept by the ways taught in the Gospel.

Sweet and total renunciation.

Total submission to Jesus Christ and my director.

Everlasting joy in return for one day's effort on earth.

I will not forget thy word. Amen.