

The background of the image is a complex, light blue network pattern. It consists of numerous small dots of varying shades of blue, connected by thin, light blue lines. The dots are distributed across the entire frame, creating a sense of a vast, interconnected web or a molecular structure. The lines are thin and delicate, weaving between the dots to form a dense, yet airy, mesh.

**WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN,
WHAT SHOULD BE**

PSALM 81

Background

- Written to help the people of God celebrate something
- Psalms 50, 81, and 95 are the three festival psalms in the Psalter.
- Written and used during Feast of Booths and Trumpets.
- During these festivals, the *shofar*, or ram's horn, was blown (Joshua 6; Judges 8).

How Not to Waste Your Life

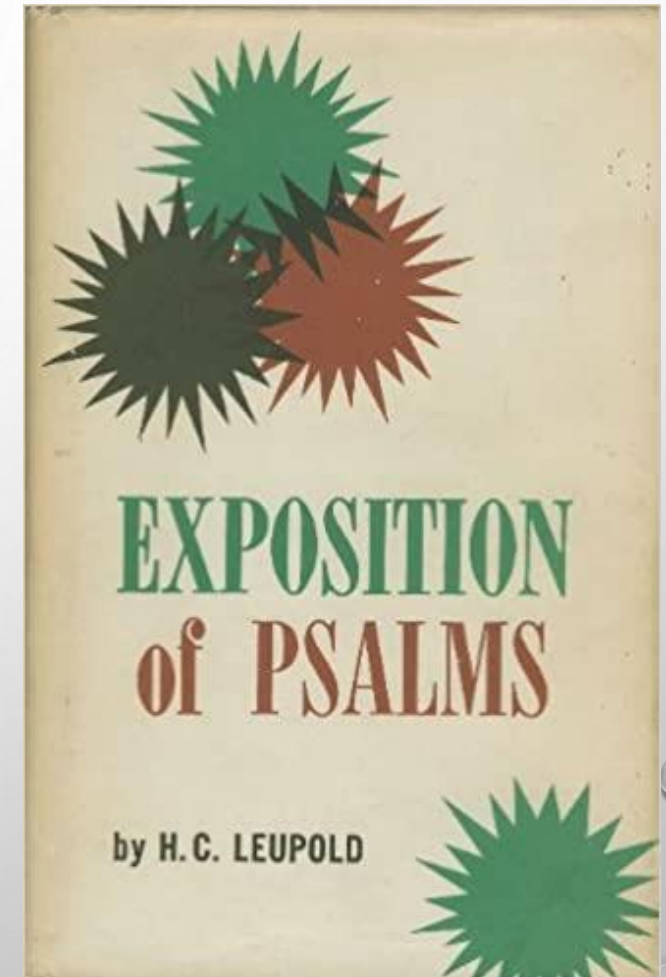
- I. Enthusiastically rejoice in what God is doing (vs. 1-5).
 - A. By making music (vs. 1-3)

Herbert Leupold
(*Exposition of Psalms*)

“The specific objective is to remind the congregation of the need of sincere praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord God in order to make any festival worth while.

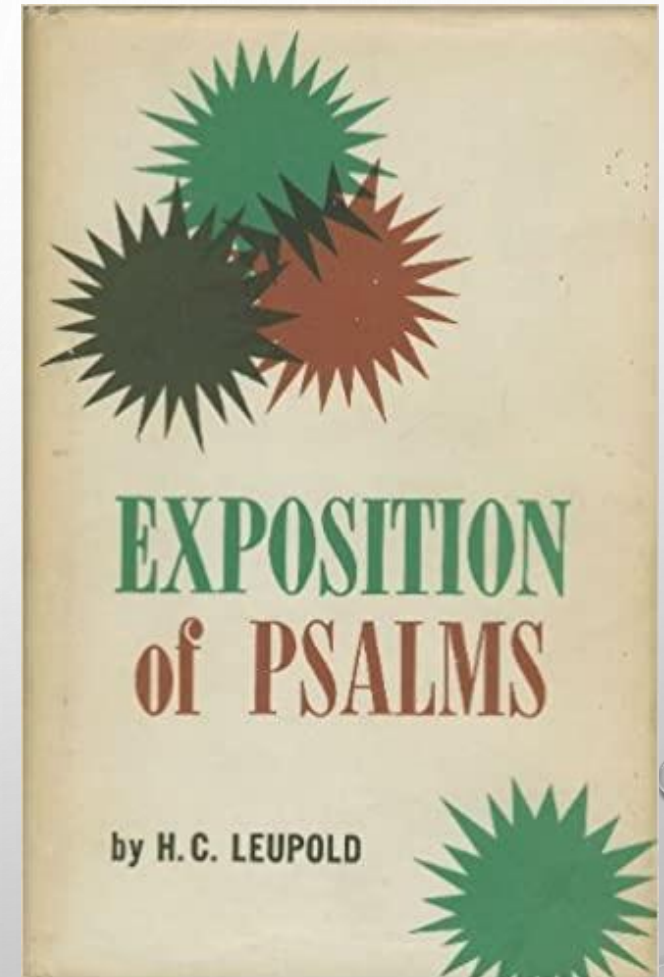
Tame sentiments and shallow interests kill the spirit of devotion.

Jubilant song, ...



Herbert Leupold (*Exposition of Psalms*)

“... vociferous shouts of joy would be indicative of deep appreciation of what God, who is the ‘strength’ of His people, has done for them.”



Why We Don't Sing Out

1. Some don't understand that physical expression is an acceptable form of worship both privately and publicly.
2. Some care too often what others think.
3. Some interpret reverence or awe of God as emotional and physical stoicism.
4. Some don't really understand what they are singing.

Isaiah 1:10-15

*¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom!
Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!*

*¹¹ “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the
fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.*

*¹² “When you come to appear before me, who has required of you
this trampling of my courts?...*

Isaiah 1:10-15

*¹³ Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.*

*¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.*

*¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.*

How Not to Waste Your Life

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 - A. By making music (vs. 1-3)
 - B. Because this is what God commands (vs. 4-5)

Ligon Duncan

“God commands us to worship,
but He also asks us to worship
willingly and joyfully, and those things
don’t contradict one another.
The Psalmist is just reminding us that
worship is a duty. As creatures made
by the one true and living God,
we owe Him worship.
It is a responsibility that...



Ligon Duncan

...we have, to ascribe to Him the glory due His name, and that is not in contradiction in any way with the importance of our willingly and freely rejoicing in Him, delighting in Him, and giving Him unfeigned praise.”



How Not to Waste Your Life

- I. Enthusiastically rejoice in what God is doing (vs. 1-5).
 - A. By making music (vs. 1-3)
 - B. Because this is what God commands (vs. 4-5)

- II. Diligently remember (vs. 6-12).
 - A. Because He is a Provider (vs. 6-7)

Hudson Taylor

“Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning...He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample...



Hudson Taylor

...means to sustain them all...
Depend on it, God's work done in
God's way will never lack
God's supply.”



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 - A. Because He is a Provider (vs. 6-7)
 - B. Because He is Our Only God (vs. 8-9)

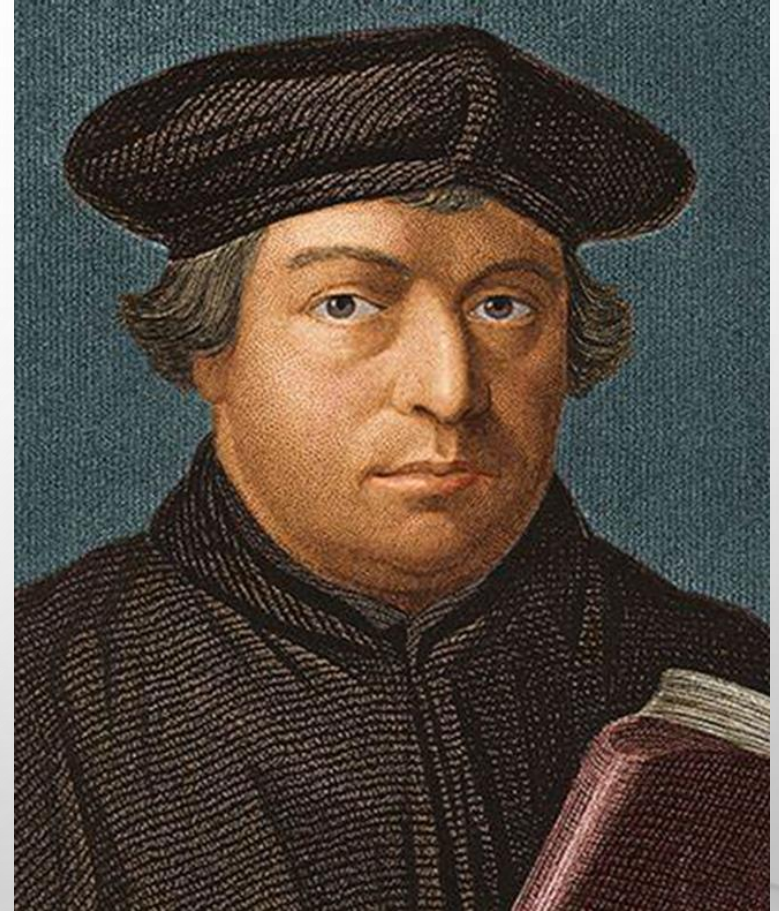
Deuteronomy 5:6-7

⁶ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

⁷ You shall have no other gods before me.

Martin Luther

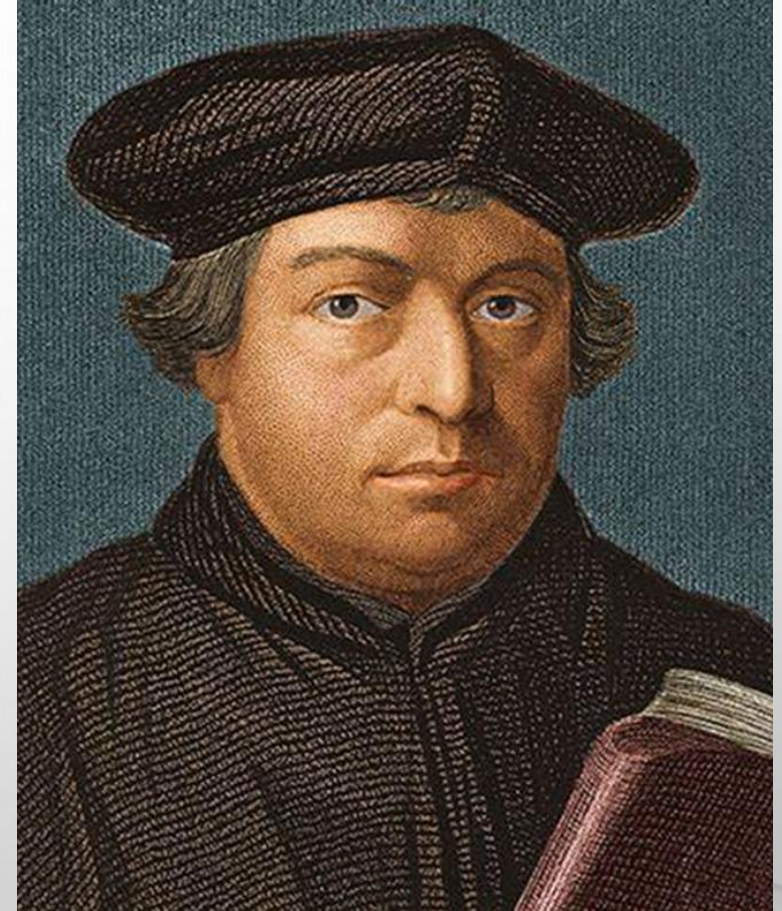
“You are to have no other gods.
That is, you are to regard me alone as
your God. What does this mean,
and how is it to be understood?
What does ‘to have a god’ mean,
or what is God? Answer: A ‘god’ is the
term for that to which we are to look
for all good and in which we are to find
refuge in all need. ...



Martin Luther

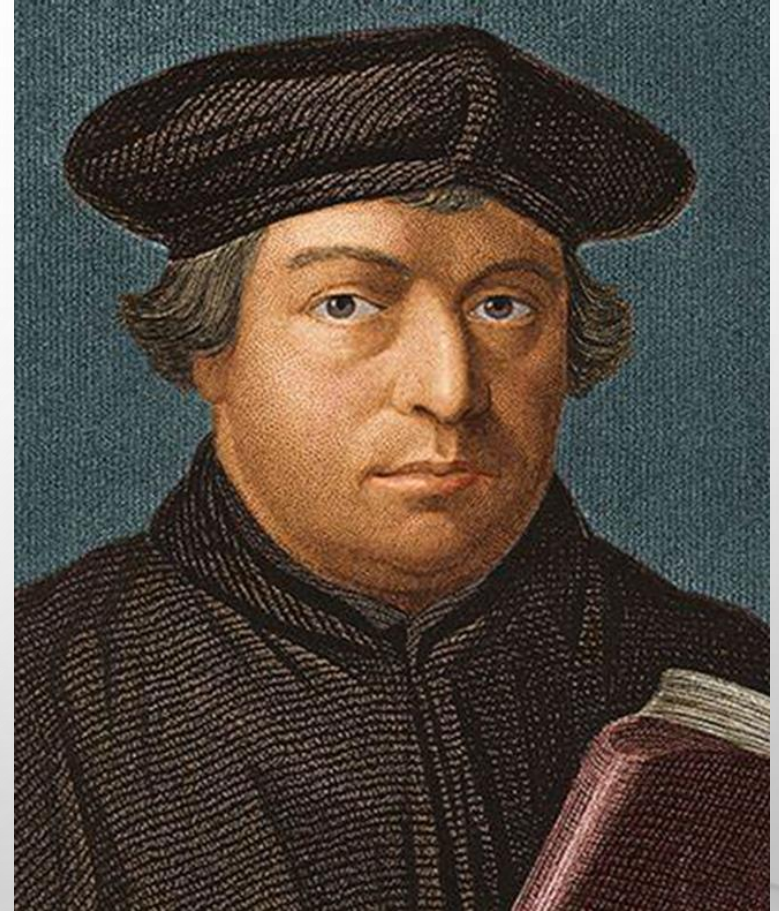
“... Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your whole heart.

As I have often said, it is the trust and faith of the heart alone that make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true one. Conversely, where your trust is false and wrong, there you do not have the true God. For these...



Martin Luther

“...two belong together, faith and God.
Anything on which your heart relies
and depends, I say,
that is really your God,”



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 - A. Because He is a Provider (vs. 6-7)
 - B. Because He is Our Only God (vs. 8-9)
 - C. Because He gives gifts (vs. 10)

Examples of Gifts Given by God

1. An inheritance that can never be lost (1 Peter 1:3-5)
2. A grace that can never be limited (2 Corinthians 12:9)
3. A hope that can never be disappointed (Hebrews 6:18, 19)
4. A joy that need never be diminished (John 15:11)
5. A nearness to God that can never be reversed (Ephesians 2:13)
6. A peace that can never be disturbed (John 14:27)
7. A righteousness that can never be tarnished (2 Corinthians 5:21)
8. A salvation that can never be canceled (Hebrews 5:9)

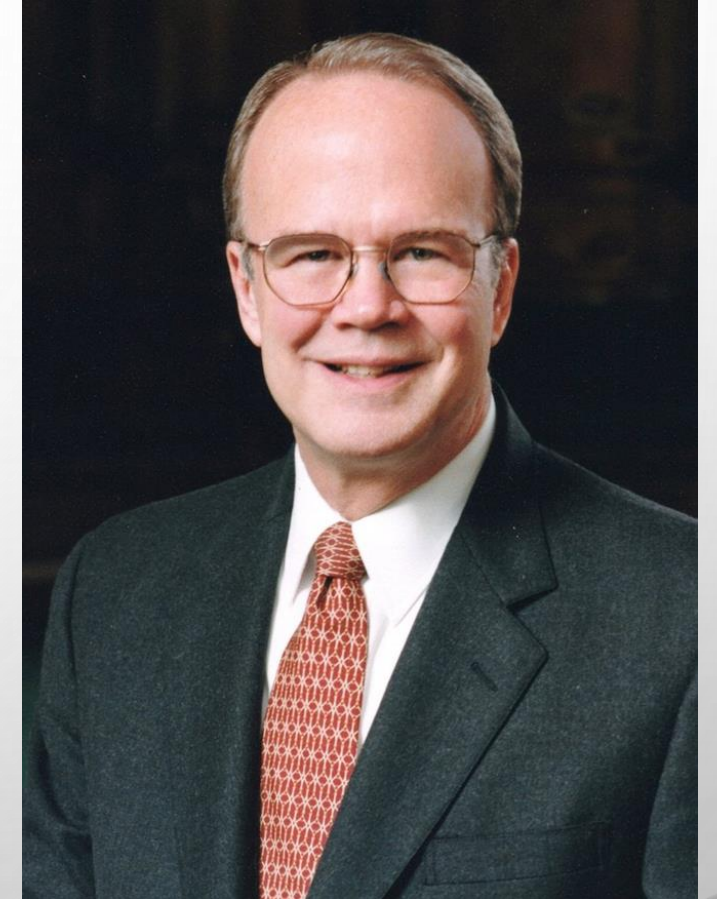
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 - C. Because He gives gifts (vs. 10)
 - D. Because He is Judge (vs. 11-12)

James M. Boice

“The problem is not that the world does not know God. How can we expect it to? The problem is that the people of God do not know God, or at least they do not act like they do. ... Christianity has become a form of Sunday entertainment, a political pressure group, or a twelve-step recovery process, rather than a community of those who know and are learning to obey God.”



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- III. Genuinely repent (vs. 13-16).

“Scripture, listening is equated with obeying. In many passages, a direct connection is clearly made between listening and obeying (Exod 15:26; Deut 6:3-5; Luke 6:47; 8:21; 11:28). They are like two sides of the same coin. They are synonymous terms.

In fact, there is a direct lexical link between the words ‘hear’ and ‘obey’ in both the Old and New Testament...

Ken Ramey
(*Expository Listening*)



Ken Ramey
(*Expository Listening*)



“...The Old Testament word for ‘hear’ is *sama*. This is the same Hebrew word used for ‘obey.’

There is no separate word for ‘obey’ in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for ‘hear’ is *akouw*. The word for ‘obey,’ *hupakou*, which literally means ‘to hear under,’ is a derivative of the word for ‘hear.’...

Ken Ramey
(*Expository Listening*)

“...The implication is that,
in God’s mind, hearing and obeying
are one in the same.”



Warren Wiersbe

“The things that might have been
will be if today you ask the Master
to have His way.”

