

Sunday Celebration

## Scripture, Beholding, & Soul-revival

### Intro

Ps 27.4

- The big question:

***How do I move from where I am now to having a greater desire for God?***

### The soul-reviving effect of the Word

Ps 19.1-10

- How does this Psalm relate to cultivating a greater desire for God?
- Immediately begins by alluding to the reviving power of God's Word
- Biblically speaking, revival language has to do with restoring in God's people a desire to worship in all of life – to please Him in all things.

"Scripture has many functions but none more vital than fueling and feeding our appetite for God." –John Piper

### The desire spirals

Phil 3.12

- The Christian life is a series of 'apprehendings'.
- It is the saga of the pursued pursuing.

### But, the spiral goes both ways

Rom 6.12-13,16

Lakeview Christian Center  
Dec 17, 2005

Sunday Celebration

- The reality is that the world, the flesh, and the devil work together to make drifting away from God and diminishing desire for God very easy for us.

Heb 12.1 "... sins which so easily entangle us."

Gal 5.17 "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."

- So, how do we experience more of upward spiral rather than downward, and what help does God's Word give?

## **Beholding: episodes from church history**

### **John Rogers**

- Co-laborer with Tyndale in translating Scripture into common language.
- First martyr under Queen Mary's reign (c.1554)

"That sinful habit you struggle with daily, that low-grade addiction that keeps you in the throes of guilt and shame, that inability to walk with consistency in the things you know please God, ultimately will only be overcome when your heart, soul, mind, spirit, and will are captivated by the majesty, mercy, splendor, beauty, and magnificence of who God is and what He has done..."  
-Sam Storms, Pleasures Evermore, p.106

### **Martin Luther**

- Hatred of God the Judge
- Rom 1.17 led to conversion

"Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."-Luther

### **Aurelius Augustine**

- Professional pleasure-seeker
- Rom 13.13-14 led to conversion

"You called, and shouted, and burst my deafness. You flashed, shone, and scattered my blindness. You breathed and I drew in my breath and panted for You. I tasted, and hungered and thirsted."-Augustine

Sunday Celebration

## **He *will* revive the soul**

### **Implications of Ps 119**

- Psalmist is unpacking his personal experience of the impact of the Word.
  - 9,11 - purifying power of the Word
  - 14 - breeds rejoicing
  - 24 - God's Words are delightful counselors
  - 25 - refreshes and revives us
  - 28 - strengthens and lifts burdens
  - 49-50 - instills hope in God and comforts in affliction
  - 161 - inspires awe and worship
  
- When I don't desire God, I need to make sure I'm coming to the Word; because here, by faith, I behold God. And as I behold, He takes care of the desire.