

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/
Christian



Why I Am Not An Agnostic

IMPORTANT: This lesson is the fourth part of an ongoing "chapter" on why I am not an agnostic. The earlier lessons are available in written, video, or podcast form at www.Biblical-Literacy.com. Those earlier lessons contain important information on different kinds of evidence, different kinds of arguments, as well as the paradigm used for analyzing the issues. That information is not repeated here, so those who are new to this series may want to go back and consider those lessons when evaluating my thoughts.

INTRODUCTION

I was in about fourth grade when I decided I wanted to make some brownies. I asked my mom if I could do so, and mom was tied up taking care of our baby sister Hollie and was unable to help at the moment. I hadn't cooked before, at least not beyond making a sandwich, but I had seen mom cook plenty, and figured I could do it.

Mom certainly thought I could, and she told me not to worry, but give it a shot. She explained, "The instructions are on the box. All you need to do is follow them very carefully." I think she also told me to preheat the oven.

I got out the box, found a mixing bowl, carefully measured the oil, adding the egg, and just the right amount of water. I then began mixing.

Right as I was in the middle of mixing, mom came in. She had a look of bemused horror on her face as she found me standing over the bowl of brownie mix, with both of my hands deep in the liquid mixture, squeezing raw brownie goo between my fingers.

Mom exclaimed, "What are you doing?"

I explained I was mixing up the batter. She asked, "Why are you doing it that way? Why aren't you using a spatula?"

With great earnestness, and wanting her to know how carefully I was following directions, I nodded toward the box and said, "It says to mix by hand!" I had seen my mom make meatloaf, and she did it with hands in the mixture. I thought that was what was meant by the instruction to "Mix by hand."

Mom started laughing, and hasn't really quit almost fifty years later.

We always tend to interpret things based on our experiences and understanding. It is the way the human mind works. We develop thought patterns and when faced with new ideas,

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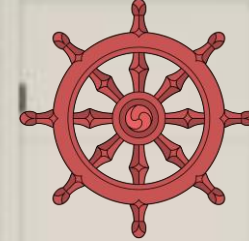
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lowish/

Bib-Lit. Class Email and Updates for 9/4/16



Brent Johnson <bjohnson@cfbc.org>

Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 11:16 AM

To: Mark Lanier

1. Class Promo:

Good morning class!

Thank you for an amazing response to class last week. The attendance has been very encouraging and has me excited to continue our series.

This weekend is Labor Day, so I am laboring away at the lesson! I am excited to teach, and we will be exploring questions of why do my actions fail to meet my standards and why is there suffering. These are important questions and failure to see a Christian answer is an often cited reason for unbelief.

So come this Sunday, even though it's a holiday weekend, and let's probe these difficult questions together!

Blessings,

Mark Lanier

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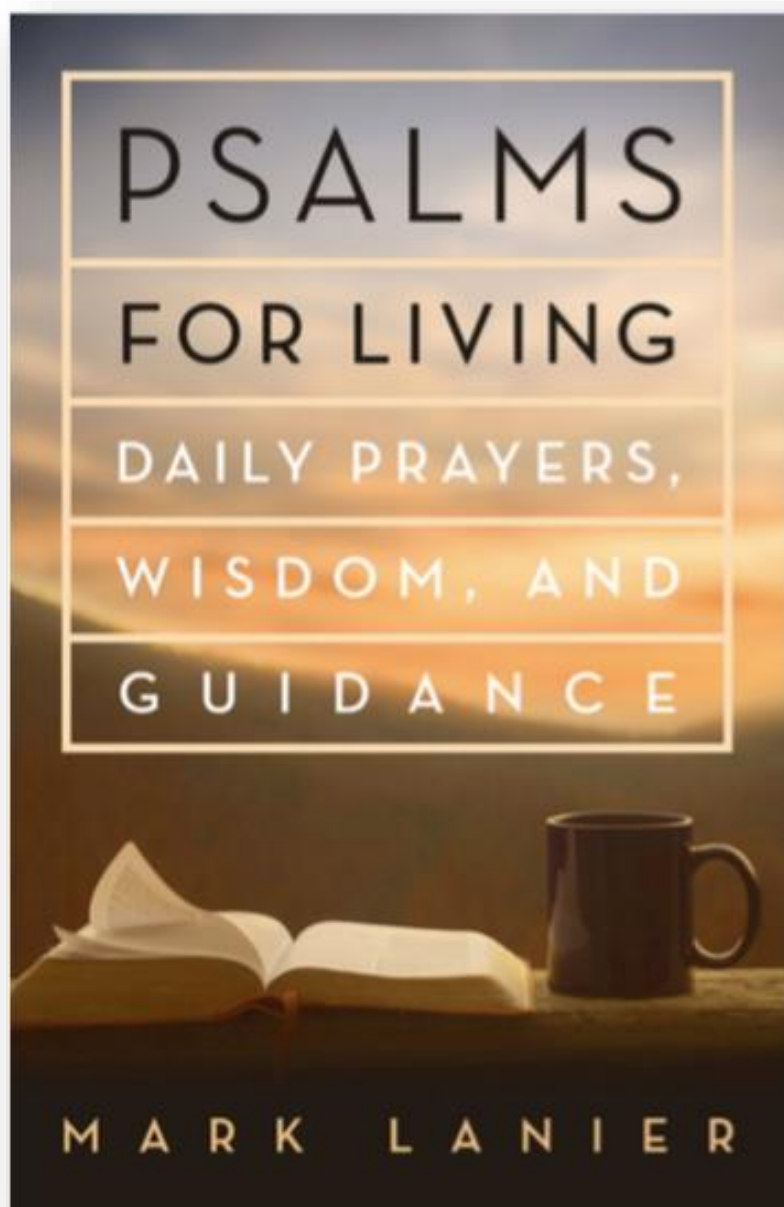
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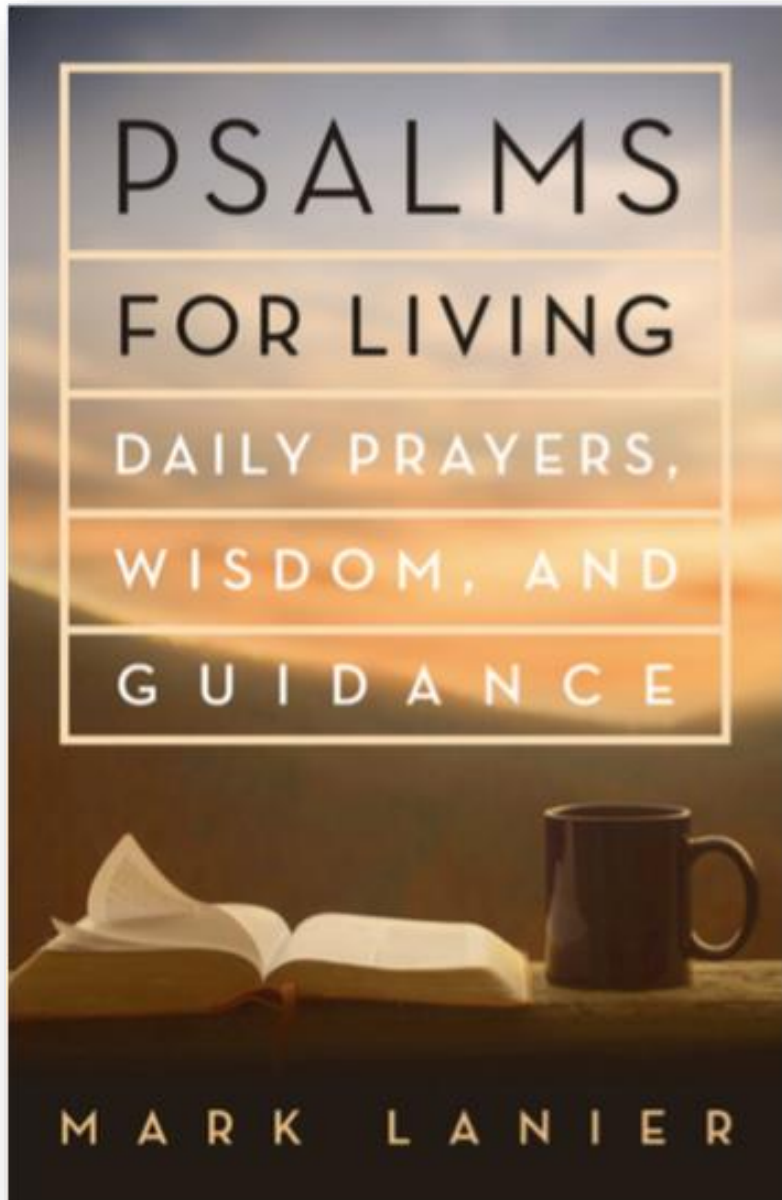
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Blessings

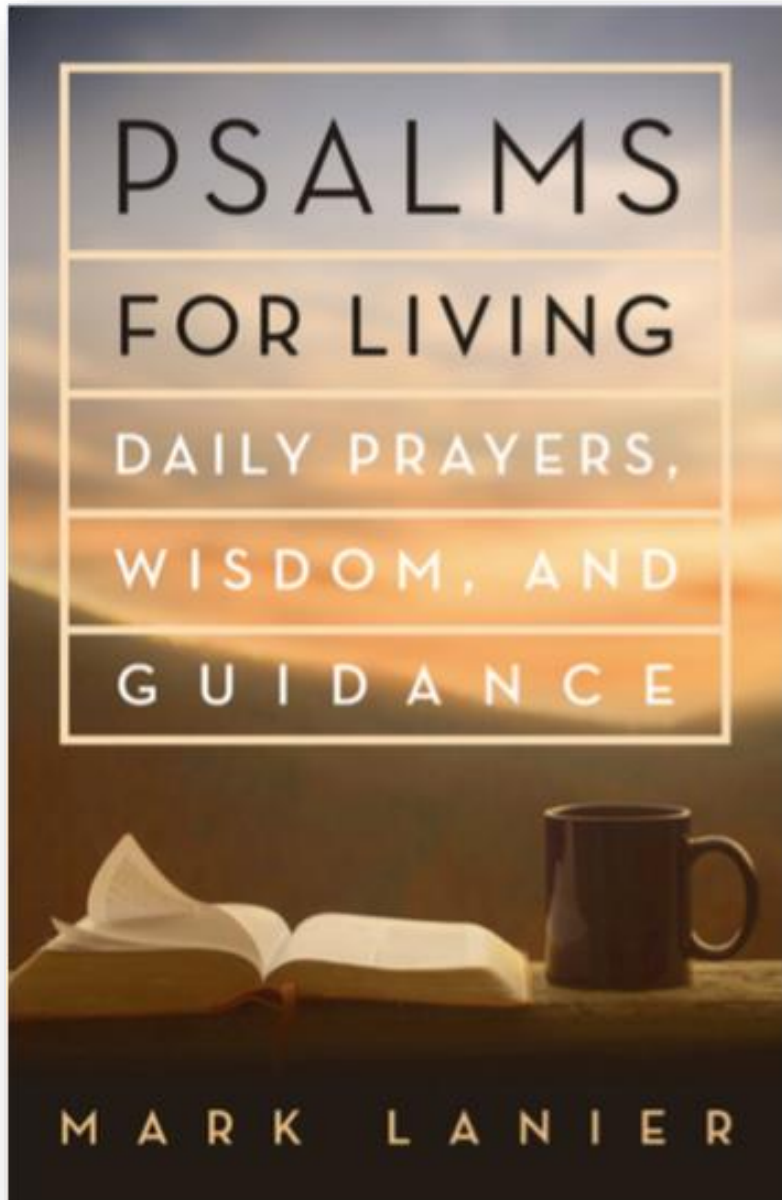
Mark Lanier







Musings from the Psalms



Musings from the Psalms

Ps. 4:6-7

Ps. 4:6-7

Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD! You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

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Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD! You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.



What brings you JOY?

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Lift up **the light of your face** upon us, O LORD! You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.



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Leviticus 6:24-26



What brings you JOY?

Ps. 6:2-3

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long?

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languishing

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“weak”

languishing

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“feeble”

“weak”

languishing

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The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer

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“feeble”

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languishing

We are not in Utopia

The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer

Ps. 9:7-8

But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

Ps. 9:7-8

But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

intrigue



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scare



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humility



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intrigue



scare



humility



encouraged



Ps. 9:17-
18

The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.



- 1. The wicked shall return to Sheol*
- 2. all the nations that forget God.*
- 3. For the needy shall not always be forgotten*
- 4. and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.*

Ps. 9:17-
18

The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.



1. The **wicked** shall return to Sheol
2. all the nations that **forget God**.
3. For the needy shall not always be forgotten
4. and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

Ps. 9:17-
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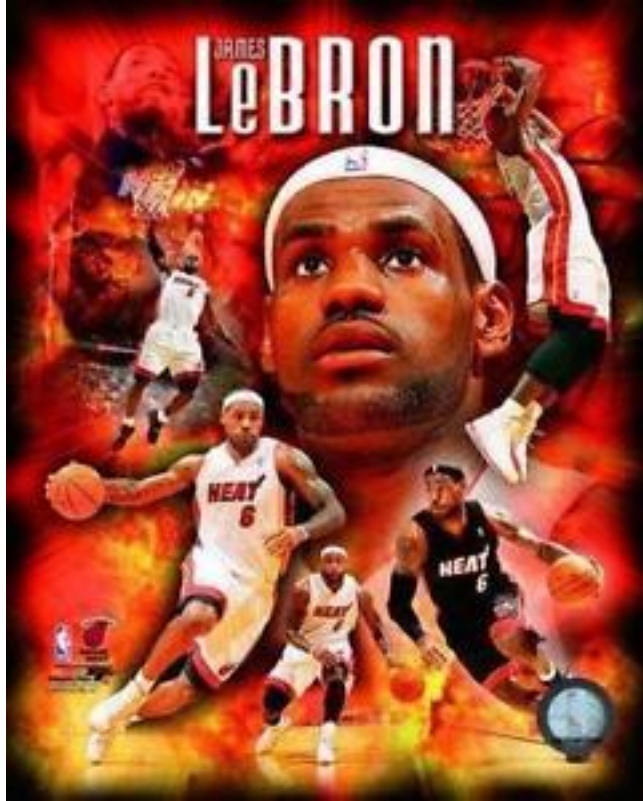
***Don't be wicked and fail to help the needy.
God is watching.***

Ps. 16:3

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

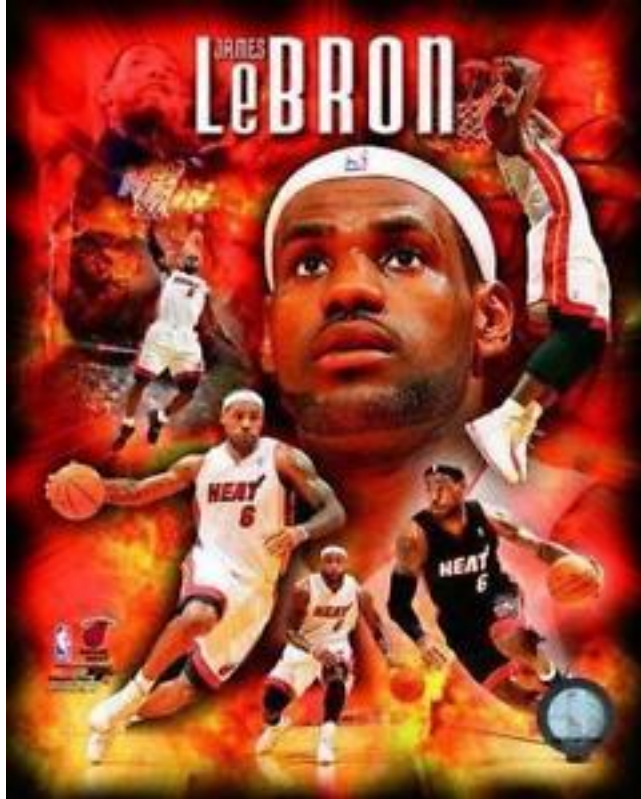
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***We live in a hero
driven world.***

***Who holds your
awe?***

Ps.
17:15

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness

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Day by day,
Oh dear Lord, three
things I pray:
To see thee more clearly;
Love thee more dearly;
Follow thee more clearly;
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Ps.
68:18

You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.

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Ephesians 4:8-14

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What a King!

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Ps.
123:3

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us

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Chanenu Adonai

Ps.
123:3

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Kyrie eleison

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Once you were not a people, but now
you are God's people; once you had
not received mercy, but now **you**
have received mercy (1 Pet.2:10)

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