

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF BIBLE GRADUATE SCHOOL

MBS718

Psalms

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I. PROLEGOMENA

- A. How nice to have you here!
- B. A word about the teacher and the subject.

The teacher is retired from the faculty of Biblical Theological Seminary where he served as Associate Professor of Church History and Old Testament. In that institution it was often said that his classes were "Mickey Mouse" but the tests were "Einstein". He is still not sure what that means but somehow it sounds academically edifying. We can say more later.

The subject is the book of Psalms. This is a remarkable part of the Bible and much more will be said about that as time goes on. The subject should be enjoyable even if other things are not.

We will work together in this effort..to enrich our lives and to establish our worship with greater security.

- C. The objectives of the course..what we aim to achieve.
  - 1. There are some general objectives..such as these:
    - gain an appreciation of the Psalter as an expression of man's dependence on God and the role of God in daily life.....
    - examine the Psalms with regard to literary form, theological content, and pastoral significance.
    - consider various methods of studying and analyzing the Psalms while giving strong preference to the "inductive" method.
    - treat questions of interpretation and criticism relevant to the Psalter.
    - survey the use of the Psalms in the devotional and liturgical life of the church.

Those are all very general and express the aim of our work in the broadest of terms.