***Psalm 95:6-8 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. 7For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.***

***Today, if you will hear His voice: 8“Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness.***

New Year – Same God. New Year – Same Savior. What a blessing it is to never have to figure out who God is. He is the same – yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He is God, and He changes not. He is the Beginning and the Ending, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. In our world today, too often we chase the latest song, pursue fashion trends, and buy the newest gadget, but God is not like that. Jeremiah 6:16 says – *Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’* New Year – Same God. He’s rest for our souls. Anyone here who could use a little rest for your soul – seek the old paths, where the good way is.

Our scripture this morning starts in Verse 6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.* Start this year in surrender. Bow down, kneel before the Lord. He is our Maker. Present tense – let us, at this moment, kneel before our Maker. Too often, we think of God as our Maker in the past tense knitting us together in our mother’s womb. He is making us, crafting us, molding us day by day. His hands ARE at work. Let us bow down and worship this Creator still at work in our lives. Let’s be in Reverence of Him, Awe of Him, not as someone we’ll one day see in heaven, removed and distant, but as Almighty God working in our lives today, present and intimate.

Verse 7 starts *For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.* Present tense again. He IS our God. There is no new path to God that showed up suddenly on January 1st of 2024. No. There is the old path to God, the known path to God, the one sure path to God – Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life. Jesus is where the good way is. He is the way to rest for our souls. He is our God, the Good Shepherd and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep of His hand. We are under His watchful eye and protective care. The Hebrew in this verse holds the idea of under His governance, under His rule, part of His Kingdom. When are we part of His Kingdom? When we surrender, kneel, bow down, and worship God as He is.

Verse 7 ends with *Today, if you will hear His voice.* With surrender must come obedience. Disobedience and rebellion is not obedience and surrender. We cannot pursue God and the world. Today – not tomorrow. Not yesterday. Today. If you will hear – there’s a choice. We always have a choice and we make that choice daily. Who will we surrender to TODAY? Who will be our focal point of obedience today? God or mammon – we cannot multitask when it comes to our obedience, our surrender, and ultimately our relationship with our Maker.

Verse 8 starts *Do not harden your hearts.* Today, if we will hear, let’s not harden our hearts. How do we not harden our hearts? We kneel, we bow, we worship our Maker. We make Him our full focus… when? Today.

Verse 8 finishes *as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness.* This is in reference to Exodus 17. We remember that the children of Israel doubted God and were ready to stone Moses because they had no water. God told Moses to strike the rock of Horeb in the middle of this desert wilderness and water flowed from the rock. The children of Israel had hardened their hearts. They doubted God. There was no surrender, but contention with God. Why? Because they had not knelt, bowed down, worshipped, and surrendered to their Maker – today. They had not made a choice to believe and trust today

This week, let’s examine our hearts. Are we surrendered today? Have we bowed down to our Maker, softened our hearts, and worshipped Him today? Relationship with God, relationship with Jesus is an every day, every minute, every second choice. Reverence and worship pf Almighty God doesn’t happen by accident. It is a choice. What is the choice we are making today? The old path where the good way is? Or some other path leading to misery? Focus on surrender in 2024. That is the old path that leads to rest for our souls.