Daily Devotional, December 1, 2020

'Are You Running From God?', (Jonah 1:3)

"*But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD*" (Jonah 1:3, NKJV)

According to the Bible, Jonah was a prophet from Galilee who really did spend three days and nights in the belly of the great fish (2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1-2; Matthew 12:38-41). Jonah was uniquely gifted and called for a specific purpose in the service of his God. Like Jonah, your life has a plan perfectly designed for you by your Creator. You can either step out in faith and obedience, or you can do what seems the easy and expedient thing—get on a boat to Tarshish and travel far from His will. Many Christians have done just that. You may ask how you might discern the will of God for your life. As in the case of Jonah, God's will is according to God's Word—the Bible. It can be discovered by reading the Bible and praying to the God of whom it speaks. Whenever a child of God chooses rebellion and disobedience to Him, the result is a loss of peace here and now. The world provides ready means for us to run from Him. There is no shortage of boats leading away from God—those of philosophy, television, the internet, alcohol and drug addiction, and even boats with crosses on the masts that do not exalt Jesus Christ as God and His Word as Truth. Do not rely on your emotions or other people alone—you just might be let down. Seek His Will by reading God's objective Truth as revealed in His Holy Word the Bible, and ask Him for His guidance through prayer in Jesus' Name. Then, if you do not attend public worship, make it a priority. You will not find a perfect church. One may say that there are hypocrites in the church. Then you go and humbly worship and set them straight. Jesus did not found the church as public testimony so we could ignore it (Hebrews 10:23-25). And remember that Jesus said: "Without me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Christianity is about Christ first and foremost. Stop rowing and sailing away from the Lord. Get on board Jesus' boat today.