

**Psalm 33:1–12**click bit.ly/3IEf3Av to hear this lesson as taught (or scan QR code→)

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| <p>1 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!
For praise from the upright is beautiful.</p> <p>2 Praise the LORD with the harp;
Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.</p> <p>3 Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.</p> <p>4 For the word of the LORD is right,
And all His work is done in truth.</p> <p>5 He loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.</p> <p>6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.</p> <p>7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
He lays up the deep in storehouses.</p> | <p>8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.</p> <p>9 For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast.</p> <p>10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.</p> <p>11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
The plans of His heart to all generations.</p> <p>12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.</p> |
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After the opening three verses call for joyous praise, the rest of the Psalm gives four great aspects of the LORD'S praiseworthiness:

The power of His Word in creation (v4–9)

The power of His counsel in Providence (v10–12)

The persistence of His assessment and execution in judgement (v13–17)

The perfection of His care and reliability in delivering those who hope in Him (v18–22).

This week, we consider the first two.

A call to praise, v1–3.

Those who have been made righteous (v1a) and upright (v1b) by God's mere-gracious choosing (v12b), have a native tongue and dialect: praise. This is our commanded speech (v1a); this is our comely (beautiful) and commensurate (appropriate) speech (v1b).

We are to enlist every proper aid (v2, n.b. the 'melody' of grace in the new covenant, cf. Eph 5:19/Col 3:16), and sing with freshness (v3a, not a new innovation but newness in the singing of it) as well as skill and force (v3b). This is the great purpose of our tongue (cf. Isa 6:3,5), and nothing that inhibits or contradicts this should come out of our mouth (cf. Jam 3:8–10).

The power of His creating Word, v4–9.

The Word and work of the Lord are bound together (v4): every word infallibly effects its purpose (v4a), and His Word is the appointed means by which He works (v4b). And we can see, then, what His Word and work is: to do all things in all places to accomplish the purposes of His covenanted love (v5b, "goodness" here is translating *kessed*).

That Word which accomplishes His saving purposes (v5) is that same glorious Word by which He created all things (v6–7), the creation of which demands our worship (v8–9). The word for "breath" in v6b is also the word for "Spirit," which corresponds well to Gen 1:2b. In fact, v6 almost certainly holds forth the personality of the Word (v6a, cf. Jn 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2) and Spirit (v6b, cf. Gen 1:2) as divine Persons in the Triune act of creation (cf. 2Ki 19:15; Jer 32:17). How powerful is this Word? That which is powerful beyond the comprehension of man is quite easily managed by the Word (v7). Indeed, in His creative work, the LORD calls forth our praise of His glory (v8, cf. Rom 1:19–21). Part of this display is the immediacy and instancy of creation by His Word (v9a–b), so that any attempt to insert long periods of time into Genesis 1 resists the force of the application of Genesis 1 by Psalm 33:9.

The power of His counsel in Providence, v10–12.

The nations and peoples display the immensity of their wickedness by attempting to make history happen according to their counsel (v10a) and plans (v10b), cf. Ps 2:1–3. But all of their conspiracies are nothing (v10a) and utterly ineffective (v10b) to bring about their own ends.

Rather, anything and everything they do in their wickedness must ultimately accomplish whatever the LORD has counseled within Himself and planned in His covenant love (v11, cf. v5b). What He says is always true (v4b), and what He plans will always stand (v11).

Therefore, the only effective national (or personal, or household, or congregational) policy is to own the LORD as our God, and Christ as our Redeemer and King. When written, v12a was only true of Israel. Now, when no nation is a church, the only way to enter into the blessedness of v12 is to identify as a Christian nation, to favor and acknowledge the church of Jesus Christ, and to urge upon all citizens to come to Christ in the means by which He has appointed to do that. Yet, whether a believer's land in this world do this or not, he may rejoice that he has been conveyed into another and everlasting kingdom, which shall supersede all of the kingdoms of this age (cf. Dan 2:35, 44–45; Col 1:13b; Rev 11:15)!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

All right, we've got the first 12 verses of Psalm 33 tonight. Let's ask the Lord for his help.

Our father in heaven. How we thank you, and praise you for your patience with us.

With the display, you've made your of yourself and creation, the goodness that you have shown us and redemption. It is mean and brutish of us towards you. That we are not more bent to praise you and yet you and your marvelous patients give us instruction and give us reasons and we thank you for your word that we get to study tonight.

And we pray that you would give us also your spirit and his help that you would drive home. These selected words like chosen nails that they would fix your truth in our heart and the way that gives us knowledge of you experience of you that you'd set our hearts free to praise you and open our mouths wide with that.

Praise pray that you'd bless to us a study time and such a way that we would be by it. Well, prepared for lifting up our hearts also in prayer, grant, all these things we ask in Jesus name, amen.

Psalm 33, it I think will take the time to read the full psalm and then we'll come back. And we'll read just the first 12 verses which are our portion for this evening rejoice in Yahweh. Oh, you righteous for praise. From the upright is beautiful, praise Yahweh with the heart, make melody to him with an instrument of 10 strings, Sing to him, and you song play ski skillfully with a shout of joy For the word of Yahweh is right and all His work is done in truth, He loves righteousness and justice.

The earth is full of the goodness of Yahweh by the Word of Yahweh. The heavens were made and all the hosts of them. Hmm, by the breath of his mouth he gathers the waters of the sea together. As a heap, he lays up the deep and store houses. Let all the earth fear y'all hey let all the inhabitants of the world stand in all of him for he spoke.

And it was he commanded and it stood fast the hallway, brings the council of the nations to nothing. He makes the plans of the people's of no effect. The council of Yahweh stands forever. The plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh.

The people he has chosen as his own inheritance, y'all who looks from heaven. He sees all the sons of men from the place of his dwelling. He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth, he fashions their hearts individually, he considers all. There works no king is saved by the multitude of an army.

A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vein, hope for safety. Neither shall it. Deliver any by its great strength. Behold, the eye of Yahweh is on those who fear him, on those, who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive and famine.

Our soul waits for y'all way. He is our help and our shield for our heart shall rejoice in him because we have trusted in his holy name. Let your mercy of Yahweh be upon us just as we hope in you and then the first 12 verses are our portion for this evening rejoice in Yahweh.

Oh you righteous for praise. From the upright is beautiful, praise! You always with the harp, make melody to him with an instrument of ten strings, sing to him. And you song play skillfully, with a shout of joy for the word of Yahweh is right and all his work is done in truth, he loves righteousness and justice.

The earth is full of the goodness of Yahweh by the word of Yahweh. The heavens were made and all the host of them, by the breath of his mouth. He gathers, the waters of the sea together. As a heap, He lays up the deep in store houses. Let all the earth fear Yahweh, Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in all of them for He spoke and it was He commanded and it stood fast the hallway, brings the council of the nations to nothing.

He makes the plans of the people's of no effect. The council of Yahweh stands forever. The plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh. The people he has chosen as his own inheritance so far the words of God. So after the first three verses call for joyous praise and will consider those three verses.

Also tonight, there's really four sections one, the power of God in creation, by his word in verses, four through nine, and then in verses 10 through 12, the council and plans of the nations versus the council and plans of the Lord, the power of the Lord's Council in Providence.

So the power of his creating Word, the power of his council in Providence and then in verses, 13 through 17 switches from the words of the Lord or the Word of Lord, to the eyes of the Lord verses 13 through 17. The eyes of the Lord that see everything, even the heart everywhere.

And so the perfection of the Lord's judgment or the persistence of his observing and judging men and then marvelously since he does, see all of that the the eyes of the Lord in verses 18 through 22 on those who fear him on those who hope in him to deliver them and save them to be their help and their shield.

Well, we'll take the mouth part, the word part this evening up through verse 12 and Lord willing by his help. We will try and do or we'll hope to do the the eye part. The judgment of the Lord and the deliverance has compassionately watching to deliver his people that part will take next week.

Lord willing. So first in verses one through three we have this call to praise rejoice in Yahweh. Oh you righteous for praise. From the upright is beautiful. Now all creatures ought to praise God. All things are from them and through him and to him and to him, be the glory forever.

Amen. But it's specifically those men who have been made right with God through faith in the promised Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ, it's particularly the righteous. The upright who are being addressed in this psalm, and the righteous in the upright, are that way by God's mere grace by his choosing.

So you have rejoice in Yahweh. Oh you righteous for praise. From the upright is beautiful, beginning verse 1, but at the close of our section this evening is the end of verse. 12 blessed is the nation. His God is Yahweh. The people he has chosen as his own inheritance.

And so this righteousness is a righteousness that has come by God's mere grace by God's planning, by God's choosing, by God's word. And so we are especially invested in praising him for these things because it is by his word by his counsel, by his choosing that he has determined to save us by himself by his son by his grace.

And so we of all creatures ought to praise, praise, the Lord not only for creation but for redemption, you see both of these in the opening, well the opening after the letters to the churches and revelation, you see them praising God for you created all things and then you see them praising God for you have redeemed us by your blood by the blood of the lamb.

Those have been made righteous and upright by God's mere gracious. Choosing we have a native tongue or a native dialect rejoice. First part of verse one. Praise second part of verse one. Praise first part of verse two make melody, second part of verse two. Sing first part of verse three, shout with joy last part of verse three, praise is the dominating dialect of the people who have been made right with God.

Who have been made righteous by God's grace. It's not only the ended form of speech rejoice in Yahweh. Oh you righteous. That's a command. But it's also the beautiful and appropriate speech for those who have been made up, right for praise. From the upright is beautiful. We are to enlist every proper aid verse 2.

Praise y'all way with the harp make melody to him with an instrument of 10 strings and probably at some point I'll cut and paste somewhere what Calvin commented on this verse and how merciful and the Lord is and patient and in the age of pedagogy thinking of the law or the ceremonial system, as a school master to get to Christ and how this was helpful to them then, but now there's grace in the heart that replaces it still can be helpful.

It certainly can be unhelpful because many have used instruments, quite unhelpful and yet the principle that we are to enlist proper aid. If grace, and the heart Ephesians 5:19 in Colossians, 3:16 is the new instrument. Then how we ought to stir up our thoughts of Christ and our dependence upon his grace and our knowledge that he is the one who leads us and helps us.

It will not do simply to have a theology that says, well the melody that a company is Christian congregational singing is grace in the heart and you just say that as a point of theology and dismiss the use of other helps. Well, if that is the accompaniment, then we had better play that tune and employ that help.

We are to enlist proper aid. And we're just seeing with freshness as interesting studying the first part of verse three, sing to him a new song and it actually solved for me a couple of situations where the Lord gives us a song to sing. That is not new if we're always to singing new song, then we're never to sing to repeat singing.

But the the newness here is not the content of the song. It is the the singing of the song that is to sing freshly every time. As the first time to never let familiarity with the praises of God, breed, the ability to sing it rightly or unthinkingly, which some of the best songs because we've sung them so many times actually do because of their familiarity put us in danger of not singing them newly.

Every time with heart stirred up to God in a fresh and intentional way. Every time we sing. So we're to sing, not just freshly, but then also skillfully and forcefully. We are to sing loudly. I am sure because I have been in those congregations, or some with those congregations.

There are churches out there where you cannot hear yourself think, or feel your heartbeat for how loud. The organ is organs, can be horrid for drowning out congregations and I'm sure present company is also aware that there are many other instruments and amplifications that can do the same thing.

Would it? What a wonderful. What a wonderful, obedience to verse three. It would be to be among a congregation. That enough of them in a small enough space singing with the force that is commanded this. Shout of joy is not does not indicate lack of musicality, it indicates presence of amplitude, it's loud.

But as also skillful, I've heard loud and unskillful too. And so you have this freshness and skillfulness and forcefulness it's real singing of the people of God in rejoicing and praise which is the appropriate. The beautiful form of the response of God's people. So we have this great call to praise.

This is what our tongues were made for. You remember, Isaiah 6, Isaiah, or Isaiah, as our spiritual forbearers probably said, Here's the angel say the whole earth is full of his glory. Holy holy holy as you always have hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory. He realizes?

That that point Isaiah what his tongue was made for what it always ought to be doing and how comparatively unclean it is and he hadn't been, he dwells among the people who don't use their tongue that way and we know what our mouth has made for, which is why James three versus eight through ten says be careful.

Not to use your mouth to curse your brother because your mouth exists for the praise of God. And the cursing of your brother should not come from the mouth. That is supposed to be especially for the purpose of blessing. Our God, and our heavenly father. Well, if this is what our mouths are for, then we should be careful always to use them in a way that if the next moment, what we were called to do was to sing in the way described in verses.

One through three, it would not be inconsistent with the way we have. Just been using our mouths. That's what's to quote verse one, beautiful. That is the appropriate. The lovely use of the godly ones mouth. So we're praising him especially out of these four categories, especially this evening for the power of his creating word versus four through nine, and the power of his council or his plan, in his providence, versus 10 through 12 first, the power of his creating Word, we rejoice to see the creation.

Not only because in the creation, the glory of God is displayed as Romans one tells us and as we will see in verses eight and nine, all the inhabitants of the world ought to stand in on and of him, and all the earth should fear him. But, especially his people who have been on the receiving end of this creating word that's righteousness group.

Excuse me, creating word for the word of Yahweh is right and all his work is done in truth, he loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of the goodness of Yahweh. Now this would be one of those places where having translation that translates a little more consistently or a little more literally, might might help us because the word translated goodness towards the end of verse five.

There is the word, it's steadfast love, which is interesting because God's covenant had love or God's steadfast. Love is a very specific saving love. It's it's that love that he is set upon his elect in Christ from before the world began. And that is determined to bring them at last to to can be conformed, to the image of his son.

We have been chosen in the beloved to use a language of fusions one. And what verse five is saying is everything that God does everywhere in the world. All the time is out of that covenant love. So you you really have like Romans 8:28 packed into the end of Psalm 33 verse 5.

All things work together for the good of those who love God. The ones who have been called according to his purpose. That's how they came to love God in the first place. And what is it that has produced this salvation? It is the word of Yahweh. Then the work of Yahweh that is done in truth.

He loves righteousness and justice. Notice how the word and work of the Lord are bound together in verse 4. Every word of the Lord infallibly accomplishes, its purpose. He says this in Isaiah, that his word that goes out will not return to him, without accomplishing its purpose. And the word of the Lord is especially what he has appointed by which to do his work.

Now, we see that in what is being referred to here especially as we get into verses 6 and 7 in the creation. He chose to create by speaking So that he might refer to his son. As the word through whom all things were made and nothing that was made was made without him and he makes the same point in Colossians chapter 1 and verse 16 that by him.

All things were made, all things were made through him. Whether things in heaven, are things on earth and Hebrews chapter 1, that Jesus is the one through whom things through whom he created all things. But as not just his word that he uses to create. It's also his word by which he works in his world.

He Hebrews chapter 1 also says upholds, all things by the word of his power. So the word of the Lord and the work of the Lord are tied together and they're tied together their appropriately. Then, in verse 4, we can see what has word and work due. They accomplish the purposes of his steadfast love to produce that righteousness and that justice, the righteousness and justice in the first half of verse 5 corresponds to the righteous ones and the upright ones in verse 1.

He's the one who by his word, produced that righteousness produced that uprightness. This is of course, why the apostle and second Corinthians chapter 4, says that his ministry plan is to just keep plainly. Speaking the word of God to keep playing speaking the truth. Why? Because it's God who said let there be light the one who caused light to shine and into the darkness it's he whose power alone can make the light of the knowledge of the glory of God shine in the hearts of believers in the face of Jesus Christ.

Even if we were able physically to see Jesus, we would not see divine glory or at least, we would not have before his before his glorification. We would not have seen to find glory, except by the work of the spirit. When the apostle says, in John chapter 1, the word became flesh and we beheld his glory.

There are a lot of people who looked at Jesus and didn't see glory, the rest of the gospel of John is full of them. But God who, by the word of yahweh, the heavens were made verse 6 by the word of Yahweh. All the by the breadth of his mouth, all the hosts of the heavens were made, verse 6, the one who said, let the sea be gathered together and let the dry land up here and he gathers the waters of the sea together as a heat verse 7 and lays the deep in the lays up the deep in the store houses verse 7.

So his creating word is at work, not just on the six days of creation but also in his ongoing work of redemption, We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus. For good works that we should walk before them. He is still doing creating work when he makes new creatures.

And we look forward as new creatures to that new heavens and then you worth to which we'll belong. So, the word accomplishes his saving purposes and it's the same word by which he created all things. Now it's important to to see the way the response in versus 8 and 9 corresponds to the events in verses 6 and 7.

Let all the earth fear y'all way. Let the inhabitants of let all the inhabitants of the world stand in all of of him. We know that this is how we are to respond to the creation, because the wrath of God, that is revealed and install, and righteousness, and all, and godliness of men is specifically aimed at those who can look at this world and not give, thanks to the Lord, those who can look at this world and not marvel at his glory, and the revelation that he has made of himself.

So, Romans 1:19 through 21, reinforce that in his creative work. The Lord calls forth are praised of his glory. In fact, in verse 6, he may be describing himself tranitarianly. We've already mentioned that the

word refers to the sun especially when it comes to creation by the word of yahweh that happens were made and all and all the hosts of them by the breadth of his mouth.

Some of you probably know that the word for breath is the word for spirit. And so you have God, the son and God, the spirit referred to in verse 6. And this is not to introduce something into the creation account. Merely from this place, was scripture interpreting scripture. The Lord specifically told us in Genesis 1 verse 2 before it gave a before he gave us any of the details of the creation that the spirit of God hovered over the waters.

That's not or brooded over the waters is even more literal translation. That's not the action of an impersonal power. That is a person who is active in the creating work of the rest of Genesis chapter 1. So, you have this personal revelation of himself in the creation that we are to respond to.

And one of the things that we specifically respond to verse 9, one of the things that we specifically fear him for and stand in all of him to take the commands from verse 8, is in verse 9, the immediacy and the instantaneousness, there might be a better word for that.

Instancy will say the immediacy and instancy of the creation by his word. This is one of the things that you lose if standing on the shoulders of contemporary fools, you try to insert extra mechanisms or extra time. The immediacy is important and the instancy is important. So why I didn't read the word in italics either time, we went through verse 9 because the word metallics isn't there.

That's being supplied by the translator because he thinks you need it to finish out the thought and good English. No, it's he spoke. And it was he commanded and it stood fast, there is immediacy and instancy in how God created with his word. So, yes, he created in six days, but there are moments, when he said, let there be, and it was, in fact, I didn't say, let there be, he called to things that weren't, he said, light be.

And in order to obey him the light, first existed and, and that, and by existing it obeyed him. So when psalm 33 versus 8 and 9 says, now, here's how not to commit the error of Romans 1:19 through 21. That brings man under the wrath of God, recognize the instancy and immediacy of the power of his word and creating this world and respond with fear, and all with reverence and all to God, the creator.

And you see it's not some minor. What's the offer in different. It's not a minor in different things whether or not God created at the pace that he describes in Genesis chapter 1, oh or whether you can somehow wedge, a bunch of different mechanisms and and unimaginable length of time in there.

God the Holy Spirit says we make applications psalm. 33 verse 9 of Genesis 1. The way it's written. So you have the power of his creating word that we are to respond to with worship and then you have the power of his counsel and providence is a much shorter section.

You can see, even in the English thankfully our trans our translators have used the same words in order that we can see the parallel. You have the nations counseling together. Taking council together, you have the people's planning. What is that? Remind you of? It's Psalm 2, right? The nations, rage people, plot plan of anything, the kings of the earth, set themselves and the rulers take council together.

And with the same result, he who sits in the heavens laughs all of the conspiracies and plans of men and nations to try and bend the history of the world to their will must fail. It is the Council of Yahweh that stands forever verse 11. It's the plans of his heart.

Let's stand to all generations. Do they intend evil? Yes. Do they carry out some evil? Yes. Do they achieve the ends that they were aiming? At. No, because they can only carry out what God has intended for good and is using as ordained and uses for good. It's his counsel, it's his plan.

That stands do not fear. Dear believer. And don't be tempted to try to bend history, to your will either, because it's going to be bent to God's. Will you obey him? So if a nation plotting its strategy, can't achieve its strategy verse 10. How's the nation supposed to be blessed verse?

12 blessed is the nation, whose God is Yahweh. The people he has chosen as his own inheritance, the only effective national policy or and you can stick, you can substitute for nation personal policy household policy, congregational policy. The only effective national policy is to own the Lord, as our God and Christ as our redeemer in King.

Now, when verse 12 was written, that could only be true of Israel. That was the nation, the state, that the, that the Lord had chosen as his own inheritance, but he still has a people who are his inheritance. They're just not a state. So if you're a nation today we live in a nation today and if the nation wants to have blessed national policy, what it needs to do is encourage and protect and defend the church that needs to encourage and urge, its citizens to come to Christ and be joined to him through saving faith.

The nation that does that. That is, that is full of citizens. Who are the inheritance of the Lord? Not because God has chosen the USA or Ireland or Zimbabwe or whatever nation you are. But because there are a people on earth that God is taken as is an inheritance and the most successful national policy is to do whatever you can as a state to encourage defend to protect foster, the work of the church in, proclaiming the gospel, the peace that enables the church to worship and the church to disciple and the church to evangelize because there is a nation that this belongs to verse 12 but it's not in Nebuchadnezzar's idol.

It's the stone that's cut out of the mountain without hands that grow or that the stone that is cut without hands. It grows into a mountain that destroys all of the other kingdoms until it lasts. As they rejoice and revelation 11 to praise the nations of the earth, have become the kingdom of our, the kingdoms of the earth, have become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ.

So even if your state, your country isn't operating in the way that would be advisable, comparing verse 10 in verse 12. If you're a believer, you have another country, you're a pilgrim. You're a foreigner or aliens and this in this world. But our homeland is the blessed nation that endures forever and we rejoice that God's providence is ruling in overruling.

Everything that happens everywhere. If you are obeying versus one to three, rejoicing and praising him. And if you are seeing the powerful word by which he is not just created the world but brought you to himself in Jesus Christ versus for through nine, then you of all people. Dear Christ, bought word, forged believers.

Ought have no anxiety. Knowing anxiety over what the nations are taking counsel to do and the people's are planning verse 10. Because it's the council of the Lord and the plan of the Lord that stands forever and you belong to a blessed nation that will endure forever and ever.

And it doesn't have a flag stars. Stripes. Sickles. Anything has Christ.