

“Give Thanks to the Lord – Part 2”
Psalm 118
(Preached at Trinity, October 14, 2012)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Psalm 118** is the last of the six psalms that make up the Egyptian Hallel, the series of psalms sung annually at the Passover celebrating God’s abiding presence when His people called upon Him for deliverance. It is the only psalm quoted by all four of the Gospels.
 2. As I said last time, I’ve divide this psalm into five parts:
 - The psalmist describes the endless love of God – **Verses 1-4**
 - The psalmist describes his unwavering confidence in God – **Verses 5-9**
 - The psalmist describes being surrounded by fierce enemies but of God’s deliverance – **vs 10-18**
 - The psalmist describes his entrance into the gates as victor – **Verses 19-27**
 - The psalmist describes his final Doxology of praise – **Verses 28-29**
 3. Last time I focused on the first two which cover **Verses 1-9**
Tonight I want to continue with **Verse 10** and open up the other three divisions of the psalm. As a reminder:
 4. While these verses speak specifically of the victory of an earthly king, the gloriously lift our hearts to consider the great victory of the King of kings.
Psalm 118:23 KJV - "This is the LORD'S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes."
- I. The psalmist describes being surrounded by fierce enemies but of God’s deliverance – **vs 10-18**
- A. **Verses 10-12** maintain a repeating refrain
"in the name of the LORD will I destroy them."
 1. He speaks of the immensity of his enemies
Psalm 118:10 KJV - "All nations compassed me about"
 - a. They completely surrounded him – “compassed me about”
 - b. **Verse 12** – “like bees”
 2. But he states with confidence that they will be quenched, destroyed
 - B. The psalmist gives the source of his might – **Verses 13-14**
Psalm 118:13 KJV - "but the LORD helped me."
 1. God was his strength – not I am strong through the Lord. God gets all the glory
Psalm 118:14 KJV - "The LORD *is* my strength and song, and is become my salvation."
 2. This is a quote from Moses’ song of victory after God’s deliverance from the Egyptians at the Red Sea
Exodus 15:2-3 KJV - "The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³ The LORD *is* a man of war: the LORD *is* his name."

3. Our enemies come in many different forms. We may never face global enemies like the psalmist, but our enemies may be equally as powerful—especially as we consider our own flesh and the battles of the Christian faith.
2 Timothy 4:7 KJV - "I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:"
1 Timothy 6:12 NAU - "Fight the good fight of faith"
 4. God's wondrous demonstrations of his power and might fill our hearts with song
2 Timothy 1:12 KJV - "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."
- C. The songs of victory – **15-18**
1. **Verse 15** is a declaration of corporate worship –
 "The voice of rejoicing and salvation *is* in the tabernacles"
 2. Christianity has always been purposed to be a body, an assembly of the righteous.
 3. We have here another refrain of praise –
Psalms 118:15-16 KJV - "the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. ¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly."
 - a. "Right hand" speaks of strength and power.
 The enemies were powerful but no match for God.
 - b. God bears His right hand for those who trust Him.
Isaiah 41:10 KJV - "Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."
 - c. Do you trust Him? God creates opportunities for you to trust Him
 4. The psalmist saw the reason for his existence as singing forth the praises of God.
Psalms 118:17 KJV - "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD."
 - a. This is what will sustain you through every adversity. How can this be used to magnify God?
 - b. This is the God-centered life. Everything pertains to Him.
 - c. Even if our suffering is God's chastisement we can praise Him (Verse 18)
- II. The psalmist describes his entrance into the gates as victor – **Verses 19-27**
- A. The picture here is of the king entering the gates as victor
Psa 118:19 - "Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them"
1. It is described as the "gate of righteousness" and "the gate of the LORD"
 2. All attention is directed to God, the source of the victory
Psalms 118:19 KJV - "I will praise the LORD:"
Psalms 118:21 KJV - "I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation."

B. The glorious declaration of vindication – **Verses 22-24**

1. The king had been rejected and looked upon with disdain. But everything was now changed. His enemies had been destroyed and He was entering victorious.
2. These verses serve as an awe inspiring foreshadow of the victory of Christ.
 - a. He was despised and rejected
Isaiah 53:3-4 KJV - "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."
 - b. The multitudes gathered around Him and shouted, "Crucify Him!" They mocked Him and blasphemed.
Matthew 27:29-31 KJV - "And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ³⁰ And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. ³¹ And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*."
3. But the one they rejected and killed has been raised to the chief place
Psalms 118:22 KJV - "The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head *stone* of the corner."
Philippians 2:9-11 KJV - "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
 - a. Jesus sits as the Head of the church
Ephesians 2:20 KJV - "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;"
Colossians 1:18 KJV - "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence."
1 Peter 2:6-7 KJV - "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

- b. Jesus sits as the only way of salvation
Acts 4:11-12 KJV - "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- c. He sits in authority and dominion over all
Psalm 2:9-12 KJV - "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. ¹⁰ Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him."
- C. And again, all praise is directed to God
1. It was all by the sovereign direction of God
Psalm 118:23 KJV - "This is the LORD'S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes."
Acts 2:23-24 KJV - "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: ²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."
Acts 4:27-28 KJV - "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, ²⁸ For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done."
 2. We rejoice in that grand and glorious day
Psalm 118:24 KJV - "This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
 - a. The psalmist was probably referring to a festival day – **Verse 27** speaks of sacrifice.
 - b. But the psalmist had no idea of the fullness of what he was foreshadowing.
Derek Kidner – “What those who took part in such a ceremony could never have foreseen was that it would one day suddenly enact itself on the road to Jerusalem: unrehearsed, unliturgical and with explosive force. In that week when God’s realities broke through his symbols and shadows. . . *the horns of the altar* became the arms of the cross.”
- D. Having been delivered the prayer is then for God to continue to save them
Psalm 118:25 KJV - "Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity."
1. This is also our prayer. That God would continue to uphold us sanctify us, prospering us in our Christian life.
And we pray that He will prosper us in the salvation of the lost

2. **Verse 26** - Rejoicing continues in the great victory of Israel's king. This too was but a foreshadow of the glorious praise when the King of kings entered triumphantly into Jerusalem – Psalm Sunday
Luke 19:37-38 KJV - "the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; ³⁸ Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest."

III. The psalmist describes his final Doxology of praise – **Verses 28-29**

- A. Again with the Hebrew parallelism and the glorious song of praise—
Psalm 118:28 KJV - "Thou *art* my God, and I will praise thee: *thou art* my God, I will exalt thee."
 1. In **Verse 27** the psalmist declares God to be God. In **Verse 28** he declares God to be *his* God.
 2. God must be the focus of *your* life, your trust, the focus of all in your life.
- B. The psalm ends as it began – with an exuberant song of praise
Psalm 118:29 KJV - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever."
 1. This mind fills and consumes everything. Our entire life must be a declaration of praise and thanksgiving.
 2. Stephen Lawson – “Thanksgiving is to be thanks-living, a daily lifestyle for every believer. In this sense, thanksgiving is to be a way of life, encompassing one’s attitude and actions, both words and deeds. Every believer should give thanks to God in all things.”

Conclusion:

1. For us all attention is upon Christ, the chief cornerstone. He is worthy of all praise. His name has been exalted upon all. He rules over all.
2. Have you seen His excellence? Is it marvelous in your eyes? Has He captured your attention? Has he captivated your life?

