

Sermon 1: Declaring His Glory Among All People: Psalm 96:1-13

Text: Psalm 96:1-13 “O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice. Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth...”

Purpose: Psalm 96 is an invitation for all creation to do what it was made to do, declare God’s glories with an overwhelming sense of His greatness. This is why missions is such an important part of our existence in a fallen world.

Proposition: God wants us to passionately declare the gospel wherever His name is not worshipped.

Interrogative: How can we be properly motivated to do this?

Introduction:

- **An active missions program is not the goal.**
- **It is one of many spiritual graces that flow from healthy Christianity:**
- **It is not the product of an assembly line, a philosophy, or a formula.**
- **Missions is fruit that grows on a healthy tree not a machine that is built in a factory.**
- **We must resist the pragmatic temptation to use the flesh to do what the Spirit produces through the Word:**
 - The temptation to put people on guilt trips.
 - The temptation to create an emotionally manipulative environment where people’s compassion becomes a cheap and short-lived substitute for real Spirit-produced repentance and change.
 - The temptation to appeal to ambition and pride setting goals that are more about making us feel good about ourselves than doing the work of ministry with Christ-centered humility.
- **We need to be motivated by God in the way that the Psalm before us teaches us to be motivated.**

Truth 1: God commands all people to worship Him: 96:1-3 “O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people...”

- **Three commands:**
 - **Sing to Him:** “Sing unto the LORD all the earth...”

- **Ascribe Greatness to Him:** “Bless His name...”
- **Preach His gospel:** “Show forth His salvation among the heathen...”
- **The context the commands:**
 - **Testify to His wonderful way:** “His wonders among all people...”
- **Two foundational reasons the command is necessary:**
 - **Our existence: Colossians 1:16** “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him...”
 - **Our nature: Romans 1:17-23** “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them...when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...”

Truth 2: This command is pressing because God is incomparably great: 96:4-9 “For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth...”

- **These verses are the logical reason we should be motivated to worship God:** “For...”
 - **He is incomparable:** “The LORD is great...” (His Nature)
 - **He is without legitimate rival:** “To be feared above all gods...” (His Power)
 - **He is the Creator and Sustainer of a well-ordered/beautiful creation:** “The LORD made the heavens...” (His handiwork)
 - **He is majestic and full of splendor:** “Honor and majesty are before Him...”
 - **His strength and beauty have no limits:** “Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary...” (His immediate presence)

Truth 3: This command is pressing because of the emptiness of false religion: 96:5 “For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens...”

- **These verses are a second logical reason we should be motivated to worship Him:** “For...”
- **People are worshipping empty idols:** “The gods of the nations are idols...”
 - **Psalm 135:15-18** “The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them...”
 - **They cannot speak, hear, see, because they are lifeless:**
 - **The idols have replaced a God who has...**
 - Spoken in His word.
 - Listens to the prayers of His people

- Sees the plights of His people and meticulously governs for their own good and His own glory.
- **These idols are not limited to pieces of wood or stone:**
 - **Secularism is a form of idolatry:** We have replaced our Creator with our own logic and values
 - **The false religions of the world:** The list continues to grow
 - **“Christian-imitating” cults who preach a false Jesus: Mormonism and Jehovah’s Witnesses**
 - **Any view of God that falls short of His revelation in Scripture:**
 - **False systems broken and failing to glorify God as they ought:**
 - **1 John 5:20-21** “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen...”

Truth 4: God’s command is pressing because He will judge the earth: 96:10-13 “Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth...”

Four Specific Reminders:

- **Remind people that God is Sovereign:** “Say that the LORD reigneth...”
- **Remind people that He is coming to judge:** “The world shall be established that it shall not be moved...”
- **Remind people that His judgement day is inescapable and eternal:** “He shall judge the people righteously...”
- **Remind people that His timetable is immanent:** “He cometh to judge the world with righteousness...”

Conclusion: God wants us to passionately declare the gospel wherever His name is not worshipped.

- Let’s never settle for cheap shortsighted substitutes for repentance and Spirit sustained change.
Let’s never seek to do God’s work by the power of our flesh.
- Let’s get a bigger, grander, view of God’s greatness.
- Let’s be gripped by the inescapable command of God to ascribe His greatness and live God-centered lives.
- Let’s be diligently involved in Declaring His glory among all people!