



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

November 9th, 2022

“The Fourteenth Psalm of Ascent”

Psalm 133

(Review)

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 133

TITLE. —*A Song of Degrees of David.* We see no reason for depriving David of the authorship of this sparkling sonnet. He knew by experience the bitterness occasioned by divisions in families, and was well prepared to celebrate in choicest psalmody the blessing of unity for which he sighed. Among the "songs of degrees," this hymn has certainly attained unto a good degree, and even in common literature it is frequently quoted for its perfume and dew. In this psalm there is no wry word, all is "sweetness and light," —a notable ascent from Psalm cxx. with which the pilgrims set out. That is full of war and lamentation, but this sings of peace and pleasantness. The visitors to Zion were about to return, and this may have been their hymn of joy because they had seen such union among the tribes who had gathered at the common altar. The previous psalm, which sings of the covenant, had also revealed the centre of Israel's unity in the Lord's anointed and the promises made to him. No wonder that brethren dwell in unity when God dwells among them, and finds his rest in them. Our translators have given to this psalm an admirable explanatory heading, "The benefit of the communion of saints." These good men often hit off the meaning of a passage in a few words.

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)
VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION
(*emphasis in original*)

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 133

REFLECTION. On the night Jesus was betrayed, He told His disciples of the good and pleasant joy that came from believing on Christ (**v1a**; John 15:11); and on that very night, the Lord Jesus would pray for their unity (**v1b**; John 17:22). The Lord Jesus, as Messiah, the Anointed One, by His very presence and position, provides a sweet fragrance to delight all who are in nose-shot of the spiritual, perfumed liquid that flowed from His head, even daubing the collar of His robes (**v2**; Psa 45:7; Heb 1:9). The anointing of the Lord Jesus Christ, like the dew of Mount Hermon, parallels what we know in Alaska a little better than most, is the summer dew, clean and pristine, that showers the foothills of the mountains surrounding us (**v3a**; Hos 14:5); and by Christ's anointing, YHVH God "*has commanded the blessing, life forevermore*" (**v3b**; John 4:14; 5:39).

APPLICATION. Through this blessed Word, the Lord Jesus commands us to behold the blessed unity He provides for us in the church through saving faith in Him; and that it is a good and pleasant thing (**v1**; Prov 15:17). When we forget the blessings of worshiping together, fail to gather, or forsake gathering together, we forget the sweet fragrance of Christ's anointing (**v2**; Heb 10:24-25; 2 Cor 2:14-15; Eph 5:2); and moreover, we will miss the most wonderful blessing that accompanies eternal life in Christ— communion with Christ and the Father through fellowship with one another (**v3**; John 17:23).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 133

REFLECT upon the anointing of Christ and the anointing of Christ's people as we gather in unity to worship our Lord.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25. How do these verses apply to our text in dwelling together in unity as Christian believers? Write your thoughts on the back of this handout.

READ PROVERBS 15:17 also. How do you think this verse applies to our text in dwelling together in unity as Christian believers? Write your thoughts on the back of this handout.

RESPOND to this challenge by meditating upon the three verses of Psalm 133 this week. There are at least six (6) blessings bestowed on believers when we dwell together in unity. Can you find them? Can you find more than six? Be prepared to answer next week.

“Hineh Mah Tov” הנה מה־טוב

hee-NĀH mah tōv

u-MAH na-a-YEEM

she-VET a-CHEEYM gam YA-chad

הנה מה־טוב

ומה־נעים

שבת אחים גם־יחד

hee-NĀH mah tōv, hee-NĀH mah tōv

lai-lai-lai-la-la-la-la-lai

Behold, how good

And how pleasant it is

When brothers do dwell united

Behold how good, Behold how good,

lai-lai-lai-la-la-la-la-lai

Considering Psalm 133:

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