

A Psalm for Thanksgiving

Psalm 100

Reading: Isaiah 42:1-13

Bethany Baptist Church

21 November, 2021

19 November, 2006

(Thanksgiving Service)

...pray...

Read Psalm 100

Psalm 100 is a *Thanksgiving Psalm* (the writer says so right at the top!).

God calls us to bring our thanksgiving to Him (and not just *us*, but *all the earth* is called to come).

When we read this *hymn*, it becomes clear that [being a *thankful* leads us to being *worshipful*.] **2X**

Giving God thanks is more than an excuse to *gather for a big meal*...it's an *act of worship*!

Today I want to show you from Psalm100 that a *God-focused Christian* is a *thankful Christian*, and a *thankful Christian* is a *worshiping Christian*

Specifically, I want us to consider...

Two truths about God that ought to fuel your thanksgiving worship!

- 1. We are *thankful* because God *made* us (vv.1-3).**
- 2. We are *thankful* because God *blesses* us (vv.4-5).**

1. God made us! And that makes us *thankful*, and that makes us *worshipful* (vv.1-3).

- A. As you begin to read Psalm 100 carefully, it becomes clear that this *Psalm of Thanksgiving* is all about **worship**. And that means *being grateful* is a stepping-stone to worshipping God.
- i. This first half of the hymn full of *commands & actions*:
- a. V. 1 *to shout joyfully to the LORD (YHWH).*
 - b. V. 2 *to serve the LORD.*
to come before the LORD
to sing joyfully as we come
 - c. V. 3 *to know* (suggesting *to declare*)
- ii. There is an especially important a pair of parallel commands in v. 2: **serve & come**. The relationship between these two commands tells us that when we are genuinely thankful, it will overflow in **worship**.
- a. Let's start out with a little lesson in Hebrew poetry...
 - b. Hebrew poetry (e.g. psalms) is marked by a literary form called *parallelism*. That means verses in the psalms are formed of two (*sometimes* more) lines, and the second line has some kind of direct relationship to the meaning of the first line.
 - c. Look at verse two; here the second line provides **added insight** into the meaning of the first line.

So you & I... *serve the LORD with gladness;*
When we... *come before Him with joyful singing.*
 - d. In other words, we *serve* the LORD by **coming before** Him in all the heartfelt activities of worship we see in vv. 1 & 2.

- iii. Let me tell you why this relationship between *serving & coming* is so important; why it can help move us from being bored legalists to joyful worshipers.
 - a. In Baptist churches we love to talk about *serving & working & doing*.
 - b. As a pastor, *I* get excited when people are willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved.
 - c. But don't miss this point in v. 2: the most important way you'll ever *serve God* is first by *coming before Him & worshipping Him*.
- iv. *So the poet is reminding you that we express our gratitude to God by our worship (personal & corporate).*

- B. Now don't miss this: coming to God in grateful worship is *anything but stuffy*.
 - i. Here are some Psalm 100 commands that are flavored with *joy!*
 - a. Worship that is expressed in *joyful shouting*.
 - If v. 1 in any way introduces to this entire hymn, then the first thing *all men* are called to do, is to express their gratitude to God by *exuberant expressions of praise!*
 - b. ...*serve with gladness* (which is expressed by...)
 - c. ...*come before Him with joyful singing*.
 - What kind of music? Careful – not much detail here, but it needs to honor God by expressing biblical truth...and it needs to be *joyful!*

- I find it helps me to really think about the words as I sing, and try to relate them to what I know of the Scriptures.
- ii. Beloved, can I suggest something from this text? The time you spend each LORD's Day in corporate worship should be one of *the most joyful & anticipated hours* of your week.
- a. If that isn't happening, is it possible you're just coming to *fulfill a duty*?
 - b. ...*teach a class*?
 - c. If you *think about & pray about* worship *before* you come...
 - d. If you *think about & pray about* worship *while* you're here...
 - e. You'll go a long ways towards fueling your *joy* in being here.
- C. Thankful worship is not only *joyful*, it's rational (it's *intelligent*).
- i. **Verse 3** provides the *reason* you ought to be grateful and therefore the *motive* you need to worship w/ *joy*...
 - ii. You are commanded to **know** (*declare*) that our LORD is God: (Heb.) – *YHWH, He is Elohim*
 - a. The poet isn't repeating himself...
 - b. We serve the *one & only true God*.**
 - The God of Israel...
 - The God of the OT...
 - The God of the Bible...
 - The God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- d. **He** is the one true God; *YHWH, He is Elohim.*
- iii. Here is an **extremely basic** but **absolutely essential** concept you have to master about God: **He made you.**
- a. ...*personally* made you!
- b. Turn with me to Ps 139; follow as I read vv. 13-16.
- c. ...*it is He who made us, and not we ourselves...*
- d. There is no such thing as a *self-made man!*
- If your year has been prosperous, and you have much to make you thankful this coming week, don't forget Who made you & blesses you.
- iv. Here, too, in v. 3 is a familiar & wonderful picture. Not only is Jehovah our Creator, He is our **Shepherd**. *The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He lead me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

Chas Spurgeon points out that v. 3 leads us to something extremely joyful: **not only** are we the work of God's hand, but from among all things & all men, we are the objects of His **saving choice** – He is our shepherd and we are His sheep.

If you understand God as your *personal Creator*, you **must worship**.

If you know Him as your **Great Shepherd**, you **must worship...w/ joy**.

2. Our gratitude is expressed in worship because God is good (4-5).

- A. Did you notice how vs. 4 & 5 mirror the truths of vv. 1-3?
- i. Just as vv. 1&2 command us to *come before* our Creator, v. 4 calls us to *enter* His temple in grateful worship...
 - ii. Then, just as v. 3 provides the *first* motive to worship (God is our Creator & Shepherd), v. 5 gives a *second* reason (God is eternally good).
- B. *Here it is again*: the poet has still got worship on his mind.
- i. As he writes about *thanksgiving & praise* (v. 4), the psalmist paints a picture that would be so familiar to his first readers: entering the Temple during one the many feasts of Israel's national worship calendar.
 - ii. Worship was a *solemn & joyful* occasion.
 - a. As the faithful stepped through the Temple gates, his lips were sweet with thanksgiving....
 - b. As he was carried along with the crowds, on into the courts of the Temple, his gratitude gave birth to praise.
 - c. The picture here is that every step of the worshiper's approach to the Temple was accompanied by the sweet words & music of gratitude & praise.
 - d. The emphasis in v. 4 (just like in vv. 1 & 2) is on **attitude** (*gratitude, joy, knowing*), on **speech** (*shouting, singing, praising*), and on *one more thing...coming before Jehovah*.

- C. Now the poet puts the finishing touches on his hymn with this: the LORD is so good, *how else* can you respond?
- a. **Read v. 5.**
 - b. ***Jehovah is good!***
 - c. That's a *very big* idea, but our hymn gives us **two** specific expressions of the LORD's goodness:
 - i. His *lovingkindness* – (Heb. ***chsed***); it's a foundation Hebrew term for understanding God: it speaks of God's *steadfast, loyal lovingkindness*.
 - And God's ***chsed*** is not *fleeting*; beloved you & I are assured His good love for us is **everlasting** (*to forever*).

...the 2nd expression follows (the last two lines of the poem are in parallel)...

- ii. His *faithfulness* – which can be depended on from one generation to the next.
 - *Our fathers* found Him faithful. *We* find Him faithful. *Our children & their children* will find Him faithful.
 - What good has He promised? *He won't renege*.
 - What covenant has God cut? *He will keep it*.
- iii. Do you see how His goodness is tied up, not simply in His loyal love & faithful ways *to us* (*this thanksgiving season*), but in the fact these are ***eternal & unchanging*** expression of His good!?!

This *thanksgiving season*, the truth of ***God's unfailing goodness*** urges us to ***praise Him***.

3. I'm no prophet, but I'd just bet this next week holds lot's of good things for all of us:
- A. *Lot's of food...lot's of family... fun... football watching...left-overs... visiting... traveling...*
- B. Can I suggest a few ideas to encourage grateful hearts along the way:
- i. What **good things** has the LORD done for you?
- a. *Health, family, employment, a measure of prosperity? Will you remind your family of these?*
- But I understand that the experience of temporal blessing are not the same for everyone, every year:
- b. Christian, consider these: *Life* (He has made us), *Salvation in Jesus Christ* (He is our Shepherd), *Assurance of salvation, Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual giftedness. New nature. Word of God. Promise of a heavenly home.*
- ii. Here's a second suggestion: help your family reflect on what it means for the *Lord to be our Shepherd.*
- a. Perhaps read this hymn to your family (Psalm 100), *or... Psa 23, Lk 15:3-7, or John 10:1-18.*
- b. Talk about what it means to be a *shepherd (...sheep).*
- c. I pray that this week will hold many rich blessings from *the God who made each of us*, and offers *forgiveness & new life through faith in His dear Son.*

Pray...Thanks/Praise for Creator, Shepherd, Eternally Good& Faithful