SERMON OUTLINE

In Psalm 98 we are shown 3 commands with 3 reasons to praise Yahweh.

I. The people of God must praise Yahweh because He has revealed His righteous salvation (vs. 1-3).

II. All inhabitants of the earth must praise Yahweh because they have seen righteous salvation of King Yahweh (vs. 4-6).

III. All creation must praise Yahweh because of His righteous and equitable judgment (vs. 7-9).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 25, 2016 **Passage: Psalm 98:1-9**

Memory Passage: Psalm 98:1-3

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Psalm 98:1-9**. What "wonderful things" has Yahweh done (vs. 1b) that deserve a "new song" to be sung (v. 1a)?

(b) Now take a moment to think through Israel's history and write down ways in which God "worked salvation" (i.e. delivered or saved them from harm & evil) on their behalf.

(c) How have these acts "made known His salvation" and "revealed His righteousness" "in the sight of the nations?"

(d) What has been Yahweh's motivation for accomplishing all of these wonderful acts (v.3)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Psalm 98:1-9**. As Christmas draws near and we contemplate the gift of Jesus, the One who was born to save His people from their sins, think through Psalm 98:1-3 and explain how these marvelous things were ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. Don't neglect any of the phrases, for they all find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ!

(b) The primary way to not forget the reason we celebrate Christmas is to focus our attention on the person and work of Christ as we celebrate His birth. What "new song" does this contemplation inspire from you? Write it down, maybe to a melody that you already know, maybe in a poem, maybe in a prayer, maybe even to a brand new melody.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Psalm 98:1-9**. Why should "all the earth" sing praises to Yahweh for what He has done for Israel (cf. v. 3 & v. 4)?

(b) This psalm also reminds us of the truth we have been learning often in the Psalms: Yahweh is the righteous King who has installed His Son as the Eternal King in order to reveal His righteousness and justice to the entire world!

(c) Notice the overwhelming joy commanded in vs. 4-6. Would you characterize your personal worship and your participation in corporate worship with these terms of praise, joy, and excitement? Christmas often inspires us to this kind of worship, but how might you prepare to worship and praise with this kind of joyful abandon, when it is appropriate (remember, sometimes our worship flows from sorrow, conviction, lamenting, etc.) in the future?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Psalm 98:1-9 & Is. 11:1-5**. For what purpose is Yahweh to receive praise (v. 9)?

(b) In the immediate context of Psalm 98, does the term "judge" in v. 9 refer to God's rule over the world or to His judging of sin and unrighteousness? What evidence do you provide for your answer?

(c) According to Isaiah 11:1-5, who will ultimately accomplish Psalm 98:9, how does this help us interpret this psalm, and why is this an important concept to remember as we worship during the Christmas season?

(d) Write down all you learned from this psalm about God's character and His work.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Psalm 98:1-9**. This Psalm is the foundational text for Isaac Watts' beloved Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World." Even though we sing it at Christmas (mostly because of the 1st line), Watts captures the ultimate fulfillment of Psalm 98 in the 2nd coming of Christ and the life He will bring in the New Heaven and New Earth. Read through all 4 verses of this hymn, identifying the connection points with Psalm 98.

DATE: December 25, 2016 **PASSAGE: Psalm 98:1-9**

Joy from the World!