

Mercy, Missions, and the Millennium

Part 2 Psalm 67

Missions

Both the recognition of divine mercies received and experienced, and the subsequent desire for new and continuing mercies and blessings based in the favor and delight of our Savior and God, will prove to be motivation for mission-minded thinking and living. ***“That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.”*** Everywhere the saving and healing power of God is needed. Once we have seen and known for ourselves that salvation, deliverance, healing, help, blessings, benefits, favor, and goodness that are all of God and are the products and outworking of His grace and mercy, then all other resources and strivings by other means than His appointed and gracious means ought to be forsaken. Can not each of us say emphatically and happily that we have learned by faith and by experience, *“My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth,”* (Ps. 121:2)? **Ps. 103:1-5** If others cannot and do not, surely the members of this congregation can and should and will, seeing that we have had so very many occasions to raise up our Ebenezers and declare, *“Hitherto hath the LORD helped us,”* (1 Sam. 7:12).

Surely this is a gospel and evangelistic theme being expressed by the Holy Spirit through the Psalmist: ***“That thy way may be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations.”*** Do we desire new, fresh, as well as continued and expanded, mercies and blessings, more grace, for this reason, that the gospel may go forth unto all people, and sinners be healed of their sin-sickness, their devil-induced blindness, their profane speech impediments, their deafness to the truth, and their disabilities toward all that is godly and praiseworthy, and rather that they may be healed to the praise of God through the name of Jesus? Do we want others to know and walk in that way which we have come to trod, by God’s grace, the way of truth and righteousness, the old path wherein is the good and right way, where the footsteps of the Good Shepherd and Bishop of our souls

may be seen and followed? Do we desire that others may know our Savior, and do we crave grace to be able to witness to them, to live as becometh the gospel before them, and to support the spread of the gospel to them, wheresoever they may be **“upon earth”** and **“among all nations”**?

“Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.” This is both a means and an outcome. We who have tasted that the Lord is gracious should praise Him; and others, by our gospel efforts, should come to praise Him, having tasted and seen for themselves that He is gracious. **I Pet. 2:9,10** Before you were saved you did not praise God or live in a way that was praiseworthy of God. Now you should not only praise Him and do that which will work out for His praise, honor, and glory; but you should both desire and work for that same end to be fulfilled in others.

When the gospel is preached and believed in any place, and a church of God established, what occurs? God is praised. An house of worship unto God is setup. Lives are transformed for God’s honor and glory. The praise of God ascends up from that part of the inhabited globe where before God was unknown or blasphemed, or both. **Isa. 56:7,8 Rom. 15:15,16**

“O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.” Is this not the truth that is communicated to the inhabitants of all **“the nations upon earth”** wheresoever the gospel is preached, that **“God ... now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead,”** (Acts 17:30,31)? John Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles all preached, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel,”** (Mark 1:15). God is now openly making known unto all people that His Son Jesus Christ shall rule and reign over all, and that you must gladly receive Him this very moment, or you will be found His enemy when He comes to judge the world in righteousness and rule over all the nations.

There is a pause at the end of this division of the Psalm; and once again, it would be wise, good, and profitable to be still and consider all that these verses have said. Are we living as becometh the gospel? Are we faithful witnesses for Him, giving

out the true gospel report, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners? Are we watchful and prayerful, looking to ourselves so as to be on guard against error and folly and going astray; and looking to our lives to see that they conform to His will who has sent us as He was sent by the Father; and looking out upon the fields and committing ourselves to the labor that is before us, putting our hands to the plow, and not looking back? Is our “missions program”, our evangelistic effort, our fulfilling of the Great Commission, lining up with the instructions and example of Christ and the apostles? Let us also consider, is our joy in the Lord? Is His joy our strength? Do our lives give off the sweet fragrant aroma of the cross of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice that He made of Himself that is so well-pleasing to God and so life-and-soul-saving unto men? Like the prophet Job asked, “*How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength? How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? ... To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?*” (Job 26:2,3,4). Put another way, “Is my life one of praise to God, and one by which others may be brought to also praise Him for His saving grace and mercy?”

If you were paying attention, you noticed that the outlook of the Psalmist was forward looking as regards to time, or in other words, toward the future. “***For thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.***” This is yet future. Is not the gospel a message that pertains to the future? It warns of coming judgment and announces a coming King. **I Thess. 1:5-10** Is the gospel not received by faith, which is to say, that the person who believes is believing God about things that are unseen but which God says shall come to pass? The gospel promises that those who flee their sins and flee to Christ shall have eternal life. When shall they have it, or rather, when shall they experience it in its reality and fulfillment? In the future, when Christ comes. The gospel promises and prophesies that the Christ who dies on Calvary and rose again is coming again in power and great glory. When shall He come? In the future, at an hour when ye think not. **Heb. 2:5-9** We do not yet see all things in subjection to Christ, and He enthroned as judge and governor of the nations. When shall we see all things under His feet? In the future. And so, our outlook needs to be forward looking, toward the fulfillment of God’s prophetic promises and warnings.

Millennium

This brings us to the third and final division of this Psalm, found in the last three verses of our Bibles. ***“Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.”*** This line is repeated, much as lines are repeated in the hymns and spiritual songs that we sing. Grand truths and exhortations to godliness and virtue deserve to be repeated. Is this really much different from that New Testament exhortation and instruction, *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice,”* (Phil. 4:4)? With regard to this, ***“Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee,”*** be sure that you are found obeying and fulfilling it until the Lord comes. If no others seem to be praising your great God and Savior, be sure that you are. It would be worse than silly to say that you desire for others to praise God while you do not praise Him yourself. As we saw in another Psalm already, *“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name,”* (Ps. 103:1). If we believe that every knee shall one day bow and every tongue shall one day confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father, then let us be confessing so daily by both lip and life.

“Then.” Again, we see that this refers to a future time. When God judges the people righteously and governs the nations, and all the people are made to praise Him, as the gospel foretells and forewarns, ***“Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.”*** Sin and the tempter are said to waste the earth. But when Jesus rules and reigns in righteousness and peace over all the earth, ***“then shall the earth yield her increase.”*** Only the One who was made a curse for us on the cross can lift the curse and its effects from off the earth. There was once in the past a prevailing teaching, a false one, that taught that through the spread of the “social gospel,” the earth would be converted back into the paradise that was lost when man sinned in the garden. No, beloved, the Bible does not teach so. This world will continue on its downward course, driven onward by the devil and his false ministers, until the Lord Jesus Christ directly intervenes from heaven, and comes as King of kings and Lord of lords. **Ps. 72 Amos 9:11-15** These times of great peace, prosperity, and plenty will be fulfilled as the prophets foretold them when Jesus reigns over all the nations for a thousand years, and sits upon the throne of His father David, judging and governing the earth.

“And God, even our own God, shall bless us.” There is a hint here of the restoration of Israel. During the Old Testament, they disavowed God, and God temporarily disowned them. They looked to other gods, even the idols of the heathen nations, and worshipped them, seeking help, health, and deliverance from them. When they return to the Lord, and own Him again and are reclaimed by Him, He will bless them. He will again be known and confessed by them as ***“our own God.”***

“God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.” We look forward to that great day! Today we can go from one end of the earth to another, and we will hear God’s name blasphemed and taken in vain. When Jesus sits upon the throne of His glory, ***“all the ends of the earth shall fear him.”*** **Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6**

If ***“God shall bless us,”*** ought we not to desire to be blessed of Him? If ***“all the ends of the earth shall fear him,”*** ought we not even now to obey that instruction to ***“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,”*** (Phil. 2:12)? **Heb. 12:28**