

Evening Sermon Outline – March 7, 2021
“How to Be; and How Not to Be” Psalm 95

I. *How to be: Let us be lively worshippers of the Living and true God –*

1. *What we are called and commanded to do:*

A. *Sing –*

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Psalm 95:1 A

B. *Shout joyfully –*

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1 B

C. *Come to God, draw near Him –*

²Let us come before His presence... Psalm 95:2 A

D. *The coming is to be with thanksgiving –*

with thanksgiving ... Psalm 95:2 B

E. *The command to Shout joyfully, is repeated for emphasis, and modified with, “with Psalms.”*

Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. Psalm 95:2 C

2. *Why we are called and commanded to do this because:*

A. *Our God, the LORD, is the Great God –*

³For the LORD is the great God... Psalm 95:3 A

B. *He is above all gods –*

And the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:3 B

C. *He holds the deep places in His hand –*

⁴In His hand are the deep places of the earth; Psalm 95:4 A

Verse 4.—“*In his hand are the deep places of the earth.*” This affords consolation to those, who for the glory of the divine name are cast into prisons and subterraneous caves; because they know, that even there it is not possible to be the least separated from the presence of

Christ. Wherefore he preserved Joseph when hurled by his brethren into the old pit, and when thrust by his shameless mistress into prison; Jeremiah also when sent down into the dungeon; Daniel among the lions, and his companions in the furnace. So all who cleave to him with a firm faith, he wonderfully keeps and delivers to this day.—*Solomon Gesner, 1559–1605.*

D. *He owns the hills –*

The heights of the hills are His also. Psalm 95:4 B

E. *He also owns the sea –*

The sea is His, for He made it; Psalm 95:5 A

F. *He created the dry land –*

And His hands formed the dry land. Psalm 95:5 B

3. *We are called to worship and bow down and kneel, Ascribing worth to God, humbling ourselves, because:*

⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. Psalm 95:6

⁷For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Psalm 95:7

A. *God is our Maker -*

B. *God is our God -*

C. *We are His people, His sheep –*

What is emphasized here is personal relationship and possession, He is “our” Maker; “our” God; and we are “His” people; “His” sheep – Here more than physical creation is in view, spiritual re-creation, growth, and Christian maturity are also attributed to the work of God

–
¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

When you are at your best, give God the praise!

II. A warning, how not to be, hear this, do not harden your hearts, so DON'T BE Hard Hearted! -

1. Key: ears, listening, to His voice: these things are important to soft hearts -

Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸“Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, ...

Verse 7.—“**Today** if ye will hear his voice.” If we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in.—W. Mason.

- A. This is an emphasis in Scripture, an emphasis of Jesus Christ –

¹⁵ **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!** Matthew 11:15 (NKJV)

⁹ **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”** Matthew 13:9 (NKJV)

¹⁵ **For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’** ¹⁶ **But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;** Matthew 13:15–16 (NKJV)

This is repeated in the other Gospels and in Revelation 2:7, :11, :17, :29 Revelation 3:6, :13, :22 and Revelation 13:22

- B. Right hearing means doing, obeying –

²² **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** James 1:22 (NKJV)

- C. What needs to be heard and done according to Psalm 95 is joyous singing, energetic loud praise and sincere worship of God –

- Loud shouting and energetic worship are weaknesses for Presbyterians, we tend toward thinking worship should be reverent, which it should, but reverent is not equivalent to bored or dead!
- This is the same for us as we grow older!

2. Hard heartedness is even more so, rebellion -

... ⁸“Do not harden your hearts, as in the **rebellion**, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. ¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.’ ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” Psalm 95:8-11

- A. What is in view here is constant complaining which characterized the Jewish people in the wilderness. Constant complaining, though natural to us as sinners, and the norm in an ungodly world, is not the way of Saints, even in difficult situations –

³⁹ **Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? Lamentations 3:39 (NKJV)**

- B. There were other problems with those in the wilderness, including a lack of faith, which results in rebellion and complaining, this from people who had witnessed miracles already –

²⁶ “Nevertheless you would not go up, but **rebelled** against the command of the LORD your God; ²⁷ and you **complained** in your tents, and said, ‘Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. ²⁸ Where can we go up? Our brethren have **discouraged our hearts**, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.”’ Deuteronomy 1:26–28 (NKJV)

- C. Oh, how unlike PRAISE and OBEDIENCE is lack of faith and rebellious complaining! Praise, singing has a wonderful influence, even in the seeming worst of situations -

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” ²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:25–30 (NKJV)

Arnold Brevick