

“An Evangelistic Psalm”  
Psalm 67  
(Preached at Trinity, April 24, 2011)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we come to **Psalm 67** we find a superscription that has been fairly familiar in the Second Book of the Psalter.  
“To the chief musician” – it is a psalm written for use in Israel’s worship  
“On Neginoth” – The fifth psalm so entitled - it was to be played on stringed instruments
  2. Like the previous psalm, although David is not officially designated as the author, few would doubt his authorship of this psalm.
  3. At the heart of this psalm is a benediction – a prayer for God’s blessing upon His people. It finds its source in the blessing of the High Priest in **Numbers 6:24-26**:  
**Numbers 6:24-26** – “The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: <sup>25</sup> The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: <sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”
  4. This psalm can be called a missionary psalm, for David is expressing his great desire that the way of God might be known upon the whole earth.
  5. As we divide this psalm into its divisions I want us to see the blessings of God in three ways:
    - I. God’s blessings upon His elect people – **Verse 1**
    - II. God’s blessings upon the whole earth through the Gospel – **Verses 2-5**
    - III. God’s blessings upon His people in this glorious work - **Verses 6-7**
- I. God’s blessings upon His elect people – **Verse 1**
    - A. David begins with a great prayer of blessing upon God’s people
      1. He uses a word that refers to God’s favor - **חַנּוּן** (found 78 times in OT)
        - a. It is translated in various ways – it can mean “pity” or “compassion”
        - b. The KJV translates it “mercy”  
Most newer translations translate it “gracious”
      2. The important thing to is to understand God Divine favor in the context of our sinfulness. This means it is all by grace and mercy.  
We deserve no favor from God – only His wrath.
      3. Since God’s people have received God’s grace, David is praying for fuller measures of God’s grace.  
May God demonstrate large measures of His graciousness upon us.
    - B. Then David adds, “and bless us” (**בָּרַךְ** barak)
      1. The request for blessing can only come after the mercy of God’s forgiveness. While there is common grace upon all men, David is praying for God’s particular blessings upon His people
      2. God’s blessings are innumerable  
There are spiritual blessings and carnal blessings

- a. By carnal blessings I'm not using the word carnal in a negative sense. I'm talking about the infinite ways God blesses our earthly condition – health, provision, direction, protection. These things, however, must never be the primary focus of our prayer life.
  - b. Spiritual blessings – These are innumerable
 

**Ephesians 1:3** – “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.”

    - Sanctifying grace – increased victory over sin and increase of holiness; of greater influence of the HS – (fruit of the Spirit)
 

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** – “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
    - The grace of increased knowledge. Doctrine always points to Christ.
 

**2 Peter 3:18** – “But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
    - The the grace of giftedness and usefulness in the church (do you take this for granted?)
    - The grace of fruitfulness in our labors – to see people come to Christ.
- C. Finally, David prays – “*and cause his face to shine upon us*”
1. On one hand David is simply speaking of God's Divine favor. In a sense, this is the focus of all three of David's petitions in this first verse.
  2. On the other hand, this is saying much more. David is talking about covenant relationship – God blessing His people with His countenance; His Divine presence. It is to receive His guidance.
  3. To know God is to desire to glorify Him.
    - a. We hate sin, not because of the fires of hell, but because sin is an assault upon God's glory. Sin robs God of His praise.
    - b. To know God is to desire the end of all sin – not just our own. We desire all the world to worship and praise God.
    - c. This is the heart of evangelism
 

Matthew Henry says this also implies a prayer that God's face would shine “*with*” us – with us in our work..
  4. The next four verses turn our attention away from ourselves to the whole world
- II. God's blessings upon the whole earth through the Gospel - **Verses 2-5**
- A. David expresses his desire for the whole world turn to God
    1. That they would follow Him
 

**Psalms 67:2** – “That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.”

2. The “way” of God points to God’s revelation of His mighty deeds  
Moses experienced this  
**Psalm 103:7** He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
    - a. To witness the mighty acts of God stirs holy fear
    - b. We saw this in **Psalm 66**  
**Psalm 66:5** – “Come and see the works of God: *he is terrible in his doing*”  
The word for “terrible” is a verb meaning “to shudder in awe”
  3. To know the the ways of God implies God’s revelation of His holy Law  
**Psalm 27:11** – “Teach me thy way, O LORD”  
<sup>NAS</sup> **Psalm 77:13** – “Thy way, O God, is holy”
  4. The “Way” of God is found through the revelation of His Word  
**Psalm 119:105** – “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
  5. David’s heart was for the whole world to follow God
- B. David further expresses his heart for the whole world in **Verses 3 & 5**  
**Psalm 67:3** – “Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.”
1. David’s passion was that more and more people would praise God. That those presently unconverted would be added to the number of those praising God. This implies that God’s people would carry the truth of redemption to all people.
  2. David prays, ““Let the people praise thee, O God”  
John Piper – “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal in missions. It is the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God’s glory.”
  3. God is worthy of praise – all of creation praises God.
    - a. Jesus expressed this  
**Luke 19:37-40** – “And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; <sup>38</sup> Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. <sup>40</sup> And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”
    - b. This is expressed well in **Psalm 98**  
**Psalm 98:5-8** – “Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. <sup>6</sup> With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. <sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. <sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap *their* hands: let the hills be joyful together”

- c. Again, Psalm 150  
**Psalm 150:6** – “Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”
- d. David said in **Psalm 19**  
**Psalm 19:1** – “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
- 3. Only human beings refuse to praise God.
  - a. Every creature behaves precisely according to the manner God created them, except man.
  - b. Only human beings have raised up in wicked rebellion before God and declared, “We will not bow!”
- 4. David prays – “Let the people praise thee, O God”
- 5. He prays that every knee would bow in submission to the gracious rule of God.  
**Psalm 67:4** – “O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.”
- C. Each of us should examine if this is our heart
  - 1. Do we long to see the nations bow before God?
  - 2. Does it lead you to pray fervently?
    - a. Do you pray for the preaching in your own church that God would move mightily with power and authority?  
Spurgeon: “Do you wonder that the minister cannot preach when the people do not pray? The sinew of the minister’s strength under God is the supplication of his church. We can do anything and everything if we have a praying people around us; but, when our dear friends and fellow-helpers cease to pray, the Holy Ghost hastens to depart, and “Ichabod” is written upon the place of assembly.”  
Pierre C. Marcel in his book “The Relevance of Preaching”  
“When will the believers en masse understand that they are primarily responsible for the preaching which they hear, yes, more than their preachers? If every pastor knew and felt that the congregation was praying and that each member had prayed, that the congregation was supporting him, interceding for him... what preacher would not feel himself a new man and whose preaching would not be transformed? Once again, preaching the word is a function and activity of the Church, not the function and specialty of a man.”
    - b. Do you pray for our city, our state, our nation – the world?  
Do you hunger for a great awakening?  
We came face to face with this in **Psalm 63**  
**Psalm 63:1-2** – “my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; <sup>2</sup> To see thy power and thy glory”
  - 3. Does this fuel your personal evangelism?
    - a. Oh that men might praise God!  
Oh that men might follow after God as their King

- b. Does this drive you to get the Word out to as many as possible?  
Did you speak to anyone about Christ this week?  
How many tracts did you leave behind?

### III. God's blessings upon His people in this glorious work – **Verses 6-7**

- A. David closes the psalm with a note of confidence  
**Psalm 67:6-7** – “*Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. <sup>7</sup> God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.*”
  1. David speaks in terms of a harvest – this is the language of the NT  
**John 4:35-37** – “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. <sup>36</sup> And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.”  
**1 Corinthians 3:6-8** – “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. <sup>8</sup> Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”
  2. Listen to David's confidence -  
“*Then shall the earth yield her increase*”  
“*God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.*”
- B. This is the power of God working through His people
  1. It has been said, if God is sovereign over all things and has elected a people to Himself why should we do missions and evangelism.
    - a. Because this is God's appointed means
    - b. He has set this work before us and then blesses our efforts  
“*God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.*”
  2. God equips us and sends us out with the Gospel  
**Acts 1:8** – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

#### Conclusion:

1. This psalm is glorious to consider. God blesses His people with abundant grace and causes His face to shine upon the. Then He sends them forth into the world.
2. He gives us a passion for His glory and a longing to see all men praise Him.
3. This then drives us forth into the world to seek the salvation of all men and promises us that He will go with us.  
**Matthew 28:20** – “and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.”
4. God then blesses us with His rich blessings.  
Are you a part of this great Kingdom endeavor?