

“He Remembers His Covenant Forever”
Psalm 105
(Preached at Trinity, May 27, 2012)

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. To the unenlightened eye history seems to have no direction. Nations rise and fall. There seems to be no end to war. But the careful observer, however, recognizes that all of the events of world history have a grand design. Everything is unfolding according to God’s perfect redemptive plan. You cannot understand world history apart from the recognition of God’s perfect plan of redemptive history.
 2. As we come to the end of Book Four of the Psalter (Psalms 90-106) the final two psalms deal with God’s covenant faithfulness.
Psalm 105 serves as an encouragement to God’s people, **Psalm 106** is a warning.
Psalm 105 gives a brief history of God’s covenant with Israel from God’s promise to Abraham to their entrance into Canaan and concludes, “Praise ye the Lord.”
Psalm 106 deals with God’s covenant faithfulness even in the midst of Israel’s unfaithfulness and concludes, “Praise ye the Lord.”
 3. **Psalm 105** covers a period of over 500 years of history; history that is a picture of God’s covenant faithfulness.
 4. The key verse in this psalm is **Verse 8**
Psalm 105:8 KJV - "He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations."
 God remembers His covenant.
 This is a psalm of remembrance.
 5. David begins with an exhortation to praise and then he proceeds to give a recap of Israel’s history as God’s covenant people.
Tonight I want to take you on a journey through this psalm as David testifies to God’s faithfulness. **Psalm 105** contains six stanzas. It begins with praise and it ends with praise.
 6. I want to begin with the recap of God’s covenant faithfulness. We’ll begin at **Verse 8**. The Psalmist takes us on a tour through the history of Israel and demonstrates God’s covenant faithfulness.
The glory of God’s covenant faithfulness leads us to abounding praise.
- I. God’s covenant with Abraham - **Verses 8-15**
- A. The Psalmist begins by reminding us of God’s covenant with Abraham
 1. Covenant is at the heart of this psalm. The word occurs three times in **Verses 8-10**. David is giving us a historical recap of God’s covenant.
 2. God made his covenant with Abraham but remembered His covenant with Abraham’s posterity, Isaac, Jacob who was Israel
Psalm 105:10 KJV - "And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel *for* an everlasting covenant:"
 3. He promised them Canaan as their inheritance – and He remembered

- B. God's hand was upon them
1. They were weak and few in number, yet God protected them – **Verse 12. Psalm 105:14-15 KJV** - "He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes; ¹⁵ *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."
 2. No one can touch us unless God allows it
 3. Spurgeon: "Even so at this present time the remnant according to the election of grace cannot be destroyed, nay, nor so much as touched, without the divine consent. Against the church of Christ the gates of hell cannot prevail. In all this we see reasons for giving thanks unto the Lord"
- II. Israel's affliction in Egypt – **Verses 16-25**
- A. The psalmist describes the Providence of God in bringing Israel into captivity
1. Joseph being sold into captivity and the famine in Egypt was by the providence of God – **Verses 16-17**
 2. Joseph's trial continues until God spoke
Psalm 105:19 KJV - "Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him."
 3. The arrival of Israel into Egypt and their 400 year servitude was by God's design
- B. God ordains many afflictions in the lives of His people so that they might be strengthened and He might be glorified
1. We must never forget God's absolute rule over all things and all people
Psalm 105:25 KJV - "He turned their heart to hate his people"
 2. God tries us and tests us
 3. His redeeming grace is always powerful
- III. God's faithfulness in deliverance – **Verses 26-38**
- A. Israel suffered in captivity, but God remembered His covenant
1. He raised up Moses
Psalm 105:26 KJV - "He sent Moses his servant; *and* Aaron whom he had chosen."
 2. Notice the words, "He sent" in **Verse 26** – Compare with **Verses 17, 28**
God reigns – **Verse 29** – "He turned their waters into blood"
Verse 31 - "He spake" **Verse 32** – "He gave" etc, etc.
- B. By the strong hand of God He delivered them – God remembered His covenant
Psalm 105:37 KJV - "He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and *there was not one feeble person among their tribes.*"
1. God's greatest deliverance was demonstrated in sending forth His Son
 2. He has delivered us from sin, Satan, death
 3. God is worthy of all praise
- IV. God's faithfulness of providing in the wilderness – **Verses 39-41**
- A. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, yet God remembered His covenant
1. **Verse 39** – He led them
 2. **Verse 40** – He fed them
 3. **Verse 41** – He provided water for them
- B. God remained faithful to His covenant people

1. He continues to provide for us
2. He leads us, feeds us with rich spiritual provision

V. God faithfulness in fulfilling His promise – **Verses 42-45**

- A. The psalmist describes the reason for God's faithfulness
Psalm 105:42 KJV - "For he remembered his holy promise, *and* Abraham his servant."
 1. "He remembered his holy promise"
 2. His people were filled with joy and gladness and God rejoiced in them
 3. This is the great blessing of God's covenant. He has rejoiced in us that we might rejoice in Him.
- B. God fulfilled His promise
Psalm 105:44 KJV - "And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labour of the people;"
 1. God is always faithful
 2. God has fulfilled His promise to us – we are His people
- C. The purpose:
Psalm 105:45 KJV - "That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws."
 1. Why did God save us? – He didn't choose us to merely make us a select people but He chose us that we might be holy.
Ephesians 1:3-4 KJV - "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"
Romans 8:4 KJV - "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."
 2. And what is our response: "Praise ye the LORD."
 3. This then brings us to the first stanza:

II. David begins where He ends—with an exhortation to praise – **Verses 1-7**

Psalm 105 begins with nine imperatives. This is one of the greatest exhortations to praise and worship God. These imperatives speak to us. They command us.

- A. The first three are in **Verse 1**. These commands are the imperatives of the Gospel commanded of all people. **Richard Baxter** had them inscribed on the pulpit from which he preached at Kidderminster.

Psalm 105:1 KJV - "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

1. "O give thanks unto the LORD"
 - a. The problem of lost humanity is they fail to recognize the goodness of God. They are not thankful for His rich blessings.
Romans 1:21 KJV - "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

- b. They think they deserve all of the good things they enjoy, as if it was their right. And they complain loudly when good things do not come.
- c. A person only comes to Christ when he sees himself as unworthy of God's blessings. He will only submit to God when he sees him as worthy of all glory and worthy of praise and service.
Romans 2:4 ESV - "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"
- d. Remember, the Hebrew word for "thanks" and "praise" is the same- תַּדַּוּ
Isaiah 25:1 KJV - "O LORD, thou *art* my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful *things*; *thy* counsels of old *are* faithfulness *and* truth."
2. "call upon his name"
Romans 10:13 KJV - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
 To call upon Christ is to trust fully in Him
3. "make known his deeds among the people."
 Declare His glory unto others
- B. The **fourth imperative** is to sing -
Psalm 105:2 KJV - "Sing unto him, sing psalms (Lit: sing praises) unto him"
1. God's people are to sing praises
2. This has been the case from the beginning. They sang praises in the Temple, we sing praises in the church
Colossians 3:16 KJV - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
3. Do you have a song in your heart?
 Moses - **Exodus 15:2** – "The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he *is* become my salvation: he *is* my God,"
Psalm 30:4 – "Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."
Psalm 95:1 – "O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."
Psalm 104:33 – "I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."
- C. The **fifth imperative** is talk - to share His wonderful works
Psalm 105:2 KJV - "talk ye of all his wondrous works."
Psalm 105:2 NAS - "Speak of all His wonders."
1. Men love to talk of themselves:
 Their activities, their plans, their accomplishments, their families, their dreams
2. We are to talk of God – of His greatness, of His wonderful works
3. Listen to Paul's testimony
1 Corinthians 2:2 KJV - "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

4. Charles Wesley wrote:
 O for a thousand tongues to sing
 my great Redeemer's praise,
 the glories of my God and King,
 the triumphs of his grace!
 My gracious Master and my God,
 assist me to proclaim
 and spread through all the earth abroad
 the honors of thy Name.

- D. The **sixth imperative** is glory in Him
Psalm 105:3 KJV - "Glory ye in his holy name"
 1. The word is לְלַחֵם which is the word used at the end.
 2. Praise Him, glory in Him, boast in Him
- E. The **seventh imperative** is rejoice
Psalm 105:3 KJV - "let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD."
 1. This speaks of gladness and joy
 2. Our hearts are filled with joy over the things that fully satisfy
- D. The **eighth imperative** is seek
Psalm 105:4 KJV - "Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face
 evermore."
 1. This is a lifelong activity – seek. Our hearts should long for Him because
 we know that we will only be satisfied in Him.
 2. And we are assured of finding Him
- E. The **ninth imperative** is remember
Psalm 105:5 KJV - "Remember his marvellous works that he hath done;
 his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"
 We are prone to forget

Conclusion:

1. Our worship is weak because we are prone to forget. Our praises are silenced because we fail to remember His glory.
2. James Montgomery Boice: "We would be far more thankful people and more godly than we are if we would merely take time to remember God's many mercies to us, and not forget them.
3. Redemptive history is a story of God's faithfulness. May we not forget. And may we not fail to praise Him.