

“Unwavering in Praise”
Psalm 108
(Preached at Trinity, June 24, 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. **Psalm 108** is a psalm of David. It finds him in the midst of terrible adversity. His enemies were ready to swallow him up and he cries out:
Psalm 108:6 KJV - "save *with* thy right hand, and answer me."
Psalm 108:12 KJV - "Give us help from trouble"
2. We also find, however, that David's adversity was by God's design—nothing happens without purpose.
Psalm 108:10-11 KJV - "Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom? ¹¹ *Wilt* not *thou*, O God, who hast cast us off? and wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?"
3. But no matter what the adversity, no matter how severe the trial David's heart remained steadfast.
Psalm 108:1 KJV - "O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory."
4. **Psalm 108** is a compilation of the endings of two previous psalms: **Psalm 57:7-11** and **Psalm 60:5-12**. Some commentaries simply refer back to the previous psalms. But I think it would be a mistake to simply dismiss this psalm. **Psalm 108** is a psalm of praise from start to finish.
The glorious thing about this psalm is the focus. Although it stands on the backdrop of adversity this isn't the primary focus. The focus is on God who receives all praise.
Psalm 108:3 KJV - "I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations."
5. The first time we read these words of praise are in **Psalm 57** where we find David in the midst of his enemies and these words flow forth as the result of faith that God will come to his aid, but here we find the words of praise coming from one who has already weathered many battles and is now looking forward with confidence to the battles ahead.
6. The focus of this psalm is praise. Tonight I want to look at David's heart even in the midst of his enemies. He declares, "Oh God, my heart shall be steadfast in praise."
I want to look at David's unwavering praise.
 - I. The priority of praise – **Verse 2**
 - II. The proclamation of praise – **Verse 3**
 - III. The particulars of praise – **Verse 4**
 - IV. The pageantry of praise – **Verses 5-13**

I. The **priority** of praise – **Verses 1-2**

- A. The backdrop of this psalm is adversity
1. David had faced many domestic enemies
David described their strength in **Psalm 57**
Psalm 57:4 KJV - "My soul *is* among lions: *and* I lie *even* among them that are set on fire, *even* the sons of men, whose teeth *are* spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword."
 2. Time after time God had proven Himself mighty on David's behalf
- B. David's heart was now fixed on praising God
- Psalm 108:1 KJV** - "O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory."
1. Let the enemies come. Let them do their worst. Still, I will praise God. Still I will trust Him.
"I will sing and give praise"
 2. This was the heart of Job
 - a. In the midst of his trial his own wife discouraged him. In a great demonstration of faithlessness she encouraged Job to forsake God.
Job 2:9-10 KJV - "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."
 - b. Job's response to her:
"Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"
Job 13:15 KJV - "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him"
 3. Compare this with those who do not know God
Joshua 5:1 KJV - "And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which *were* on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which *were* by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel."
- C. So David began his day with praise
1. Before anything else his life was filled with praise
Psalm 108:2 KJV - "Awake, psaltery and harp: I *myself* will awake early."
 2. "Rise and shine all you instruments of praise!"
"I myself will rise early in order to praise my God."
 3. "I will sing and give praise, even with my glory"
The Hebrew word is כְּבוֹד which means . . . "glory"
 - a. Moses used the word when he asked God, "Show me thy glory"
 - b. The NASB translates it "soul" here. Out of 200 times the NASB translates it "soul" twice – but there is another word for soul.
 - c. David is expressing the distinction of man over the animals
We were created in the image of God. We were created with glory.
We were created with the ability to praise God! Only man has a tongue of praise.

- d. Spurgeon: "It is my glory to be able to speak and not to be a dumb animal, therefore my voice shall show forth thy praise; it is my glory to know God and not to be a heathen, and therefore my instructed intellect shall adore thee; it is my glory to be a saint and no more a rebel, therefore the grace I have received shall bless thee; it is my glory to be immortal and not a mere brute which perisheth, therefore my inmost life shall celebrate thy majesty."
4. Is the priority of your life to praise God? Does it drive you? Do you awaken to praise Him?

II. The proclamation of praise – Verse 3

A. For David, his praise was very public

Psalm 108:3 KJV - "I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people"

1. David resolved that when he marched into battle he would be praising God
2. When he ruled from his throne he would be praising God
3. When it was popular and when it was not he would be praising God
4. David's own wife turned against him for praising God

2 Samuel 6:16 KJV - "And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart."

2 Samuel 6:21 NAS - "So David said to Michal, "*It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD.*"

B. Christianity knows nothing of a private faith

1. There is a large group of people today that when you ask them of their experience with Christ announce boldly, "My faith is something very private." That is the antithesis of Christianity. An important aspect of Christianity is a public emphasis
 - There is a unique community of faith
 - And there is the public witness of the Gospel
2. We begin with Baptism which is a public proclamation
3. Our life is a proclamation of Christ

Matthew 10:32-33 KJV - "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."
4. Wherever we go we should carry the praises of God with us without shame and without reservation.
5. Here in the South almost everyone professes to be a Christian. But it bears no reality in their lives. For example, how often do you see someone eating at a restaurant pause to praise God before eating?

III. The particulars of praise – Verse 4

Psalm 108:4 KJV - "For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds."

- A. We praise God for His covenant love - **חֶסֶד**
1. He has chosen us as His own possessions
 2. He has set His infinite love upon us
 3. He has ordained all good things for us
 4. Shall He not protect us from our enemies and deliver us from evil?
- B. We praise God for His steadfastness - **אֱמֶת**
1. The word means: firmness, faithfulness, sureness, reliability
 2. The word is also often translated truth in the sense of trustworthiness - When choosing out men to serve as elders Moses looked for men with this quality.
Exodus 18:21 ESV - "Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens."
Joshua 24:14 NAS - ""Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD." **ESV**: "faithfulness"
- C. These twin qualities are expressed over and over in Scripture
Genesis 24:27 ESV - "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen."
Exodus 34:6 ESV - "The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,"
Exodus 34:6 KJV - "abundant in goodness and truth"
1. We should continually praise God for His unwavering love and faithfulness towards His elect people.
 2. We are sinfully negligent when we fail to praise Him for these infinite blessings.

IV. The pageantry of praise – Verses 5-13

Beginning with **Verse 5** David begins to speak as one overwhelmed with the great confidence in God's mighty hand of deliverance. His response is a pageantry of praise.

Psalm 108:5 KJV - " Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;"

Psalm 108:7 KJV - "God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice"

- A. This comes forth from David's confidence – I am the Lord's beloved
Psalm 108:6 KJV - "That thy beloved may be delivered: save *with* thy right hand, and answer me."
1. This is our great confidence – I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine
Song of Solomon 6:3 KJV - " I *am* my beloved's, and my beloved is mine"

2. David's experience with God had brought him to a place of confidence
Verse 7 - "I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth."
Verse 8 - "Gilead *is* mine; Manasseh *is* mine; Ephraim also *is* the strength of mine head; Judah *is* my lawgiver;"
Verse 9 - "Moab *is* my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; over Philistia will I triumph."
 3. And what was the source of such confidence?
Psalm 108:10-11 KJV - "Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom? ¹¹ *Wilt* not *thou*, O God"
- B. But listen! Even when it seems that all is lost. Even when it seems like God has cast us off, He is still there defending us.
Psalm 108:11 NAU - "Have not You Yourself, O God, rejected us? And will You not go forth with our armies, O God?"
1. David's faith was to trust God even when it seemed that God had cast him off
 2. This is our great confidence – we trust Him even when we don't see His immediate deliverance.
Romans 8:35-37 KJV - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."
 3. Even when it seems that all is lost there is still but one place to turn. There is still but one source of confidence. We will trust in God
Psalm 108:12-13 KJV - "Give us help from trouble: for vain *is* the help of man. ¹³ Through God we shall do valiantly: for he *it is that* shall tread down our enemies."
 4. David had armies. He had mighty fighting warriors. But these were not the source of his confidence.
Psalm 20:7 KJV - "Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
 5. One of the sad accounts in the history of Israel was the end of the life of King Asa. He had served God in righteousness and God had continually proved Himself mighty.
 - a. At one point the Ethiopians came against him with an army of over a million men. Asa had less than 600 thousand.
 Asa's words:
2 Chronicles 14:11 KJV - " And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, *it is* nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou *art* our God; let not man prevail against thee."
 - b. Yet, Baasha, king of Israel came up against him he looked to Benhadad as the source of his confidence.
 God's word to Asa:

2 Chronicles 16:8-9 KJV - "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars."

6. David's heart was fixed. I will trust in the living God and praise Him in all of His glory.

Conclusion:

1. We may not be involved in literal warfare. We might not engage in actual battles of life and death. But we are engaged in very real spiritual battles. And we are sometimes engaged in very real and fearful situations that would cause most to tremble.
2. For those who trust in God all fear turns to praise.
Like King David we can go to sleep at night in confidence and wake up in praise.
3. May we not put our confidence in the feeble strength of this world. May we rise up in praise of God for His mighty power and boundless love for His people.