

**THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD MERITS
OUR THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE**

Psalm 100

Intro: For those of you who are visiting with us today, let me explain what God me started in this series on the Psalms.

Every year here at Trinity Bible Church we have what we call a Bible Memory Program. It is a period of twelve weeks, which begins about the middle of January, in which we memorize seven verses a week. For those who do not want to memorize seven, they can choose three of the seven, and for those who do not want to do three, we have one verse a week that they can memorize. We meet in small groups in homes, and repeat the verses to each other. It is always a time of great blessing and gives us a good opportunity for good fellowship. I think that I can truly say that we all make mistakes, but we try to be word perfect in memorizing because it is the Word of God that we are memorizing, and we believe that the Bible is verbally inspired. By that we mean that the writers of Scripture were guided by the Holy Spirit as to the very words which they used, and we want to learn the God's Word as it is.

I think that there are many verses of Scripture that we all have learned just by hearing them over and over again. Psalm 23 is probably an example of that, as is John 3:16, or Genesis 1:1.

This year we learned all or parts of Psalms 1, 5, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 34, and 37. Other years we learned the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5, 6 and 7. One year we had verses chosen on the Sovereign Grace of God. One series that was a great favorite was on the Attributes of God. One year we memorized verses from the book of Proverbs. We have learned whole books like Paul's letter to the Ephesians. All in all, it has been very profitable for us.

I felt the Lord leading me to speak on the Psalms we were memorizing, and so that has been my series for the past 24 weeks. My message this morning is #25. So when I had finished the Psalms we were working on, I had been so blessed in my own heart, that I decided, and I trust that it was the leading of the Lord, that I would continue on with the Psalms. For years I have done what others here at Trinity do; I read a Psalm a day. In the case of Psalm 119 I take three days. So from my reading I have chosen other Psalms to preach and teach. There has been no particular

Psalm 100 (2)

order to them. They have been Psalms that have been a special blessing to me from my own reading. Last Sunday I concluded Psalm 139 with two messages. Before that, Psalm 130. Before that, Psalm 121. For today I am going back to Psalm 100. So now I am not following a particular order. I am trying to follow the leading of the Lord with Psalms that have really spoken to my heart.

I think that we can all say that the Psalms have been a great blessing to us, particularly in times of trial. But often as in the case of Psalm 100, it may be one of those Psalms that you have learned just by hearing it over and over again. That is the way it has been with me. The Psalms were originally written for Israel. They made up Israel's hymnal. But in the NT after the beginning of the Church, the body of Christ, the Apostle Paul exhorted believers as we read in Ephesians 5:19 with these words:

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

This verse tells us two things about singing psalms in the Church. One is that we are speaking to each other in congregational singing. The other is that we are singing to the Lord. And it is important in both instances that we are to be singing from our hearts. I have read that there was a time in the Church of Scotland when it was considered heresy to sing anything but the psalms.

Now whether or not a particular part of the Bible was written *to us*, it was all written *for us*. That is, we are to profit from all of the Bible. Yesterday morning in our men's prayer meeting I asked the men to read Nehemiah chapter 9. It had to do with the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from exile, but it was rich in its teaching about the mercy and grace and forgiving heart of God.

We don't know who wrote this Psalm, and so we don't know when it was written. It is simply called "a Psalm of praise." And since praise for God is to be one of the outstanding characteristics of the people of God, there probably were many occasions when this Psalm was used.

We know that it was not written just to some individual because the verbs are plural, and we have in verse 3 the words "ye" and "us" and "we." So in our situation here this morning I can tell you that it is a Psalm which is addressed to all of us. And we read it not just for each other, and for God Himself, but the last part of verse 1 tells us that this is our message to all the people of the earth.

Psalm 100 (3)

Now when you read a Psalm like this, you can see that the Lord wants our relationship to Him to be a happy relationship, a very happy relationship. Notice what verse 1 says. (Read it.) And then verse followed with the same emphasis in verse 2. Serving the Lord is not just doing something in the church. Serving the Lord is obeying the Lord, doing His will, keeping His commandments. Doing God's will (which means living in obedience to His Word) is to be done with gladness. That is what Psalm 1 tells us that make a happy life. And then notice the words, "Come before His presence with singing." Now we know that the Lord is everywhere. He is omnipresent. We learned that (if we didn't know it before) in Psalm 139. But when we come together as a church, just as the Jews met together in their gatherings, the presence of the Lord is experienced in a very special way.

Now if we are to come before His presence with singing maybe that means that instead of waiting until 11 o'clock to come in and sit down, or stand, and sing, we need to meet outside (if it isn't raining) and come into this room singing the praises of the Lord.

For about ten years I had the privilege of teaching at the old Multnomah School of the Bible. And each year different faculty members would go out with the school choir to hold meetings in churches that were interested in Multnomah. And one thing the choir would do was to come in as the service started singing. Often they would come in and stand around the congregation singing. I could have spoken without any preparation in those times. I would love to know how the Jews used to do this.

Most of you know that this past year I taught the books of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Tuesday Bible Class. Ezra had to do with the rebuilding of the Temple after the people had returned from captivity, and Nehemiah tells about the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem. When the wall was finished and they were in the process of dedicating it and praising the Lord, you learn from Nehemiah 12 that they had singers on the wall! It was a time of great rejoicing over the way that God had blessed them. A wall is not necessarily a place for a choir, but it was then!

When we get to verse 3 the Lord had already told them through the writer of this Psalm, three things that He wanted them to do: one in verse 1, and two in verse 2. (Point out what they are.) Now we come to a fourth one in verse 3, but there are many parts to it, and all three have to do with the LORD (all in caps) – which is the way Jehovah is indicated in the KJV.

Psalm 100 (4)

Notice LORD in verse 1, verse 2, here in verse 3, and finally in verse 5.

The LORD, Jehovah, is God. That is point #1. He made us – that is point #2. “We are His people – point #3. And the fourth could be joined with the third, but I am going to make it #4 – “We are . . . the sheep of His pasture.” These are foundational truths upon which all of the people of God stand whether we are thinking about OT saints or NT saints.

Now the point is this. These are eternal facts, undeniable truths that we need to “know.” So we have some important truths about Jehovah that we all need to learn and to stand on. And I think that we will all see that these are truths that ought to make us sing as well as do what we are told to do in verse 4.

I doubt if it comes as a surprise to any of you, at least most of you, that, first of all, the LORD is God. If you study theology you will find that this is what theologians rightly call, Theology Proper. This in the language of seminaries is Theology 101. You have no right to call yourself a Christian if you don’t believe this.

Not only is the LORD, God, but He is the only God! And when I say that I have reference to the Triune God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The title LORD speak of God as ever-living, and never-changing. What was in the beginning, He still is, and He always will be. You and I change, but the Lord never does. Hebrews speaking of Christ and claiming Deity for Him, says, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever”! See Hebrews 13:8. Or we could just as truly say, “God the Father the same, yesterday, and today, and forever.” And the same is true of the Holy Spirit. This is the truth that is behind the many times our Lord Jesus Christ said when He was here on earth, “I am . . .” He did not say, “I used to be,” or, “Some day I will be,” but always, “I am.”

Now we learn that this unchanging and ever-living LORD is “God” we mean that He is the only God, and inherent in the title “God” is the idea of power! This is the meaning of the first statement in the Bible which tells us that “in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. That required power, divine power, sovereign power. Angels did not have that power. The Devil, a fallen angel, did not have that power. There is only one God and He alone has that power. And let me say again, Remember that when we speak of God we have Three Persons in mind – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 100 (5)

Now if we are to know these things, there is only one place to learn them, and that is in the Bible you have in your hand this morning. The verb “know” means get into your Bible and learn these things.

But let me hurry on. There is more that we need to know. “It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” Because one word in this statement can be read two ways, some versions of the Bible read here, “and we are His.” God made us for Himself.” We did not just evolve, we are not an accident of chance. God made us, and “we are His people.” We were the crowning point of all creation when God made the first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve. So God is our Creator. We didn’t make ourselves. We are creatures created by God in His own image.

Finally, notice we are “the sheep of His pasture.” Here the Psalmist had to be speaking about salvation. This goes back to Psalm 23, doesn’t it? And John 10 applies here. In that chapter we find these words where the Lord said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto the eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand (John 10:27-28).

Now let me ask you, Do you know these truths? I don’t mean just that you have read some of this in the Bible. But I am asking you if you know the transforming power of these truths down deep in your heart. All of this takes us right to Christ. Our Good Shepherd gave His life on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to make us His sheep. Some expositors say the Psalm 100 is the last of ten Messianic Psalms that are grouped together here (Psalms 91-100). Messiah is the OT term for Christ. The Bible teaches that there is only one God, one Creator, one Savior. These are truths that will bring us peace and keep us peaceful in a world where there really is no peace.

Knowing all of this, and knowing that every bit of it is true, we should not be surprised to read what is written in verse 4. The figure here has to do with what the children of Israel did in the OT, but it has to do with the way we come to church, and the way we live day by day as we enjoy the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and of our heavenly Father by the power of the Holy Spirit. Verse 4 tells how knowing the truth of verse three, how we are give thanks and praise continually to God. There is not a part of verse 3 that we deserve. It is all by the grace of God.

So verse tells us that we are to come to the Lord even this morning with

Psalm 100 (6)

our thanksgiving and praise. We are not just to be thankful, but to be thankful to Him, and to bless His Name, His holy Name. Let us ask ourselves the question, How long has it been since we came to the Lord, not to ask Him for anything, but just to thank Him, praise Him, and to bless His Name for all that He has already given to us through His Son and made known to us by the Holy Spirit.

I repeat this is not just what we are to do when we come to church. By all means do it here. But this is the way we are to live.

Now you wouldn't think that after all of this the Psalmist would have to say what he did in verse 5. He is answering the question, "Why?" And it is not only, Why should I live my life praising Him?", but, "Why would He do all of this for me?"

I have already reminded you that we don't deserve what we are to know about the Lord and all He has done for us. Such blessings are not on sale in any church. I pray for a Catholic family that they will understand that salvation is not in the Catholic church. But I also have to say that salvation is not in Trinity Bible Church. There is nothing in the Bible that says you can be saved if you go to church, any church. Salvation is not in baptism, or church membership, or in doing good works, or giving to the church. Salvation is in Christ, and Christ came because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The answer is in verse 5: "For the Lord is good." I have a NT that my Dad gave to me back on July 6, 1940, and I have made a lot of notes in it. But I was looking at Psalm 100 in it the other day, and I noticed in the margin of verse 5 some Bible teacher whom I trusted told me that "For God is good" means that "God is love." So this is the OT version of what the Apostle John recorded for us in 1 John 4:8, 16. Love includes His mercy, doesn't it? And love includes His faithfulness (which is called truth here in verse 5). Love is tenderness, compassion, grace and graciousness. Jesus Christ died on the Cross for us just for one reason, that God loved us and sent His Son to die for us. There was no one else who was at all qualified to be our Savior.

Concl: I know that most of you understand what this Psalm means because you are trusting the Lord Jesus as your Savior. How faithful have you been in thanking Him, praising Him, blessing His

Psalm 100 (7)

Name, because He has saved you? Let all of us be more faithful in remembering to thank the Lord for saving us. Once a day is just a minimum. But what about you who do not know the Lord. Has God been speaking to you through His Word today? That is probably why you are here this morning. The Lord Jesus said, “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). If the Lord has been dealing with you this morning, come in faith to Christ, believe in Him, and He will save you right where you are.

Closing verse: Psalm 34:8

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man
that trusteth in him.