

PSALM 100

Intro: This is the only Psalm which is called, “A Psalm of praise.”

It is generally thought that this Psalm was written by King David, and one reason for this is that part of the last verse of Psalm 100 seems to have originated with David when he wrote at least three Psalms (96, 105, 106) to commemorate the time when he brought the ark of the covenant from the house of Obed-edom to Jerusalem. Then you can see in 1 Chron. 16:34 that he added this verse at the close of what he wrote.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever (1 Chron. 16:34).

And this is what we have at the end of Psalm 100.

And then it was used when Solomon completed the Temple. He used it both before and after the great prayer that Solomon prayed when the Temple was dedicated. See 2 Chron. 5:13 and 7:3.

Even Ezra used it when the people praised the Lord after the builders had laid the foundation of the Temple after they returned from exile. See Ezra 3:11.

And then you will find it at the beginning of Psalm 106, at the beginning of Psalm 107, twice in Psalm 118, verses 1 and 29, and then once at the beginning of Psalm 136 where every verse celebrates that God’s “mercy endureth for ever.”

Throughout Psalm 100, with one exception, four times the Lord is referred to as “the Lord,” *Jehovah* – the ever-living, unchanging, eternal One. The one exception is in verse 3 where we are told that this Lord “is God,” our Creator, the One Who has made us “His people” and “the sheep of His pasture.”

And so David was intent on making those who sing this Psalm understand the great contrast that there is between the Lord and His people. And that contrast is one point that David made to prompt our hearts to praise the Lord. And so the Psalm is address particularly to those people on the earth who know and belong to this grand and glorious Lord. But you will notice that it is not limited to the people of Israel, but David called upon “all . . . lands” to join in praising the Lord. So, in a way, David was anticipating the time when all of the earth would resound to the praise of the

Lord.

We can the Psalm is in these three ways:

- 1) In verses 1, 2, and 4 he tells us what to do.
- 2) In verse 3 he tells us how we are to do it – that is, remembering that He is God, and we are His lowly sheep, but constantly the objects of His care and protection and guidance.
- 3) Finally, in verse 5 we are told why we are to do what he wants us to do.

I. WHAT WE ARE TO DO (Psa. 100:1, 2, 4).

“Noise” is probably not the best translation for our generation because in many churches about all you hear is “noise.” What the word means is that we are to shout as people do when there is a great victory to be celebrated, or when people become so overwhelmed with the blessing of the Lord that they have to shout for joy. It speaks of overflowing joy, abounding joy, irrepressible joy.

This is all emphasized in verse 2. Giving thanks to the Lord is one way that we serve the Lord, and it is a way of service that brings particular joy to the heart of the Lord because He knows that we are not only conscious of His blessings, but that we recognize where our blessings have come from.

The latter part of verse 2 tells us that we are to “come” to the Lord. In verse 4 we “enter” into His gates and His courts with our thanksgivings and our praise so that we can speak directly to Him “and bless His Name.”

II. HOW WE ARE TO DO IT (Psa. 100: 3).

We do it remembering that “He is God,” the Mighty One, the One Who made us, the One Who saved us (“His people), and the One Who constantly cares for us (His “sheep,” “the sheep of His pasture). So we come in great humility with a deep sense of our unworthiness.

III. WHY WE ARE TO DO IT (Psa. 100:5).

We come because of three great characteristics of our God:

- 1) He is good.
- 2) He is merciful.

3) He is faithful.

“Good” means many things. It means He is loving, kind, gracious, good as opposed to evil, right as opposed to wrong, bountiful, good humored and happy. He is beautiful to us in every way. We would make no change in Him if we could.

“Mercy” means that we are to take all that we can say about the goodness of God, and know that the Lord is motivated by an eager and earnest desire to manifest His goodness to us. He is zealous to fulfil all of His good purposes toward us. So we don’t have to try to convince Him to be good to us. He is always good, and He takes every opportunity to show us His goodness.

“His truth endureth to all generations.” “Truth” here means His faithfulness. Paul told Timothy that the Lord would be faithful to Him even in those times when Timothy might not be trusting the Lord as He should.

Concl: Where would we be today if it were not for the goodness of the Lord, for His mercy, and for His faithfulness? Is it any wonder that the Apostle Paul said, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thess. 5:18). Sometimes the burden of life get heavy upon us. But even there James tells us that we are to count it all joy when we fall into many trials. Why – is it because we like trouble. No. But it is because we know that the Lord is using our trials to make us more like our Savior.

So let us continue to be thankful all through the day today, and every day that the Lord gives to us. Psalm 100 is just as true of our God today as it was approximately 3,000 years ago when it was first written.