

Series: Psalm
Title: Five Reasons for Joy
Text: Ps 100: 1-5
Date: Feb 21, 2022
Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 100: 1: «A Psalm of praise.» **Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3: Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5: For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

This could be called the happiest Psalm. It is titled "*A Psalm of Praise.*" It begins with this command from God to his people.

Psalm 100: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

In all lands, wherever God's child dwells in whom God dwells, to whom God has revealed himself, God creates a new heart of joy. It is not natural to sinful flesh to sing unto the Lord. But it is a natural thing to those who have supernaturally been created anew in heart. God commands us in heart make a "*joyful noise unto the LORD.*" When he has filled the heart with joy that is what his child does.

In Nehemiah's time there was a feast day. Is it not a feast day anytime we come into the presence of the Lord to hear the gospel of Son? But on that feast day when the people heard the word of the LORD they began to mourn.

Nehemiah 8: 10: Then [Nehemiah] said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this day is holy* unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

The joy of the LORD is from Christ our Lord. He said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." It is joy in God. It is the joy he gives his people in the heart by making us behold Christ and our complete salvation accomplished by him. Beholding Christ and all the blessings he has given us in Christ, we have joy. And we have *every* reason to "*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD.*" And we have no reason not to.

Psalm 100: 2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

The thought of "serving" is unhappy work to men trying to earn a righteousness and holiness before God. Even coming into his house is a work. They think in their hearts, "Oh, we *have* to go. We *have* to keep holy day. We *have* to do this. We *have* to do that."

But to those Christ has made righteous by his precious blood, those in whom he has created a holy heart, know we are *accepted of holy God in the Beloved.* Therefore, we are constrained in the new heart by his love for us. Therefore serving him and our brethren is a privilege of his grace. We say, "Oh, we *get* to come to his house! We *get* to serve the Lord! We *get* to serve his people!"

It is not a job or a duty to serve someone you love. Beholding Christ and all that he has done for his people makes us freely serve him with joy. Christ love for us makes his "yoke is easy, and his burden light." (Mt 11: 30).

Psalm 100: 4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

We have a lot to be thankful for because "in every thing ye are enriched by him" (1 Cor 1: 5). So "In every thing give thanks:" (1 Thess 5:18) Exalting his name with praise and thanksgiving—giving his Son all the glory—this is the sacrifice God is pleased with. We even give him this glory "by him."

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

Proposition: He gives us five reasons for joy and gladness; these are five reasons to be thankful unto the LORD and to bless his name.

BE JOYFUL BECAUSE HE IS GOD

Psalm 100: 3: Know ye that the LORD he is God:

This is reason enough to sing with joy. No other is needed. The LORD, he is God. This is so of the Lord Jesus. The man Christ Jesus is the great God and our Savior. He is the true God and eternal life. Christ Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. He is God manifest in the flesh. In the Lord Jesus is "the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

The only cause of unhappiness and the surest way to be unhappy, is to refuse to believe on Christ that you might have life. Refusing to believe on Christ to accomplish grace in the hearts of his people is the sure way to unhappiness.

Have you ever thought of God as happy? The gospel is called, "the glorious gospel of the blessed God." (1 Tim 1: 11). Blessed means happy. The gospel is glad tidings of good things from our blessed God. God is self-sufficient, having need of nothing. He is absolutely sovereign. God does as he will in heaven and in earth and none can resist him or question him. Yet, holy God has chosen to bless a people in his Son, Christ Jesus. He is the fountain of all blessings to his people. That is why the gospel is the message of glad tidings. It is the message of salvation by the triune God in Christ Jesus.

Each sinner born of the living Word are joyful and blessed. We worship and serve the Lord with gladness. Unhappy men and women are those whose hearts and minds are enmity against him! Unregenerate sinners do not want God to be God. Oh, let us be joyful that we know that God is God.

BE JOYFUL BECAUSE THE LORD CREATED US

Psalm 100: 3:...it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Do so because "it is he that hath made us, and now we ourselves." This is so of all men. God made the first man, Adam, out of the dust and breathed into him life. All of us came from Adam. Naturally speaking, God made us, not we ourselves. "In him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17: 28). "He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). Every man ought to fall down and worship him because "*he made us, and not we ourselves.*"

Yet, this is especially so for his particular people because Christ has created us in his righteousness. God created us in eternity in his purpose of grace by choosing us in Christ. But after that we fell and lost his image in Adam. But God the Father had already purposed to save his elect in Christ. So he sent forth his Son to create a people in his righteousness and holiness after his image.

It took the Son of God taking flesh, without sin. It took the Son fulfilling all righteousness for us. It took the Son purging the sins of his people by his death on the cross. It took the Son conquering the devil, sin, and death on our behalf by his life, death, and resurrection. It took the Spirit begetting us again by the incorruptible Seed, the living Word. This he did for each child that believes on Christ alone for salvation. We joy and rejoice because "*it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.*" The cause of all unhappiness is rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no joy in trying to make ourselves righteous and holy before God. But true joy is rejoicing that Christ made us, not we ourselves. Joy is knowing we are complete in Christ.

BE JOYFUL BECAUSE WE BELONG TO OUR SHEPHERD

Psalm 100: 3...we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Rejoice. Enter into his gates with joy and praise the Lord because "*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*" It fills the new heart of every sanctified child of God with thanksgiving to know "*we are HIS people, and the sheep of his pasture.*" That word is so comforting to his weak sheep.

It is common now days to hear men and women who submit to the powers in government referred to in a slanderous way as "sheep." But Christ's people consider that title to be our salvation. It is our happiness to have Christ as our Shepherd. Our joy is knowing we are the sheep of his pasture!

Who are "*his people.*" His people are his! By the gift of God the Father to his Son every chosen child of God belongs to Christ our Shepherd. Our great Shepherd said, "I lay down my life for the sheep". By purchasing us by his own blood we are "his purchased possession." We are his people by Christ entering in and dwelling in the new heart through faith.

Spurgeon said, "God has not left us and gone away...He is watching over us at every hour; even as a shepherd guards his flock." We rejoice with gladness and thanksgiving that "we are his, the sheep of his pasture!" Our great Shepherd prepares a table for us in the midst of our enemies! We cannot be more safe and secure than under the all-knowing, all-powerful care of our great Shepherd. This is our joy and thanksgiving!

BE JOYFUL BECAUSE THE LORD IS GOOD

Psalm 100: 5: For the LORD is good;

God our Father and his Son Christ Jesus is essentially good and nothing but good. Therefore he only does good. Everything he does is for the sheep of his pasture is good! Everything in providence is his hand. Christ Jesus, the risen GodMan, is working all for *the good* of his people.

He is "*the good Shepherd*" who has laid down his life for the sheep. He is "*the good Samaritan*" who pours in the wine and oil of his love and grace healing our wounds. On earth, he went about doing good to men; and he continues to do good to all his people.

But God says of every sinner by nature, including Christ's sheep, "They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Ps 14: 1). Unhappiness and discontentment and strife is the fruit of pride. A stout heart says, 'No god, I will trust this sinful hand you say is no good!'"

Joy and contentment is by God pouring in grace and the oil of the Spirit and bringing us to believe on Christ and serve him in love and gratitude to him for saving us so completely. He brought us to trust in him. Therefore, he keeps our hearts stayed on him and thereby keeps us in peace.

Isaiah 26:3: Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

BE JOYFUL BECAUSE HIS MERCY AND TRUTH IS EVERLASTING

Psalm 100: 5...his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

This is the good news! Salvation is free. It is by God's everlasting mercy and truth to all generations. You will never find God one way today and another way tomorrow. The Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! The fall of his elect in Adam could not turn God from his steadfast promise to save his people because his mercy is everlasting. Christ promised the Father to bring his people to him and his truth endureth to all generations.

Christ promised to establish righteousness by his faithfulness that God might be just to show his people mercy. The righteousness of God is manifest by the faithfulness of Christ. He is the Truth! His covenant is everlasting. His love is everlasting. His mercy is everlasting.

Jeremiah 31:3...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Christ is God's mercy to his people. Christ is the Truth who is the righteousness of his people. In Christ on the cross, mercy and truth met together in harmony. Therefore, pardon and forgiveness and righteousness is free by his Mercy and Truth. It is by his grace and his steadfastness to his elect in all generations. By God giving us faith so that we simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we have Christ's righteousness by God's mercy. No conditions can be put on mercy or it would not be mercy and certainly would not be everlasting mercy, nor would it be truth (righteousness) for we can produce none.

Psalm 36:5: Thy mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; *and* thy faithfulness *reacheth* unto the clouds.

Forgiven sinners are happy men. David said, "Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven." This is why his believing people are so thankful and enter his courts praising him. This is why we serve him in love and gratitude. It is by his mercy. His mercy is everlasting. His truth endured right up to our generation. He would not take "no" for an answer but called us to Christ. He continues to keep by his unchanging love and grace and faithfulness to us. He has made mercy and truth meet in harmony in Christ for all his people. Therefore, in and by Christ, for the sake of Christ, his mercy and truth shall endure to present each one to the Father faultless. "He shall not fail!" He shall not lose one!

Therefore, "*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*"

Amen!