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Blessed for Blessing; Psalm 67
GPBC
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Introduction – Psalm 67 is a great call to missions. Psalm 65 says that those who dwell at the ends of the earth should praise God. Psalm 66 says all the earth worships God. But presently, all those who dwell at the ends of the earth do not praise God and all nations and people of the earth do not worship God. Psalm 67 is God’s method of spreading His fame and salvation worldwide, which results in worldwide praise and worship.

John Piper made this statement concerning this psalm – missions exist because worship doesn’t. What he meant by that is that missions will always be necessary until every tribe and nation and tongue have heard the gospel. At that time, there will be people all over the earth worshipping the glory of God and praising Him for His grace. Missions has an end point in sight. Worship does not. Missions will conclude when the gospel has been taken to every peoples. Worship from every people will continue throughout eternity.

That is truly the thrust of Psalm 67. God intends for all the earth to know His salvation. He means to spread that message through blessing. He blesses His people, who in turn take those blessings and share those blessings with others, and so on it goes until the whole world hears.

- I. The Greatest Blessing is Salvation (v1)
 - a. God’s blessings come by way of grace. They come to us as gifts. Grace is given to us. God’s blessings are not payment owed to us, not rewards we have achieved or favor we have gained. Blessings are God’s graciousness toward us. He gives good things even though we do not deserve them.
 - b. The greatest blessing of all is the grace of salvation. That’s what “Make His face to shine upon us” means. It is a salvific expression. God’s face shines upon those He loves in grace.
 - i. We can go back in Scripture and find this same prayer in Numbers 6:24-26. The blessing of the priest upon the people of Israel. In other words, the priest were to pray for the salvation of the people.

1. That function of the priests now rests upon pastors. Pastors are to bless those who gather by praying for their salvation. Paul prays in Romans that Israel might be saved.
 2. Furthermore, in Christ, all believers approach God's throne, which is called the priesthood of the believers – so all believers are to pray for God's blessing of salvation to be known by others. In Acts as believers gathered to pray, God continued to add to their number those who were being saved.
- ii. We can go forward to Revelation 22:4 and find that when our salvation is complete and we all appear before the Lord, the culmination of salvation, the apex of God's blessing, is that we will see His face. His face will shine upon us in all its brilliance and beauty for eternity. That is the goal of salvation. In its' fullest, richest, final state of glorification, it is the face of God shining upon His people that will be our chief, eternal delight.
- c. To see the face of God is the greatest blessing of grace that can ever be known.
- II. Those Blessed with Salvation are a Means of Salvation to Others (vv2-4)
- a. V2 – God works through His saved people to spread the message of salvation to the ends of the earth.
 - i. We are not transported into heaven at the moment of the new birth because it is the witness of the church, here in this world of darkness, that God uses to bring others into the light of His Son!
 - ii. Our mission, as God's people here at Grassy Pond Baptist Church, is to be about the hard, trying, joyful labor of winning souls to the kingdom. We do that with our lips and our lives and our acts. We do that in our community and to the ends of the earth. We fulfill our purpose, we find our joy, when we spread the gospel and see God transform lives by His grace.
 - b. V3 – Let the people praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you!
 - i. That's our cry. That's our prayer. That's our mission.
 - ii. We're reminded once again that the solution for the misery and suffering and evil in this world is not a political solution,

not an educational solution, not a monetary solution, but a salvation solution.

- iii. When people turn from darkness to light, from sin to the Savior, their hearts are filled with praise. They too find meaning and purpose in life, satisfaction for the longing and void of the soul.
 - iv. When this is our purpose as God's people, we have joined God in His purpose.
 - v. It begins at home, evangelizing our own family, leading our own children to faith. Then it expands to our neighbors around the corner, our friends at school, our co-workers on the job. Then it expands further to our non-churched community and state and nation. And ultimately to the unreached peoples that live in other nations and speak other languages and worship other gods.
- c. Romans 10 compels us to embrace God's purpose as His people. For how will unbelievers believe unless someone tells them, unless someone goes, unless someone shares, unless someone sacrifices – how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!
 - d. V4 – The center of the psalm, the focal point. God judges the peoples and guides the nations toward this ultimate, glorious end – that the nations might be glad and sing for joy.
 - i. Oh how the nations rage apart from Christ. Oh how the people stumble and grope in darkness apart from Christ. But oh how they sing for joy when they know Christ! This is exactly what the nations and the people need, but many don't know it, desire it, or seek it.
 - ii. The greatest global cause of all is not global warming. Geopolitics will never obtain true, lasting peace. It's when the nations hear of the one, true God who is over all. It's when the peoples are introduced to the One who can make them new. That's when the nations will be glad and sing for joy!
- III. Those Blessed with Abundance are a Means of Blessing to Others (vv5-7)
- a. You see how v3 and v5 are the same and how they surround v4. V4 is the top of the mountain – the goal, the glorious end, for which God is moving redemptive history.

- b. Vv1-2 communicate that salvation is what results in v4. And salvation spreads to all nations through God's people.
- c. Vv6-7 communicate how God works through His people toward that end in v4. God blesses His people that we might be the bearers of God's greatest blessing to all peoples.
- d. That happens in two ways:
 - i. First, by means of overflow. God's favor rests upon His people. The more of God's people that are found in the same place, the more blessings of God are found. They spill over to everyone. Morality is raised in communities saturated with God's people. Love and kindness are common in communities saturated with God's people. And salvation is widely known where God's people are widely visible and present.
 1. When we lose our focus on our mission and the joy of joining God on this mission, our witness fades, the gospel grows silent, the church becomes more like the world rather than the world coming into the church.
 2. But when God's people are thrilled with God and living to His glory, then the people around us want to know about the hope that we have.
 - ii. Second, by means of support. God's people turn His blessings into ways to further the mission. God blesses us that we might in turn utilize those blessings to further and support and expand the witness of the gospel.
 1. There is no greater investment of our material blessings than investing them in gospel-driven ministry. It takes the giving of blessings to meet needs and open hearts to the gospel. It takes the giving of monetary blessings to send gospel ambassadors into the fields of harvest and equip them.
 2. But that's precisely why God blesses His people. God's blessings are not to be hoarded; they are to be spent for His glory!
 3. The blessings of talent and treasure are the means God uses to send forth the greatest blessing of all – that the people might know God, that they might rejoice in God, that they might see His face.