

04-24-2016

Message: Our Response to the Father's Promise of an Inheritance to His Son

Text: Psalm 2

Introduction

- A. Working in concert with our Outreach Team's Corporate Sunday School emphasis this morning on evangelism, I am moved to share from God's Word what God desires as our chief motivation for sharing Christ with others.
- B. God, in His Word, reveals to us several unrighteous as well as several righteous motivations for sharing the gospel, the good news of salvation through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

1. Unrighteous motivations include:

a. envy and competitiveness

Philippians 1:15 Some, to be sure, are **preaching Christ even from envy and strife**, but some also from good will; ... ¹⁷ the former **proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition** rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

b. ego, selfish ambition - relates to envy and competitiveness. See Phil 1:17 above.

2 Corinthians 4:5 For **we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord**, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

c. greed

2 Corinthians 2:17 For **we are not like many, peddling the word of God**, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

2. Righteous motivations for evangelism include:

a. self-preservation by the persevering in a working faith that takes hold of eternal life.

Ezekiel 3:18 "When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, **but his blood I will require at your hand**.

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for **I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel**.

Matthew 10:32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also

confess him before My Father who is in heaven.³³ "**But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.**

2 Timothy 2:12 ... **If we deny Him, He also will deny us;**

b. compassion for the lost

Jonah 4:10 Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.¹¹ "**Should I not have compassion on Nineveh**, the great city **in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand**, as well as many animals?"

Matthew 9:35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.³⁶ **Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them**, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.³⁸ "Therefore **beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.**"

c. love for Christ's elect

2 Timothy 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to **my gospel,**⁹ **for which I suffer** hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.¹⁰ For this reason **I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen**, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.

C. There is yet another motivation for proclaiming Christ that God gives us in His Word. I understand it to be the chief and highest motivation of all, one that will enable us to endure when we find it hard to care about our own well being or when we find those we are witnessing to hard to love. It is one that our brother Troy Hamilton discovered on the mission field in Africa, when those to whom he was proclaiming Christ were exploiting, deceiving, stealing from him, and he realized his ability to endure on the field would not be sustained by his ability to love these unlovable people. He found a greater motivation that we see in Psalm 2 - we proclaim God's Christ out of love for God and His Son, our love to see God glorified by His glorifying His Son with His promised reward of the nations as His inheritance.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or **whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

D. Psalm 2 compliments Psalm 1 in calling us to the wisdom that begins with the fear of Yahweh, rather than the fear of the nations, and invites us as a people to find refuge in

Yahweh alone and submit to His anointed king, a descendant of both Abraham and David.

- E. The setting for the liturgy - coronation of a new Davidic king, perhaps in the face of hostile nations who are wondering if the young, inexperienced heir to the throne might lack the strength of his father, and therefore God's kingdom might be vulnerable to attack. (Show Israel map w/surrounding nations.) Imagine yourself in Israel, surrounded by nations who are opposed to God ruling them through His Davidic king. To whose authority will you submit? In whose kingdom will you take refuge? With whose cause will you align yourself? To be chosen by God to be His people makes us a target of the kingdoms of the world. Will you trust God's purposes and promises?
- F. In the first of 4 stanzas of this psalm, God addresses this intimidating situation.

I. 2:1-3 The rebellion of the nations against the authority of God exercised through His Messiah.

Psalm 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD (Yahweh) and against His Anointed (mashiach), saying, 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!"

- A. 2:2 God's anointed (Messiah, the Greek LXX - Christos) was to rule on behalf of God.
1. mashah = to anoint; mashiach = anointed one
 2. while prophets, priests, and kings were anointed to office, messiah came most often to be a reference to the anointed king of Israel. E.e.,

1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed (mashach) you a ruler over His inheritance?"

1 Samuel 24:10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed (mashiach).'

- B. That Psalm 2 looks to its prophetic fulfillment in God's Son, Jesus Christ, is established by the apostolic church in Jerusalem shortly after the death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus to the right hand of God's throne.

Acts 4:24 ... "O Lord, it is You ...²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, **'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?'**²⁶ **'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER**

AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.²⁷ "For truly in this city there were gathered together against **Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed**, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

- B. The world of David's day opposed God's rule over them over them through God's earthly messiah, even as now our world angrily, even violently rejects God's rule over them through the eternal, divine heir to David's throne, Jesus Messiah. To oppose the God's Messiah Jesus is to oppose God Himself.

John 5:23 **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

II. 2:4-6 God's Confident Response

Psalm 2:4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them.⁵ Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying,⁶ "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

- A. 2:4 Derision - God has utter confidence in Himself. This is revealed to inspire our confidence in Him.
- B. 2:5 Divine wrath will come in the person of God's divine Son.

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but **he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**"

- C. 2:6 Installation of God's Messiah to rule all nations on His behalf. Though the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19), God has purposed to establish His dominion over all the earth through the rule of king, His messiah through from the line of David.

2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, **I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.** 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** ... 16 "**Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.**"

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.**"

2 Corinthians 1:20 For **as many as are the promises of God, in Him (Christ) they are yes;** therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

III. 2:7-9 God's Decree

Psalm 2:7 **"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.' 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.' 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"**

- A. Here we see what is to be our highest motivation in proclaiming Christ to the nations, including to our own nation. It is to reveal and promote the fulfillment of God's promise to glorify His crucified, risen Son as eternal King of all the nations of the earth, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and in so glorifying His Son, bringing glory to Himself for his wisdom, power, faithfulness in giving His Son the inheritance He promised Him.
- B. "I will surely tell the decree of the Lord." As Christ prophetically pledged to declare Yahweh's decree concerning His Son, so also should we declare and promote the fulfillment of that decree, in conformity to the image of God's Son.
- C. "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." This does not refer to the incarnation of Jesus, but to His resurrection from the dead and exaltation to God's right hand as Lord.

Romans 1:1 ... the gospel of God,² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,⁴ **who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,**

Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who **ascended into heaven**, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,"³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that **God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified.**"

- D. The promised inheritance of the nations whose fulfillment we are to serve as God's instruments.

Psalm 2:8 'Ask of Me, and **I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.**⁹ 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

Matthew 28:18 ... **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**¹⁹ **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ..."**

- 1. God promised to give Christ the nations as His inheritance. In being given all authority over them, He has authority to destroy them, but also authority to save a remnant of people from each of them. If he exercised His authority to completely destroy the nations, then Christ would not receive them as the inheritance promised by His Father,

and God would be dishonored.

2. Christ served the purposes of God by dying for the elect of every nation, tribe, people, language. He did it for us, but did it first and foremost for God, to honor God's desires and to glorify God by bringing to fulfillment what God had promised, thus glorifying God's wisdom, power, faithfulness, truthfulness.

Ephesians 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and **gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God** as a fragrant aroma.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit **offered Himself without blemish to God**, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased for God with Your blood** *people* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

3. We who belong to Christ have received the privilege and responsibility to serve the fulfillment of God's promise to Christ by bearing witness to Christ to all peoples, for ...

Romans 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."¹⁴ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

Yes, do this for our own souls' sake. Yes, do this out of compassion for the lost and love for God's elect. But most of all do this out of a love for God and His Son that loves to see Christ receive His reward of the nations, and in this way being glorified with His Father.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For **the love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;¹⁵ and He died for all, **so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf.

4. And so God gives us an invitation for ourselves and for the nations.

IV. 2:10-12 An invitation to wisdom that leads to Yahweh's deliverance and blessing.

Psalm 2:10 Now therefore, O kings, **show discernment; Take warning**, O judges of the earth. 11 **Worship** (serve) the LORD with **reverence** (fear) and **rejoice with trembling**. 12 **Do homage to (kiss) the Son**, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who **take refuge in Him!**

- A. A call to wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord in light of His coming day of wrath.
 1. Be discerning, prudent, wise
 2. Receive warning, admonishment

3. Serve the Lord
4. Fear the Lord
5. Rejoice in the Lord
6. Be careful (with trembling), not cavalier, in obeying the Lord
7. Swear allegiance to God's Son as Lord
8. Take refuge by faith in God's Son

B. One cannot worship, serve, fear, rejoice in Yahweh without submitting to the authority of His Son (kiss the son). A kiss in biblical times was sometimes a sign of submission.

1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, **kissed him** and said, **"Has not the LORD anointed you a ruler over His inheritance?"**

1 Kings 19:18 "Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not **bowed to Baal** and every mouth that has not **kissed him.**"

Luke 22:48 But Jesus said to him, **"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"**

C. The psalm gives assurance of the ultimate victory of God's Messiah over the kings of the nations, thus inspiring in us confidence and trust to "kiss the Son" and bear witness to Him among the rebellious nations.

Revelation 2:26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;

D. Encouragement to take refuge in the Lord.

1. The apostolic church found such encouragement against the opposition of the nations.

Acts 4:23 When they had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, 25 **who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'** 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. 29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and **grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,** 30 while You extend Your

hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." 31 **And when they had prayed**, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.**

2. Let us pray for such confidence and boldness in speaking the Word of Christ, for our own souls' sake, for the sake of others, but most of all for the glory and pleasure of Christ receiving from His Father the promised inheritance of the nations as His reward.