

SERMON: THE CHURCH HAVING CHURCH

Psalm 100:1-5

(1) 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.

Introduction

This Psalm is the last in a series of psalms that emphasize the Lord as King. It describes God's people going into the temple to worship Him. It spells out what the attitude should be as they go. It also calls out to all the people of the earth, urging them to recognize that the Lord is God and inviting them to receive Him. In a practical sense, this Psalm teaches us the actual purpose of the church: to joyfully express praise and thanksgiving to God, to present ourselves for God's service, and to urge all the people of the earth to come into a relationship with God through His Son. In other words, this is a description of the church "having church." In our culture, we do more than attend church- we "have church." I know the members of Antioch-Lithonia already know how to "have church," so I am aware I am "preaching to the choir." Let's study this beautiful, instructive Psalm by performing a quick line-by-line exegesis.

Exposition

1. Make a Joyful Noise unto The Lord.

(Shout Joyfully To the Lord.)

(Address The Lord Loudly by His Holy Name.)

(Publicly Acknowledge The Lord.)

2. Serve the Lord with Gladness.

(Gladly Worship The Lord With Great Enthusiasm.)

(The Only Direct Service We Can Give God Is Worship.)

(When We Serve Others, We Serve God Indirectly.)

3. Come Before His Presence With Singing.

(Don't Come Idly-Come Singing.)

(The Human Voice Is The Only Musical Instrument That Makes Words.)

(The Human Voice Is The Only Musical Instrument Made By God.)

(The Human Voice Is Called The "Sacred Harp.")

4. Know Ye That The Lord He Is God.

(The Faithful Praise God With Understanding.)

(What Do We Know?)

(God Is The Creator-We Are His Creation.)

(God Is The Covenant Keeper-We Are The Covenant Reapers.)

(God Is The Shepherd-We Are His Sheep.)

5. Enter Into His Gates With Thanksgiving And Into His Courts With Praise.

(Personal Worship Precedes Corporate Worship.)

(Spiritual Tailgating Should Start Early.)

6. Be Thankful Unto Him.

(Thanksgiving Is Reiterated.)

(We Can't Thank Him Enough-But We Can Surely Try.)

7. Bless His Name.

(His Name Is Above All Other Names.)

Closing Thoughts

This short, clear Psalm reminds us of what our attitude should be when we go to God's house. Not only should we come before the Lord with gladness and joy, but we should enter His presence with thanksgiving and praise. God is good every day. He is faithful to us, and His love never fails. As we travel to the church house or to prepare for virtual worship, we should prepare our hearts to give thanks by reflecting on all He has done for us in the past week. As we walk through the doors or meditate at home, our hearts should be filled with praise. When we enter the sanctuary physically or virtually, and the worship service begins, we should lift our voices and wholeheartedly sing the praises of our good, loving, and faithful God.

Under the law, God's people expressed their gratitude by bringing an animal sacrifice. Under the New Covenant, animal sacrifice is no longer necessary. As New Testament believers, we are instructed in Hebrews 13:15 to offer God the sacrifice of praise. That is sufficient. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Copyright © 2021 by James C. Ward

All Rights Reserved