

Slide 1

# Honoring God With Our Worship

## PSALM 100:1-5

### Introduction

1. This morning I want you to go back with me almost three thousand years to the city of Jerusalem.
2. Solomon, the son of David, is king and the temple which He built to the Lord stands on Mt. Zion in all its glory.
3. You and your family are Israelites who have come to Jerusalem for one of the great feast days.

Slide 2

4. As you near the temple, you suddenly hear a chorus of men, perhaps the sons of Korah or the sons of Asaph, begin sing as with one voice the words which were just read before us this morning:

*<sup>1</sup>Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.*

*<sup>2</sup>Serve the Lord with gladness;*

*Come before Him with joyful singing.*

*<sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord Himself is God;*

*It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;*

*We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

*<sup>4</sup>Enter His gates with thanksgiving*

*And His courts with praise.*

*Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*

*<sup>5</sup>For the Lord is good;*

*His lovingkindness is everlasting*

*And His faithfulness to all generations.*

5. The words they sing strike a cord within you, they resonate within your heart.
6. You are being called to join in this thanksgiving to the One who is above all others.
7. Later, after the feast is over, as you and your family start your journey home, this hymn is fixed in your mind, you are a different person because of the worship in which you have taken part.
8. Lord willing, in two weeks, if we each do our part, many from our community will join us as we gather to worship our Father in Heaven.
9. The question I have for you is this, "Will they leave our building, knowing they have been in the presence of people who love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength?"
10. Will they want to know the God you and I serve? I pray they will.
11. For almost two years now, we have examined God's Word, seeking to better understand how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.
12. Today, as we examine this psalm, I hope that each of us will be convinced of the power that our worship has to draw others to the One Who is Sovereign above all.
13. There are two things which the psalmist shares with us in this psalm:
  - a. In verses 1,2 & 4 we find the exhortation to thanksgiving.
  - b. In verses 3 & 5, he reveals to us the motivation behind our thanksgiving.

Slide 3

## *1. The Motivation Behind Our Thanksgiving*

### **A. HE IS SOVEREIGN**

*"Know that the Lord Himself is God" (v. 3a).*

1. Long ago, God spoke through His prophet, Isaiah, and said, *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me" (Isaiah 46:9).*
2. Because there is only one God and neither you nor I are him, it is vital that we each humble ourselves before Him.
3. Both Peter and James said that if we will do this, God will exalt us and do so at the proper time (*James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6*).

3a

### **B. HE IS OUR CREATOR**

***"It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves" (v. 3b)***

1. The first words we encounter when we open our Bibles to the very first verse, of the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, *Genesis 1:1*, are these, ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."***
2. God alone has the exclusive power to create.
3. Again, through His prophet Isaiah, this time in *Isaiah 44:24*, God said, ***"I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself and spreading out the earth all alone" (Isaiah 44:24).***
4. In *John 1:3*, the apostle John wrote, ***"All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."***
5. It is in Him that ***"we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).***

Slide 4

**C. WE ARE HIS POSSESSION*****"We are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (v. 3c).***

1. In *1 Peter 2:10*, the apostle Peter tells those of us who are Christians that there was a time when we ***"were not a people,"*** a time when we ***"had not received mercy,"*** but now we ***"are the people of God,"*** now we ***"have received mercy."***
2. Earlier, in *verse 9*, Peter wrote that it is because we are ***"a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession"*** that we may now ***"proclaim the excellencies of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light."***
3. It is because we are ***"the sheep of [God's] pasture"*** that we ***"shall not want"*** — our needs are met.

4a

**D. HE IS GOOD**

1. Satan wants to keep you from believing that God is good, because he knows that if you doubt God's goodness, you won't trust Him.

2. If you don't trust Him, you won't obey Him.
3. One of the first things we teach our children is that God is good.
4. Long ago, David said of God, "*You are my Lord; I have no good besides You*" (*Psalm 16:2*).
5. In *Psalm 25:8*, he said, "*Good and upright is the Lord.*"
6. In *Psalm 34:8*, he wrote, "*O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*"
7. James said "*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow*" (*James 1:17*).

Slide 5

### **E. HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL**

1. God's "*mercy*" (*NKJV*), His "*steadfast love endures forever*" (*ESV*).
2. In *Ephesians 2:4*, Paul said it is "*because of [God's] great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in transgressions [sins],*" that God "*made us alive together with Christ,*" He save us (*Ephesians 2:4,5*).
3. "*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*" (*1 John 4:10*).
4. How often have we sung,  
Come let us all unite to sing, God is love  
Let heaven and earth their praises bring, God is love

5a

### **F. HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS**

1. God is faithful to His Word — He keeps His promises.
2. Jeremiah said that His faithfulness is great (*Lamentations 3:23*).
3. Paul said that "*God is faithful*" in that He "*will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, to that you will be able to endure it*" (*1 Corinthians 10:13*).

4. *Hebrews 10:23*, encourages us to "*hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering*" because "*He who promised is faithful.*"

Slide 6

## **II. The Exhortation To Thanksgiving**

### **A. "SHOUT JOYFULLY TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH"**

1. Take a moment and notice the three words at the end of *verse 1*: "*all the earth.*"
  - a. A number of times in the psalms we find this exhortation or one similar to it attached to these three words:
    - "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth" (Psalm 66:1a).*
    - "Sing to the Lord, all the earth" (Psalm 96:1).*
    - "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth" (Psalm 98:4).*
  - b. Our exhortation is evangelistic. We are inviting people everywhere to join us in our thanksgiving.
2. Not only are we inviting others to join us in our thanksgiving, but to do so with exuberant joy.
  - "Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation" (Psalm 95:1).*
  - "Shout joyfully before the King, the Lord" (Psalm 98:6).*
3. Our praise does not originate from somber spirits and downcast faces, but hearts filled with gratitude.

6a

### **B. "SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS"**

1. We serve God with our worship.
2. In the fourth chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus was being tempted by the devil after fasting for 40 days and nights.
  - a. The last temptation consisted of Satan taking Jesus to a very high mountain, showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and telling Him, "*All these things I will give You if You fall down and worship me*" (*Matthew 4:9*).

- b. Jesus responded, *"Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"* (*Matthew 4:10*).
- 3. We each make choices as to whom and what we will serve.
- 4. Even if we choose to serve the Lord, do we do so with gladness.
- 5. Your friends and neighbors can tell.
- 6. Consider the words to some of our hymns:
  - a. He has made me glad, He has made me glad,  
I will rejoice, for He has made me glad.
  - b. Let every heart rejoice and sing,  
Let coral anthems rise.

Slide 7

### **C. "COME BEFORE HIM WITH JOYFUL SINGING"**

- 1. When we gather together to worship, we *"come before"* God.
- 2. Just as we serve (worship) the Lord with gladness, so we *"come before Him with joyful singing."*
- 3. In *Psalm 59:16*, David wrote, *"But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress."*
- 4. When in the distresses of our lives, we like David of old, find God to be our *"stronghold"* and *"refuge"* it is easy for us to *"joyfully sing"* of God's *"strength."*
- 5. How often have we sung about the fellowship and the joy we find when we lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus.

7a

### **D. ENTER WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE**

*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise"* (*Psalm 100:4*).

- 1. When the Psalmist wrote *"Enter His gates . . . and His courts"*, he was speaking of the gates of Jerusalem, God's holy city, and the courts of the temple where His presence was to be found.
- 2. To enter those places "with praise" meant each worshiper was to prepare

his or her heart for the purpose of coming to praise God.

3. Before you came here this morning, did you prepare your heart to come into God's presence?
  - a. Did you spend some quiet time in God's Word either last night or this morning?
  - b. Did you stop to pray and ask God to bless your time in worship, that your heart and the hearts of those around you might be focused on Him and that you might give to Him the praise due His holy name?
  - c. I promise you, if you will do these things on a regular basis, you will find a noticeable difference in your worship experience.
4. Think of the hymn,
  - I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
  - I will enter His courts with praise,
  - I will say this is the day that the Lord has made,
  - For He has made me glad.

## *Conclusion*

1. When you and I know that . . .
  - a. God alone is God,
  - b. He is our Creator
  - c. We are His possession, His sheep
  - d. He is good, His love for us is eternal and He is always faithful
2. Then it is only natural that we would want to . . .
  - a. Joyfully sing praises to Him, serve Him with gladness and come before Him with joyful singing
  - b. Come before Him with thanksgiving and bless His holy name.
3. Many will come worship with us here in our building and see us out in the community on a regular basis.
4. For them, we may be the only lense through which they see and understand the God we serve.
5. What will be their response to our God because of us.

6. Let us pray each of us will be a powerful encouragement to each person we encounter to know the Lord.