

JCI # 143 Psalm 100

The Rightness and Reasons for Real Thanksgiving

Psalm 100

Make a **joyful** shout to the LORD, all you lands!

Serve the LORD with **gladness**;

Come before His presence with **singing**.

Know that the LORD, He is God;

It is **He who has 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 to Him, and bless His name.

For the LORD is **good**;

His **mercy is everlasting**,

And His **truth endures to all generations**.

The 100th Psalm is the second best known Psalm in the Bible. Only the 23rd is better known. Both songs exult in the faithfulness of our Shepherding God... the 23rd is intensely personal (my, I, me...) while the 100th is universal and congregational (all peoples, us, we, all generations).

WE ARE CALLED TO OBEDIENT WORSHIP

Make a **joyful** shout to the LORD, all you lands!

Serve the LORD with **gladness**;

Come before His presence with **singing**.

We are given *commands* to worship with such words as “shout”, “serve”, “come”, “sing”, “know”, “enter”, “be thankful”, and “bless”. Obedient worship will require my voice, heart, hands, feet, mind, and will. Real worship is the complete self responding in complete gratitude to our great and glorious God.

WE ARE CALLED TO EMOTIONAL WORSHIP

Make a **joyful** shout to the LORD, all you lands!

Serve the LORD with **gladness**;

Come before His presence with **singing**.

The song begins with the emotions that should accompany grateful worship. It is not a heartless formalism that pleases God. It is more than merely mouthing correct words with the lips when the heart is far from Him. Such empty worship is condemned by God in the strongest of terms.

(Mark 7:6 *Jesus* answered and said to them, Well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.)

The worship that pleases God is a real, heartfelt gratitude overflowing in “wonder, love and praise.” The words “joyful”, “gladness”, and “singing” emphasize the enthusiasm of true gratitude. But we know we cannot manufacture such emotions. Where do they come from? They come from a deep recognition of who God is and what He has done for us. So the rest of the Psalm lays out the foundational causes that produce such exuberant gratitude.

WE ARE CALLED TO KNOWLEDGEABLE WORSHIP

Know that the LORD, He is God;

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

We are His people

and **the sheep of His pasture.**

As Paul said in *1 Cor 14:15*

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind;

I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

Though the instruction has to do with the gift of tongues, the underlying principle remains as needed today as in the first century. The spirit and the mind are not opposed in true worship. True worship flows from true understanding of God’s truth with the mind. Therefore the worship leader David says we are to “know” three foundational, relational, powerful and worship producing realities about the God we are called to worship.

KNOW GOD AS YOUR CREATOR

Know that the LORD, He is God; It is **He who has made us**, and not we ourselves;

Knowing God as our Creator produces heartfelt joy and gladness because we understand

- 1) We are not accidents - God has made us individually, specially (in His image), uniquely, and for Himself.
- 2) We are not ordinary - We are special creations of God in His image and for His glory. Though human agency is involved in the reproductive process (God uses means) yet the outcome is a divine work. “He made us... we didn’t make ourselves!” This removes the pagan notion that our existence is ordinary. The fact that we exist at all is the work of our Creator God.
- 3) We are not unknown - we are special creations of a personal God who has His eye on us. We matter to Him and that causes us incredible joy!

KNOW GOD AS YOUR REDEEMER

Know... that we are His people

Knowing God as our Redeemer produces heartfelt joy and gladness because we understand that though we were far off, we are now brought near by the blood of Christ. Psalm 100 is a world-wide call to grateful worship. The God of the whole world deserves a worldwide response, and more especially from we who have come from the nations to find ourselves included in the people of the living God. If Israel should be grateful, how much greater should the gratitude be from us who were “aliens and strangers”, “without God and without hope”, “once wild olive branches but now grafted in”, “once not a people but now the people of God?!” What an amazing reality, that we are now and forever, “His people!” His by right of creation, and doubly His by right of redemption.

KNOW GOD AS YOUR SHEPHERD

Know... that we are the sheep of His pasture.

Knowing God as our Shepherd produces heartfelt joy and gladness because we understand that we live *in the presence of, under the protection of, and with the provision of* our Shepherding God. All three realities are experienced dial by “the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 23 elaborates on these three realities in fuller terms.

Knowing God as my Creator reminds be where I came from.

Knowing God as my Redeemer reminds me what I was saved from.

Knowing God as my Shepherd reminds me where all my blessings come from.

The result of this glorious knowledge compels me to run into His presence, closer and closer (through the gates and through the courtyard into the place of sacrifice) to give Him an offering of thanks and praise He is worthy of.

WE ARE CALLED TO SUSTAINED WORSHIP

For the LORD is **good**;

His **mercy is everlasting**,

And His **truth endures to all generations**.

The call to sustained, fervent, life-long, generational worship is enjoined upon us by three additional realities about our God. This time it has to do with the character qualities of our Creator/Redeemer/Shepherd Jehovah.

The Goodness of God is a fountain of gratitude

Jehovah is good. He is kind, compassionate, giving, forgiving, tender, active, generous, and righteous. It is His goodness that leads us to repentance. It is His goodness in the face of our badness that leaves us in constant amazement and grateful praise. He is worthy, we are not!

“There is only One that is good, and that is God!”

The Loyalty of God is a fountain of gratitude

Jehovah’s mercy is everlasting. The Hebrew word here (hesed) focuses on God’s loyalty to His covenant people. He is loyal! He never turns His back on His people. Think of Christ’s loyalty to Peter. Jesus foretold the collapse of Peter’s courage, describing his coming denials. Peter was offended by such suggestions, declaring his undying loyalty to Jesus. But Peter was completely disloyal, denying his Lord, cursing and swearing he “knew not the man.” Three times he denied his Lord. But upon His resurrection, the angel in the tomb told the women “But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" “And Peter” ... what wonderful words of loyalty. Though we fail, and are unfaithful, He is ever loyal to His own. He will never leave us or forsake us. He is completely loyal to His own. His loyalty is everlasting!

The Trustworthiness of God is a fountain of gratitude

Jehovah’s truth endures to all generations. God is loyal to His people and faithful to His promises. He will not turn His back on us or go back on His word. He is as loyal to His word as He is to His own. And the promises He gave continue to be just as valid to us in this generation as to those who first heard them. The next generations will find His promises are as personal for them as for the previous generations who claimed them, for God’s truth endures forever. I recently bought a dehumidifier to replace my old one that gave up the ghost. The packaging declared a “1 year guarantee!” After I opened the booklet, I found a page and a half of small print that told me all the exceptions to that promised guarantee... if I didn’t follow all the directions...VOID! if there was a power surge, VOID! if I didn’t clean the filter monthly, VOID! if I lived in three particular states, VOID! and on it went. Whew! Aren’t you glad the promise of God doesn’t come with pages and pages of small print that tell you when the promise is invalid?! God’s promises aren’t followed by “exceptions!” God’s promises are followed by periods!!!

“I will never leave you or forsake you.” PERIOD!

“I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish.” PERIOD!

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” PERIOD!

The goodness of God... the loyalty of God... the trustworthiness of God... know your God, and you will know what it is to be grateful!

The absence of grateful worship is the evidence that we have forgotten our God, forgotten all He’s done for us, forgotten all He is to us. May our hearts be reminded this Thanksgiving season of the greatest reason of all to worship with grateful hearts.... GOD!

Self Check:

- 1) Has dampening discouragement, critical complaining, and poisonous ingratitude crept into your heart? Do you stand back from your God in the coldness of disappointment? Let the goodness of God lead you back to repentance. Stop, think, remember, repent!
- 2) Has the eternal wonder of salvation become ordinary in your thinking? Are you bored with the gospel? Are you complacent about grace? Stop, think, remember, repent.
- 3) Has theology become boring? Has forgiveness become humdrum? Has belonging to the family of God become tedious? Stop, think, remember, repent!

For Further Study:

The Goodness of God

Psalms 34:8; 100:5; 145:9 Jeremiah 33:11 Lamentation 3:25 Nahum 1:7 Romans 2:4

The Loyalty of God

Ex 15:13 Ex 20:6 Ex 34:6-7 Psalms 13:5; 17:7 ; 18:50; 21:7; 23:6; 25:6; 25:7; 25:10; 26:3

The Trustworthiness of God

Numbers 23:19; 2Timothy 2:13; 2Corinthians 1:20; Psalm 119:90

“Lord, You are my Creator, I owe my existence to you. You are my Redeemer, I owe my salvation to you. You are my Shepherd, I depend on you for everything, everyday, always. You are so good, so loyal, so trustworthy. You are the greatest of all my blessings today and every day. Forgive my wanderings in heart and mind. Draw me back to Thee, to a heart of worship that gives you continual praise. You are worthy! You are all! Be all to me, O my God. In Christ’s glorious name I worship Thee, now and forever, Amen.”