

A Reason To Sing

Introduction

I. Look Up

A. To the Most High -

1. *"You, Oh Lord, are exalted forever." (v. 8) – "You are exaltedness itself." (Motyer, 262)*
This is the central verse and the central point of the psalm.
2. Our perspective changes when we look up and see the God who is with us and who will not fail. (v. 2)
3. It is what we were made for. *"Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." (WSC)*

B. Glorify God

Worship -

1. How?

Declare His worth with our lips
Sing praises
With musical instruments and melody

2. Why?

"It is good." (v. 1)

*"Worship is an **act** that develops feelings for God, not a **feeling** for God that is expressed in an act of worship. When we obey the command to praise God in worship, our deep, essential need to be in relationship with God is nurtured." (Peterson, 54)*

"He makes us glad." (v. 4)

By His deeds
By the works of His hands
With His *"steadfast love and faithfulness."* (v. 2)

*"Giving thanks uplifts and liberates us. We are **made...glad** by the works of God and by His ways in proportion as we give our minds and voices to expressing the wonder of them." (Kidner, 366)*

C. And Enjoy Him forever

1. Sabbath –a reason to sing

"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27)

For our:

Refreshment and strength -Take in the manna of His word. A feast, guests at His table. Bread and wine are tangible reminders of what God has done, as well as what awaits us in paradise.

Rest – From burdens of the week and self-salvation strategies. We rest in the work of Christ, who accomplished what we cannot do for ourselves.

Renewal - Our thinking is turned right side up - *"We would have straight forward gone to endless death"* (Herbert) if God hadn't intervened and turned us around to look on Christ, the source of eternal life.

2. Our greatest joy is found in God

“Praise is the expression of our joy in what is supremely enjoyable, namely God. ‘In His presence is fullness of joy; at His right hand are pleasures forevermore’ (Ps. 16:11). In demanding our praise, [God] is demanding the completion of our pleasure... God is the one being for whom self-exaltation is the most loving act, because He is exalting for us what alone can satisfy us fully and forever.” (Piper)

II. Look Around

A. The Blind Wicked –

1. The senseless - don't have the sense to look up, ignorant. Like a brute beast - no awareness of blessing. Mindlessly blind.

2. The fool - refuses to look up, arrogant. *“A fool says in his heart there is no God. They are corrupt.”(Ps. 14:1)*
Willfully Blind

“By calling [man] ‘a little lower than the heavenly beings’ (Ps. 8:5) and not ‘a little higher than the beasts,’ it indicates that it is Man’s calling to look up to God and become like God, in whose image he is made. But if he will not look up, the only place he will be able to look is down, and he will begin to behave like an animal.” (Boice, 757)

(Think Nebuchadnezzar)

3. God’s judgment—*“They sprout like the weeds...but are doomed for destruction...scattered.”(v. 7, 9)*

B. The Exalted Righteous –

1. God’s image bearers - Look up to God for help

2. God’s blessing:

Anointed with fresh oil – preservation from our enemies. Renewed, consecrated, set apart.

An exalted horn - like the wild ox. Power to defeat our enemies.

“As God’s image bearers, His triumphs are my inheritance. Since He is on high forever, He will lift me up and raise my head high.”

III. Stay Rooted

A. Like a tree

1. Palm Tree – symbol of life and fertility - oasis in the desert.

2. Cedar Tree – symbol of majesty, strength and stability

B. Transplanted

“You don’t plant yourself. You are transplanted by God.” (T. Hamilton)

1. Into an infinite source of water

“The blessed man...is like a tree planted by water that sends out its roots by the stream.” (Jer. 17:8)

Living water: *“The water that [Jesus] gives will become [in us] a spring of water welling up into eternal life.”(John 4:14)*

2. Into the church – the house of God.

By God...with joy:

"...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins." (Col 1:12-14)

Like Girlie, an orphan in the Philippines, rescued from the city dump and brought into God's family.

Because we need each other:

"If we stay at home by ourselves and read the Bible, we are going to miss a lot, for our reading will be unconsciously conditioned by our culture, limited by our ignorance, and distorted by unnoticed prejudices. In worship we are part of "the large congregation" where all the writers of Scripture address us, where hymns express truths that touch us, where the preacher who has just lived through six days of doubt, hurt, faith and blessing with the worshippers speaks the truth of Scripture in the language of the congregation's present experience."(Peterson, 55).

3. Result:

Fruitful and Flourishing

In the strength of the Lord:

"It is not the greenness of perpetual youth, but the freshness of age without sterility, like that of Moses who "eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated" (Deut. 34:7); whose wisdom was mature and his memory invaluablely rich." (Kidner, 369)

To remain faithful:

*"The world's ambition is to stay young; the Bible's is to grow old faithfully." (Motyer, 262)
"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."
(2 Cor. 4:16)*

A Testimony - Psalm 92 begins and ends with a declaration.

"Declare [His] steadfast love and faithfulness." –v. 2

"Declare that the Lord is upright: He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." v. 15

We declare with our lips and our lives – as we worship, flourish and are fruitful.

Problem: Our lives can never fully reflect the perfect righteousness of God.

So He had to provide:

C. The Righteous Branch

1. God raised up Jesus *"the righteous Branch...to do righteousness, and to save us."* Jer. 23:5
2. Jesus does what we cannot do for ourselves. He bridges the gap between His righteousness and ours.
*"The name by which He shall be called: The Lord our righteousness."(Jer. 23:6)
"The name we shall be called: The Lord is our righteousness."(Jer. 33:16)*
3. We stay rooted because God raised up Jesus, the fruitful righteous Branch, so that we could be grafted into Him.

Questions for discussion:

1. Verse seven states that although the wicked flourish, it was only that they might be destroyed forever. This theme also appears in psalm 73, where the psalmist is embittered “like a senseless beast” at the apparent prosperity and ease of God’s enemies. Have you shared his angst? What has given you clarity or comfort? Find scripture verses that describe the Lord’s victory over His enemies. Does the theme of judgment trouble you, or give you courage? (Especially in light of current events!)
2. Have you ever thought, or heard a friend say, “I don’t need to go to church to worship God. I feel closer to God when I am communing with Him in nature, or by my personal study at home?” How would you convince her of the importance of corporate worship?
3. “Worship is an **act** that develops feelings for God, not a **feeling** for God that is expressed in an act of worship. When we obey the command to praise God in worship, our deep, essential need to be in relationship with God is nurtured.” (Peterson). Has praising God ever changed your perspective? Describe.

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