

“Coming to God with a Right Attitude”

Psalm 100

“Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.”

(Ps. 100:2)

Ps. 100 is a familiar psalm and often used at Thanksgiving time. Yet with the LORD all time is a time to give thanks and every circumstance is an invitation for us to thank God in it (1 Thes. 5:16-18). ! While the psalmist invites people to come to the temple in Jerusalem [“gates” and “courts”] for worship, the focus is not on a particular time of year but on one’s attitude in coming to worship. When we come to worship (or study, prayer, fellowship) and our attitude is not one of thanksgiving or gladness we will miss out on seeing God in our life and growing in God.

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We Are Called to Worship the LORD (100:1-3)

The psalmist begins the psalm with a command/invitation to

100:1a “_____ for joy to the LORD”

We are called to ‘shout for joy’ to the Lord. Look at some other ‘loud’ events of praise:

1 Kings 1:39-40

Ezra 3:11-3

Neh. 12:40-43

The psalmist did not ask just for noise but for joyful noise. He wants people to come to God with joy. Who did he call to come with ‘joyful noise’? (v.1)

“_____ the earth”

“Eretz” [earth] is a broad term and can refer to different things. It can refer to land in general. Is there a way in which land can declare God’s praises?

Is. 55:10-13

Ps. 65:9-13

Ps. 19:1-6

“Eretz” can also refer to the inhabitants of the land and here the psalmist is directing his words to people. ‘Shout for joy is parallel to the next 2 commands/invitations:

v.2 “worship [or serve] the LORD with _____”

“come before Him with _____ songs”

‘Shouting’, ‘joyful’ and ‘gladness’ describe one’s attitude in coming to worship the LORD. What will result when we do come to worship with a joyful attitude? (v.3)

v.3 “_____ that the LORD is _____”

The word “know” means an intimate knowledge [i.e. “Adam knew his wife”]. When we gather together for worship it should result in our relationship with God becoming deeper. What is it we ‘know’ more about God when we worship Him?

v.3 “It is He who _____ us and we are _____;

we are His _____, the sheep of His _____.”

God made us not only physically (Ps. 139:13-16) but spiritually as members of His family. He made us for relationship. For Israel and for us His Church:

Deut. 7:8-9 “But it was because the LORD _____ you and kept the oath He swore to your ancestors that He brought you out with a mighty hand and _____ you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

“_____ therefore that the LORD _____ God is God; He is the _____ God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who _____ Him and keep his commandments.”

John 15:16, 17 “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you _____, for everything that I _____ from my Father I have made known to you.”

***In what way could this ‘call to worship’ be an evangelistic invitation?**

We are Called to Thank the LORD (100:4-5)

The psalmist helps us visualize the ‘geography’ of worship. What do we enter through?

100:4a “Enter His _____ with thanksgiving and His _____ with praise.”

Why does the psalmist not invite the worshipper past the ‘courts’?

The one big difference between the Tabernacle and the Temple was the size of the courtyard; the Temple had a large outer court (for Gentiles and women) surrounding the Temple proper which was

only accessible to Jewish males (inner court where altar of sacrifices). What was God saying to 'all the earth' in regards to worshipping Him at the temple?

How do we know God's intent was that all nations come and worship Him there?

Mark 11:12-17

How are we to enter God's presence?

100:4a "Enter His gates _____ thanksgiving [todah - gift] and His courts _____ praise [tehalah - songs]."

100:4b "give _____ [yedah – gestures] to Him and _____ [berek – bless] His Name."

What reasons does the psalmist give why God is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving (v.5)?

100:5 "For the Lord is _____ and His _____ endures forever; His _____ continues through all generations"

***As much as this psalm is a call to the people of God to approach worship already prepared with a thankful attitude, how could we use this psalm evangelistically to the unsaved?**

[The Bible verses quoted are from the NIV 1984 edition © International Bible Society]

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