

## ***Psalm 33***

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V: 1 Rejoicing in the Lord is what the righteous do, it's a natural part of who we are, we rejoice in and we praise the Lord constantly.

- Praise is “comely” - it's fitting and appropriate for the upright, those who have experienced the grace of God and his forgiveness, to praise the Lord.

**Psalm 135:1** “Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise Him, O ye servants of the Lord.”

- This parallels the previous verse, the last verse in Psalm 32.

**Psalm 32:11** “Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.”

- Rejoicing unto the Lord by the upright in heart being common denominators:
- Only those who are righteous by faith and obedient in heart - “upright” can truly worship God, worshipping Him on His terms, in Spirit and in Truth.
- This is what we'll be doing in heaven, part of what will make heaven so heavenly is getting to engage in worship un-hindered by our flesh. Worshipping all out, full throttle so to speak for eternity.

**Revelation 19:5** “And a voice came out of the throne, saying, praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great.”

V: 2-3 Praise Him with instruments - over the years I've heard different people from various denominations describe guitars or drums as “of the Devil” - which to me is ludicrous.

- The same instrument can be used to worship either the Lord or the Devil, it's a choice that we make, like any gift that can be used for the glory of God, or to serve the enemy - it's our choice - the issue is more of what's in our heart and our desire to please Him or not.

I know we're talking about different instruments, but I still believe that this scripture fits:

**Romans 6:11-13** “<sup>11</sup>Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. <sup>13</sup>Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

“... *sing unto Him a new song;*” - This is something that John loves to do. Singing a new song would involve, thinking about the Lord and writing down new thoughts of praise which lead to worship. Meditating in and on the Lord.

- An “old song” can come to new life and become a new song as we grow in our knowledge of God and a greater understanding of His Word.

“... *play skillfully with a loud noise...*” There is a degree of skill required. Many talk about making “*a joyful noise unto the Lord.*” - Which David mentions in 7 different Psalms, so here we see that is tempered a little, balanced a little, there should be some degree of skill involved if it’s going to be loud.

- I have found that I can do joyfully, and I’m not half bad at loudly, but the skillfully part seems to elude me.
- We’ve been told what to do - to praise the Lord, to rejoice in Him. Now we’re given the reason to do it - because... (V:4-5)

V: 4-5 The Word of the Lord is right, it’s always right! There is no error in it’s original form.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

**2 Peter 1:19-21** “<sup>19</sup>We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: <sup>20</sup>Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

- In a world where we’ve become so accustomed to half truths, mixed motives, and poor judgments, the Truth of God’s Word is so refreshing, so invigorating!

“... *all His works are done in truth...*” The end does not justify the means; God requires truth and integrity because that is what He is.

- God will not use worldly or dishonest tactics to accomplish His Holy purposes.
- He loves righteousness and justice because again that is what He is, He is the embodiment of these things, and we see the goodness of the Lord manifest all around us!

V: 6-9 There is power in the Word of God, He spoke and the world that we know came into existence.

**Hebrews 11:3** “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of thing which do appear.”

- God set the limits for the land and the sea - and it's intended that His creation would communicate a message, thus let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

**Psalms 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament / earth sheweth his handiwork.”

**Psalms 8:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; <sup>4</sup>What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

**Romans 8:20** “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

- All that the inhabitants of the world would stand in awe of Him!
- Because He spoke, and it was done!

V: 10-11 Worldly men have their crafty ways, their schemes, their plots - but the Lord just brings it to nothing.

**1 Corinthians 3:19** “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

- God's Word, His counsel will stand forever:

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever.”

*“<sup>11</sup>The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations.”*

- Do you realize that we are just part of a movement, one generation of many that have studied the Word of God?
- We're part of a progression in the Kingdom of Heaven, generation after generation that have had the privilege of holding the “counsel of the Lord” in our hands. That we have this expression of His heart - His Word that along with the

saints from ancient times until now - we have his un-changing word in our hands  
- they considered the same things that we are considering and studying!

V: 12 The Psalmist is obviously speaking of Israel as that nation who's God is Jehovah, the Jews are the people that God has chosen, "God's chosen people" - this verse definitely applies directly to Israel - but at the same time there have been many nations that have been blessed because of their desire to honor the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**Genesis 12:3** "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

- You can watch nations rise and fall based on how they treat Israel, ours included.

**Proverbs 14:34** "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

V: 13-15 The Lord sees and knows all, particularly about the sons of men.

- God is omniscient - He knows all things:

**Proverbs 15:3** "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

**Psalm 147:5** "Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite."

- In fashioning our hearts alike, He describes making us all equal in His sight.

V: 16-17 Kings are not saved by the strength of their army, or even a mighty man by his own strength:

**Psalm 18:2** "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

- When it's your time there's nothing that you can do, when it's not your time, there's nothing anyone else can do - God sets our boundaries, He sets our time.

**Hebrews 9:27** "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

2 Chronicles 14, 15, & 16 We have the account of King Asa, he was crowned king at the age of 25. He was a good king who honored God.

**2 Chronicles 14:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God: <sup>3</sup>For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves.”

- Asa was blessed in that in his days there was peace in the land for 10 years, no war, no strife. God’s hand was upon both he and the nation.
- Then came that time of testing: As they had prospered and builded, they also built an army of 500,000 soldiers.
- At about that time the Ethiopians invaded the land with an army of 1 million soldiers, including 300 chariots.

**2 Chronicles 14:11** “And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee.”

- God delivered them, gave them the victory, the enemy was defeated.
- Just after the battle the prophet Azariah came to Asa with a message.

**2 Chronicles 15:2** “And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.”

- Asa seemed to understand the truth of what David is declaring, that kings are not saved by their armies, nor men by their own strength - salvation is of the Lord.
- After another 25 or so years passed, Judah was once again invaded, this time by the Northern kingdom led by king Ba-ash.
- Scripture records that Asa emptied the Temple treasuries and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Syria asking / paying him to attack the Northern kingdom and draw them away from Judah. It should also be noted that Asa didn’t pray or seek the Lord.
- His plan worked in the short term, the wisdom of man, the might of man prevailed for a season - but in so doing he relied on the king of Syria and not on the Lord his God.
- He had forgotten the lesson that he’d applied so well earlier in his walk with the Lord. To me this is a warning to each of us - to continue to rely upon the Lord, especially in our prosperity and seeming strength.

David knew this well:

**Psalm 20:7** “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

V: 18-19 God watches over us and is aware of our every thought and movement:

**Zechariah 2:8b** “... for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye.”

**Psalm 34:15** “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

- He delivers us, He only is our deliverer!

Jesus declared:

**John 11:25-26** “<sup>25</sup>... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: <sup>26</sup>And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...”

V: 20-22 Declaration: Commitment! We’re going to wait on the Lord!

- There is a cause and effect relationship here in this Psalm:
- Because they / we have worshipped the Lord, focussing on Him, there is peace in our hearts which in turn allows us to wait on Him to work in our lives.
- We shall rejoice in Him, we are trusting in Him.
- Some years ago, before I was a Christian, and as I was a young baby Christian I began to stockpile provisions for the end of the world scenarios. I stocked up on guns and plenty of ammo, we were collecting MRE’s, canned goods, and water.
- I was considering building a bunker in my back yard and how to defend my family and provide for them during the famines that would come. It soon became a daunting task, the logistical impossibilities became overwhelming to my thought processes.
- Who would I extend help to, can I help my friends; what about my foes? How many people I would be willing to kill to protect my can of beans.
- The Lord brought me through this thought process and I came to what I believe are His conclusions as expressed here by David.
- We’re not saved by armies, strength, bullets, or beans - the Lord is our only hope, He is our salvation.

- Learning to trust in the Lord, I sold most of my guns and bought tools that have been used for ministry ever since. Trusting in the Lord, rejoicing in Him, because He is our hope!

[Petition](#): Let your mercy be upon us O Lord, according as we hope in You.

- As we hope in God, He will be merciful to us. To the degree that we hope in Him, His mercy will be proportionally extended to us. Our hope is great, may His mercies be greater still!

*“Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee.”*