

## THE PLEASURE – THE PEOPLE – THE PROMISE OF GOD (Ps. 149:4)

The most important duty of the people of God is their worship of Him. There is nothing more important than that! Geoffrey King sums it up, “Worship is the highest function of the human soul”. A. W. Tozer also explains it, “We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God”.

Worship does not need a single hymn to be sung, or a single note to be played ... Worship comes from the heart being in tune with God.

There are a number of ways we could look at this whole psalm. For example, we could consider it like this:

### 1. Worship the Lord intelligently (vv.1-2)

- \* Worship is something we must learn to do ... and which we shall be learning to do all our lives.
- \* It is something we share with other believers, of all different age groups from all over the world.
- \* No matter where we come from we know our Focus of worship is God and His Son.

### 2. Worship the Lord fervently (vv.3-4)

- \* Fervently means ‘carefully’, ‘eagerly’, ‘earnestly’, ‘energetically’. It is an activity for all of God’s people, ... again, irrespective of age or condition.
- \* Even the person lying on their death bed can worship the Lord fervently!
- \* Some folk though linger on the phrase, *Let them praise his name in the dance*. They reckon it is a justification for some form of ‘holy dance’.
- \* Yes, if you were a Jew in the Old Testament in the Jewish temple that was how your pattern of worship might have developed on some occasions ... but you will not find the same pattern in the New Testament and you will not find any justification for any type of ‘holy dance’ for God’s people today!
- \* Worship is not just something you do with your feet, - and by the way, walking into the Lord’s house is already using your feet to worship Him!
- \* No, it is not just for your feet, worship is for every part of you, - from the sole of your feet to the crown of your head ... for true worship comes from the heart that directs every other part of you.

### 3. Worship the Lord gratefully (v.5)

\* ... joyful in glory, - It could refer to lying in the bed of rest at the end of a good day, when everything has gone right for us, or it could also be lying in the sickbed.

\* It speaks about worshipping the Lord in private ... and surely when you know how to worship the Lord in the quietness of your own soul you will also know how important it is to worship Him along with other believers.

#### **4. Worship the Lord triumphantly (vv.6-9)**

\* These verses remind us that worship and warfare go together.

\* Until we go home to Glory we are in the midst of a war, - the enemy is trying to control our mind, the devil tries to catch us 'off-guard'. In whatever way possible he will try to win ... or do as much damage to the army of Christ as he possibly can.

\* But he is already defeated at the cross! Christ defeated him there.

\* Therefore, - and because of 'there', - every believer can say, [Rom. 8:37](#) we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

\* So, from this psalm, we could consider worshipping the Lord **intelligently, fervently, gratefully and triumphant** ... There is also another way of looking at it, especially v.4 [For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.](#)

### **THE PLEASURE OF THE LORD**

\* The pleasure of the Lord is the worship of His people, - man's chief end. To worship God is the reason the whole of creation came into being, [Is. 55:12](#) ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

\* The whole of creation worships God but, in particular, God formulated a special relationship He would have with humanity, [Gen. 1:26](#) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... [27](#) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. [28](#) And God blessed them.

\* The company and conversation of our first parents thrilled the heart of God ... but then man's heart was torn away from Him and it became deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked ([Jer. 17:9](#)).

\* It no longer belonged to God for it served another master, and it resulted in the heart becoming the slave to sin.

- \* It took Christ to die on the cross to change the hearts of all those who would believe in Him ... and when Christ saved us, He turned us from *looking away* from God to *looking to* Him!
- \* Salvation is the consequence of God's grace wherewith He loved us.
- \* It is only by grace you are saved (Eph. 2:8) ... It was the love God had for you that He sent Jesus to Calvary, but it was His grace that determined such love.
- \* As a result God loves you more than you can ever know. It will take the whole of eternity to realise how much God loves you!
- \* He will never stop loving you ... and His love for you has His grip upon your life.
- \* I am convinced that when God sets His determining love upon you there is nowhere to which you can escape from His saving power.
- \* Like Jonah you can try and run. ... You might be able to close it out of your mind for a while ... but save yourself the trouble of arguing with God ... *because He will never allow you to win!* Give in to God and start living!
- \* **The pleasure of the Lord** is your salvation and mine. It *pleases* Him to save us!

### **THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD**

- \* We are only a small number of people. ... *Oh no, we are not!*
- \* There are so many people, - even in today's world, - the most up-to-date calculator could not count them all!
- \* They come from every corner of the globe, ... from the skyscrapers to the jungles.
- \* Even today, - as in Pentecost times, - the Lord [*is adding*] to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47).
- \* From the rich to the poor, from the most learned to the unlearned ... God is gathering His people unto Himself!
- \* ... And the Lord is taking pleasure in His people!
- \* He sees them with Christ in their hearts. He hears them talk about their Saviour ... and He is watching them as they are watching for Him.
- \* They are a special people with a special blessing ... and they all know the cleansing power of the blood of Christ (I Jn. 1:7).
- \* It is not their church or a creed they are trusting ... but Christ alone!
- \* He died for us on the cross to take away our sin, and through His death He made us His very own.

- \* How marvellous! How wonderful  
Is my Saviour's love for me!
- \* "O, the children of the Lord have a right to shout and sing ... We are going by and by to the palace of a King, Glory to God, Hallelujah!"
- \* **The pleasure of the Lord, the people of the Lord ...**

### **THE PROMISE OF THE LORD**

- \* He will beautify the meek with salvation, - *that* is God's promise!
- \* The Gaithers' wrote,  
Something beautiful, something good.  
All my confusion He understood.  
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife.  
But He made something beautiful of my life.
- \* In the midst of all the strife he was experiencing with the children of Israel, the Holy Spirit described Moses, Num. 12:3 Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.
- \* The psalmist said, 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him ... 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way ... 37:11 the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. ... 147:6 The LORD lifteth up the meek ... Is. 29:19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord ... Mt. 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth ... I pet. 3:4 let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
- \* 'Meek' does not mean 'weak'. It means 'gentle, and yet forbearing', 'peaceful, and yet longsuffering'.
- \* It takes nothing to be *weak*, but it takes a great strength of character to be 'meek'.
- \* Meek does not mean you lie down and allow the world to trample over you ... meekness, instead, is God's grace in action. Jesus said, Mt. 11:29 I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- \* Consider the strength of the personality of Christ as He hung on the cross, ... as they mocked Him and laughed at Him.
- \* On the cross of Calvary He had such a strength that is so foreign to this world!
- \* This strength with which Christ was clothed is the meekness with which He brings blessing to the true believer.
- \* When you are wronged for His sake, you don't kick back. It is meekness when ... Mt. 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. ... Meekness is a God-given quality in the believer.

\* It does not come naturally, - it is a gift that has God as its source.

\* ... And the more you set out to allow the Holy Spirit to improve you, the more you will be like Christ.

\* It is hard, ... it is difficult to be meek. It is not our natural reaction to be meek, especially when things are not going our way ... but it is a process *He will* complete, - *He will beautify the meek with salvation*.

\* Only *He* can do it, - He is the Potter, and I am the clay. He can 'beautify me', whereas I would not even know where to begin!

\* Beautify means to 'glorify and to adorn', - it is something in the heart and in the mind of God to do with me for His glory ... *I Jn. 3:2 it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is ...*

\* When, by the gift of His infinite grace,  
I am accorded in Heaven a place,  
Just to be there and to look on His face,  
Will through the ages be glory for me.

\* I shall be in Heaven because of Him. It will be my home because of Him. And every thought on my mind and word on my lips will all be to do with Him. And He will present me *beautiful* as His Bride ... *not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but ... holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27)*

\* Sadly, no unbeliever could cope with such a Heaven. They could not cope with being with Jesus. They could not cope with every single moment given over to Him.

\* Their eternity is so different, - it bears no resemblance at all. There is no laughter or joy. There are no smiles.

\* Sadly, in Hell the unbeliever will lift up his eyes ... not having anything to see but a Saviour Who they rejected, away in the distance.

\* They can never shout loud enough for Him to hear. He will never come to them again. They have forfeited every opportunity to be saved!

\* They might even hear the joy of Heaven ... completely unable to take part. They might even hear the songs of the Redeemed ... away in the distance.

\* They are in torments in the flames of Hell ... and their agonies will never go away. They have no song, ... but everlasting weeping and sorrow.

- \* What a difference to **the promise of the Lord!** ... He will beautify the meek with salvation.
- \* On Tuesday morning I hope to go up into the clouds and come down again in another country ... But you cannot be sure of anything these days ... however, I *do* know I have another 'journey already booked' when I Thess. 4:16 the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
- \* If you are not saved, you cannot trust in this **promise of the Lord**. You will be left behind facing the terrible judgment of God.
- \* But the Good News is you can trust in Christ today to be your Saviour and have this **promise of the Lord** too.

## CONCLUSION

- \* **The Pleasure of the Lord ... The People of the Lord ... and The Promise of the Lord ...**
- \* What a Gospel! It is the Good News that Christ Jesus came to save lost sinners. ... Without Him, without hope! ... No Christ, No Heaven! ... No Heaven ... *Hell!*
- \* Someone might say, "he is trying to frighten" ... Yes, but then would you not be frightened for your loved ones who are strangers to God and His saving grace? ... The only way to run ... is to Christ!
- \* Believer, look at the "let us's" in this psalm,
  - \* v.2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him
  - \* v.2 let the children of Zion be joyful in their King
  - \* v.3 Let them praise his name
  - \* v.3 let them sing praises unto him
  - \* v.5 Let the saints be joyful in glory
  - \* v.5 let them sing aloud
  - \* v.6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand
- \* Seven is the number of perfection, and God will work perfection in us. ... As we trust in His **promise**, may we, - His **people**, - be His **pleasure**, for His glory and Name's sake!