

Sunday Night Message

July 13, 2014

Psalm 66 – Make His Praise Glorious

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 66

Introduction

"To the chief Musician, A Song or Psalm.

There is no introductory information given in this psalm, so we really do not know for sure the context of it. We do not know if it was psalm of David. Some believe that it may have been written by King Hezekiah after the City of Jerusalem was spared destruction at the hands of the Assyrians.

The context does seem to indicate that this was written after the nation had been severely tested, but had also come through the testing, and had gained victory over their enemy.

The message of the psalm revolves around praise.

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." (Psalms 22:3)

"I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." (Psalms 18:3)

"Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD." (Psalms 148:13-14)

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:" (Psalms 66:1)

This is similar to our theme passage – Psalm 100.

"Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious." (Psalms 66:2)

We are commanded in this verse to make his praise glorious. The subject of this verse is understood to be "you". You (and I) are commanded not just praise the Lord, but to magnify and multiply that praise so that He is seen as glorious in the eyes of men.

How are we to praise the Lord:

I Through Song (v. 2)

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." (Psalms 100:2)

"When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." (Psalms 126:1-3)

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing."
(Psalms 100:2)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16)

Singing is an outward reflection of an inner joy. When we come together, we should sing our hearts out for singing is an expression of praise.

The song service is very important; not as important as the preaching, but still critical as it prepares the heart for the Word of God.

II Through Saying (vs. 3 - 7)

Notice in this portion, the praise is directed to God, and about God to men.

Praise to God

"Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee." (Psalms 66:3)

"All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah." (Psalms 66:4)

Praise About God

Notice that the psalmist is praising God for all that He has done for them. Does the world hear us praise the Lord for what He has done in our lives?

"Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men." (Psalms 66:5)

"He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him." (Psalms 66:6)

"He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah." (Psalms 66:7)

III Through our Suffering (vs. 8 - 12)

"O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:" (Psalms 66:8)

"Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved." (Psalms 66:9)

"For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried." (Psalms 66:10)

"Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins." (Psalms 66:11)

"Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place." (Psalms 66:12)

IV Through Sacrificing (vs. 13 - 15)

"I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows," (Psalms 66:13)

"Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble." (Psalms 66:14)

Notice that the psalmist had made some promises to God when he was in trouble, and he was keeping his promise now that God had delivered him.

"I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah." (Psalms 66:15)

V Through Supplication (vs. 16 - 20)

Answered prayer is a great reason for praise.

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul." (Psalms 66:16)

"I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue." (Psalms 66:17)

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" (Psalms 66:18)

Notice here a pre-requisite for answered prayer.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16)

Others – "in Jesus name"; request must be according to God's will

"But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer." (Psalms 66:19)

"Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me." (Psalms 66:20)