

He That Walketh On a Perfect Way

Psalms 100:1 – 102:28

> + + + + + + + <

~ As our Spiritual Safari camel train rolls on through the blossoming desert of Psalms, we're going to experience the joy and happiness of the Lord as we become filled with singing His praises! Psalm one hundred is the final oasis in a wonderfully precious little cluster of Psalms that began back in Psalm ninety-three. Throughout the previous seven Psalms, we have seen the Lord Jesus Christ *in that day* called the Millennial Kingdom; presented as the King after He returns to establish His Kingdom here upon the earth. Psalm ninety-three began with ".... *the Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty.*" Jesus didn't arrive that way in Bethlehem, friends; and we have seen the inner workings of the home of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in this safari, in Psalm sixty-nine. That wasn't good; so, we can know very definitely we're not talking about the first advent of Christ in this Psalm.

Psalm ninety-four began with ".... *O, Lord God, to Whom vengeance belongeth*" – and we saw how Christ will make all things right when He returns in His second advent. Only Jesus can execute vengeance without vindictiveness. Christ won't be reigning in a vengeful way; but He *will* be vindicating His children — and judging the poor in righteousness. Personally, I am looking forward to *that day*; it will sure be a new day for me. In Psalm ninety-five, we began singing unto the Rock of our Salvation; and we just kept singing as the Lord reigneth in Psalm ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight and ninety-nine! So, that brings us to the great doxology in Psalm one hundred; where we will sing the hallelujah chorus....

C ~ (A Psalm of praise)

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

~ God doesn't want us coming to worship with a doleful spirit. Naturally, there are times when sorrow follows us, and problems beset us, as temptations overcome us. The question is: do we turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in times like that in repentance, seeking forgiveness, and cast ourselves upon His mercy? – Or do we attempt to work things out our own way? We worship God when we come to praise Him and thank Him. All things work together for good to those who are in Christ. Do we believe that? God wants us to be happy; in fact, the Word of God was given to us that our joy may be full – as in, overrunning. The world goes to a “*happy hour*” every day; but they don't look happy to me. They might drown it all out for a moment by pickling their livers, but they aren't happy — it's a false pretense. It quickly fades.

The Millennial Kingdom will be a time when we will all be able to truly sing the hymn we usually only drag out at Christmas: “**Joy to the Word!**” That's not even a song for Christmas; and it wasn't originally written that way, either. It should be reserved until Christ returns to establish His Kingdom; I'll have to wait to sing it until that time – because I can't even sing now, anyways – so, that works out well. Either way, there isn't enough genuine worshipping of Him, praising Him, or glorifying Him today. The praise programs in most churches are full of songs that can't be distinguished from the songs of the world. That isn't praise – not even close.

Songs of worship must be Bible-centered and Biblically correct – or you may be praising something – but it isn't Jesus. I thank God my church does have a proper, correct and complete praise service; the only constructive criticism I could offer my church today would be that we need to add a little bit more competent Bible teaching, strictly from the Word of God, to

balance out said praise worship. Naturally, there may never be enough of that to satisfy me; and I'm likely not the one that anyone would listen to about this anyway – so, it may be better if I just study to be silent, and continue sweeping the sidewalk. That was my job in my church — and it suits me just fine. Frankly, most modern churches need more sidewalk sweepers and chair stackers and a few less preachers, a lot less self-professed prophets, many less apostasy-filled apostles, and a whole lot less meaningless missionaries posing as mentors. Of course, that's just my estimate – and who really cares what Andrew thinks anyways, right? What would I know about any of that?

Anyways, let's take our praise out of storage and do as we are told in Revelation chapter one, which tells us to, *".... praise Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us a kingdom of priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."* That carries me into the clouds! The whole earth is called upon to shout aloud in this Psalm with praises unto Jehovah – because, *in that day*, the world is going to know Jesus. The atheist won't be asking for evidence, and the liberal won't be propping up some imaginary Jesus that never existed. Interestingly, verse three constitutes a homogenizing of God as Creator and Redeemer. Many people — even many Christians — just do not know that the Lord Jesus Christ is God today.

When persecution first broke upon the early church, the apostles returned to Jerusalem and cried out, *".... oh, Lord, Thou art God."* It may be easy to say that, but do you really believe it friends? Let's just keep this all real, okay? I see a lot of Christians saying this type of thing, but they act like they don't really believe God is there for them when they need Him. Well, a big part of their problem is that they do not worship Him. Many of them only go to church about half the time – if that; and when they do show up, they're usually late — and disinterested. They *never* attend Bible study. They never come to a mid-week service. I don't know who they think they are kidding – maybe they are kidding someone – but they aren't kidding God. You'll never experience the full joy of salvation that way; I promise you that. God made this universe; and He is worthy of us showing up and

praising Him at all available functions that further the cause of Christ. Making excuses is, well, exactly that.

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture; and only because He redeemed us! Remember, the Good Shepherd died for the sheep; the sheep didn't die for the Shepherd. We love God because He first loved us. Too many Christians today are taking that all for granted. Those same Christians don't seem to realize this refers to the nation Israel; and Christ is their Shepherd, too! God said, "*other sheep I have that are not of this flock.*" That means other than the church, friends.

I see so many people rail against the church in religious circles; but the problem isn't the church – the problem is us. There will never be a perfect church if *you* and I are there; and the other problem is that people don't go to church to worship and praise the Lord Jesus Christ. People go to church for many reason – but *VERY* seldom to simply worship God. Add those two things together, and you have one dead religious ritual, my friends. Factor in that almost no one is going to church to be *THANKFUL* to God, and the mere fact of even having a church isn't helpful to anyone. In fact, it becomes a burden. Then, it becomes dangerous. I know that's tough talk. Someone needs to say this today – and I am just the person who doesn't mind saying it – not at all....

CD ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

~ Psalms chapters one hundred one through one hundred six constitute another cluster-oasis of Psalms out here on the blossoming desert of Scripture. After this Psalm of David, there are eighteen more of David to follow. These are more hymns that are all about Him – the Lord Jesus Christ – the King of Righteousness and Peace, Who is going to rule and reign on this earth one day. This particular Psalm – Psalm one hundred one – is a Psalm of judgment and mercy. It is impossible to fit this Psalm into David's reign, so we know it is purely eschatological; pointing to the Man God promised David was coming in his lineage. This certainly isn't about Solomon, or any of the line of David before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. No, the Lord Jesus is the Man spoken of here.

As we have seen in previous Psalms, mercy and justice don't get along in this world today. It is difficult, if not impossible, for man to hold them in balance. Only the Lord Jesus Christ as the Judge of Righteousness and the King of Peace can ever do that. Only Christ could ever make the claim in verse two. David ever spoke that way. David never said that of himself. David never reigned as this Psalm describes, friends. Solomon had a thousand wives *AND* he multiplied horses – so, we know very definitely we're not talking about Solomon. This Psalm speaks of our Redeemer, and the only begotten of the Father in Heaven – make a note of that. If we consider these Psalms correctly, they will come to mean much more than if we attempt to jam them together like pieces of a prophetic puzzle that simply do not fit together.

See, Jesus takes His place under the authority of the Father; and Jesus makes Himself subject to His will — and took a lower place willingly. Today,

we attempt to get to some higher place, and I see many people talking about how righteous they are. Well, we don't have any righteousness; except that which God gave us. But, if you bring it to Him on the basis of what you think you do for Him, He calls it filthy rags. Think of it like this: if you brought me a fine gold watch as a gift and I offered you ten dollars for it, you would be insulted. Think that through to its final conclusion and see what you end up with. Let's not insult God. Jesus took a lower place in order that He might bring us up to His higher place. Let's figure out how we can get into His direct will. It's not easy to get to that place; and His will isn't going to be your will, I can promise you that, too. Moreover, it's even more difficult to stay in the direct will of God, if we ever discover it....

CD ~ (A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD)

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee.

2 Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily.

3 For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth.

4 My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.

5 By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.

6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

7 I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.

8 Mine enemies reproach me all the day; and they that are mad against me are sworn against me.

9 For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping,

10 Because of thine indignation and thy wrath: for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down.

11 My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

12 But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

13 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

14 For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.

15 So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.

16 When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

18 This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.

19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;

21 To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;

22 When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

23 He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days.

24 I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.

25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

27 But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

28 The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with another Messianic Psalm. This Psalm takes us back to the Garden of Gethsemane! There have been many guesses as to who the writer of this Psalm was; it seems most likely David was the author. This is a prophetic vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, pouring out His complaint that night in the garden regarding the cup of sin – your cup, my cup – that He was being forced to consume. Jesus is afflicted and in humiliation here; and the Holy Spirit Himself marks this out as a Messianic Psalm in the New Testament, in the first chapter of the Book of Hebrews. This Psalm is Jehovah praying to Jehovah!

Genesis 19: 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven ~

That mind-boggling verse from Genesis depicts judgment according to prayer. In this Psalm, we have something different, though; the first seven verses are not a prayer request to bring down judgment from Heaven, but a request for relief from being the sin-bearer. It is a request by Jehovah to the One Who is able to save Him out of death. Frankly, that's amazing! Verse eight of this Psalm brings the deepest woe and agony one could endure. "Indignation" and "wrath" in verse ten are the strongest terms available in the Hebrew language. All of this was done for the joy that was

set before Him. Interestingly, verse eleven tells us we're still talking about the nation Israel! This is all about the Lord Jesus Christ returning some day to establish His earthly Kingdom.

Hebrews 1: 10 *And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail ~*

> + + + + + + + <