

Psalms 33-34

So this week we are going to be working through 2 Psalms and this first one found in chapter 33 is actually written with no author attached to it...Many believe that it was written by David and some even believe that Psalms 32 and 33 were kind of to be taken as a pair.

Let's go ahead and take a look here at verses 1-3 which say the following **Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!**

For praise from the upright is beautiful.

²Praise the Lord with the harp;

Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.

³Sing to Him a new song;

Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

David here gives an exhortation for all those that are righteous that they should rejoice in the Lord and that when an upright person chooses to praise the Lord it is beautiful.

I want to remind you guys this morning that our rejoicing in life should not be based on our circumstances or how well we are doing or how our family is or our kids are. Instead our rejoicing must always be in the Lord.

Over in the book of Philippians 4:4 we have the following which says **⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!** I can't help but think of Paul and Silas while they were in prison and actually they were in the city of Philippi in Acts 16 and they had been arrested and beaten and then thrown in prison. Life was hard for these two men, everything was falling apart around them, they had many enemies and

yet we are told that at midnight they were in the jail both praying and signing hymns to the Lord.

I'm so thankful that though the world around me may not be ok, that my Lord and Savior is still worthy of all praise and honor. You and I who believe in Jesus should be giving thanks more than anyone else in the world.

We can also see here that David encouraged the use of instruments to praise the Lord...you don't always have to have instruments but when you do it sure is a blessing.

In verse 3 we are told that we should sing to Him a new song...and I do think our worship should be original and there should be new songs that come from our hearts as we experience the Lord working in us and through us.

We can also see that we are to sing and do so with great joy. I recognize that there are many ways to worship God and trust me I know that there are many of us that may not raise our hands and become demonstrative in our worship...but I will say that there should be an excitement in our worship to sing unto Jesus our great King and Savior...I would ask you today how is your worship of Jesus? You know I believe that worship on Sunday's and Thursday's is just as important as studying the Word of God is...I want to ask today are you on time to church ready to worship? I would even say arriving a few minutes early to just get to your seats and be ready to sing unto our great God and Savior would be conducive to having a posture of worship in our lives.

Let's go ahead here and look at verses 4-5 which say ⁴For the word of the Lord is right,

And all His work is done in truth.

⁵He loves righteousness and justice;

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

I'm sure you know this but the Word of God is right, it is perfect, it is true and that's really an amazing thing to think about. This world is full of all kinds of half truths and inaccuracies and yet the Word of God is a foundation we can build upon.

We can also take note here that all of the work that the Lord has done has been done in truth. In other words the Lord has not made mistakes, He hasn't had little mental lapses here and there. The Lord is always faithful and consistent and not one thing has been done with an impure motive or an evil disposition.

We see in verse 5 that the Lord loves righteousness and justice. If the Lord loves these two things we should love them also. We should evaluate our lives and just ask do we really love what is good, right and holy in His eyes or do we have different values than the Lord...Perhaps we should ask ourselves what is it I am allowing in my life and what is it I am choosing to value and pursue.

Then at the end of verse 5 we are told that the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. You know I am thankful that the Lord has blessed us with good things in creation. If you think about the smell of roses or the smell of fresh baked cookies you know the Lord has given good things. We might think of the beauty of creation and how the rivers and mountains are just beautiful to behold. We might think of

the incredible variety of birds and ocean life that are found. Surely the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

God could have made everything black and white, He could have made everything taste like olives, He could have made all the animals make the same annoying sound and yet we find just the opposite as the world works together for His glory.

Now to build on this David says the following in verses 6-7 which say **6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.** I can imagine David as he wrote this just pondering the creative power of God and wondering at all the incredible abilities of God. It's amazing to think that God created something out of nothing. God spoke and the heavens were made and then God took the waters of the sea and divided them and put them within their boundaries.

We might keep in mind that Creation is supposed to be very clear proof that there is a God and it does do a great job of that. Over in Romans 1:20 the Word says **20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,** It's sad actually that there are many that simply suppress the truth of God's creation.

Verses 8-9 continue these thoughts as they say **8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.**

Because God is the Creator of all things it means that He is over all things and certainly the world should have a proper reverence and respect for the Lord. I think the world as they have denied that God created all things has lost sight of His great power and authority.

When there is no Creator it then implies that man can live however they want and make their own morals which leads of course to chaos and a lack of respect for God.

So David has been talking here in verses 6-9 about the Creative power of God and there are some that go through life and they say that there is a Creator but that as God has created He then kind of let things go and He now has nothing to do with the affairs of man.

David addresses this in verses 10-12 which say the following

¹⁰The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

¹¹The counsel of the Lord stands forever,

The plans of His heart to all generations.

¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

I learned a new concept this week and it's what is called the Providence of God and to define this it means the protective care, guidance or governance believed to be provided by God over humanity and the universe. In other words it means that God is not far off, that He is near, that He does have His hands on all things...You could also say that God is omnipotent or all powerful, He is the One that has His hands on all things.

As you and I go through this world we can sometimes become despondent over the things taking place around us. We can start to think that the leaders of this world are plotting against us, we can start to think that only evil is taking place all around us...and yet we should be reminded that the Lord has the final say in all things.

I like what Psalm 2:2-4 says when it says **The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”**

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. At the end of the day the Lord is the One that watches over all things. The Lord takes the plans of kings and guides them where He wants we are told in the book of Proverbs.

God can and does take the plans of the mightiest of the earth and brings them to nothing.

I'm thankful that as believers in Jesus you and I have nothing to fear, for we know that God's Word says that Jesus will one day return, that He will set up shop on this earth for a thousand years, that we the saints will reign with Him and no matter how many plans the world may make the Word of our God and the plans of our God will stand forever.

We are told in verse 12 that there is a nation that has been blessed and there is a people that the Lord has chosen as His own inheritance...I believe the nation that God has chosen is the nation of Israel and the Bible says that they are the apple of His eye...and I think the people of Israel are the chosen people that will one day be His

inheritance as one day the people of Israel will come to know the Lord Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Psalm 147:19-20 says the following about Israel when it says **He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the Lord!**

I think also though that the chosen people of God are the Gentiles who have chosen to put their faith in Jesus. We are told in Romans 11 that the Gentiles have been grafted into the family of God along with believing Israel that we might serve the Lord together. The Gentile believers will never replace Israel and God's plan for them as a nation but we sure can enter into the blessings of God through Jesus Christ.

So we've talked about God's work in creation and we have talked about God's sovereign hand over the nations and over Israel and now we come down even closer as we look at God's work in humanity and in each individuals life if you look at verses 13-15 which say

¹³The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. ¹⁴ From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth;

¹⁵ He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

It's amazing that we are told here that God sees all the sons of men and that means that every one of the 8 billion plus people on the planet are seen by the Lord on a daily basis. That's amazing to think about. We are told over in Luke 12:6-7 the following which says **⁶“Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ But the very hairs of your head are all**

numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

I think we can sometimes forget how much the Lord loves us and thinks about us and desires to hear from us and work in our lives...I know sometimes it can feel in our emotions that God is not concerned with us but I want you to know the truth of God's Word conveys that He has intimately created each one of us and that He has plans for each one of us.

We are told in verse 15 that God fashions our hearts individually...It's amazing to think how different we are one from another, how different we process emotions and what happens around us...Over in Psalm 139:13-14 we have the following **For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.**

Not only does God see us but we should take note that God considers all our works meaning He can see the motives of our hearts and He can see the reasoning behind every decision that we make. That should produce a fear within us that the Lord is judging the very deepest parts of our being.

Look with me at verses 16-17 which say **¹⁶ No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. ¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.** As you and I go through life there are many that have a great pride within their hearts. Many rulers begin to believe they are mighty and powerful because of their own abilities or how large their army is.

I think of Nebuchadnezzar and in his life he began to think that all that he had was his own and he said I have done these great things and then in a moments notice the Lord allowed this man to lose his mind becoming like the birds of the air or the cattle of the field and he lived like that for 7 years until he finally lifted his eyes to heaven and acknowledged God Almighty.

So often we can start to think we have great power and might or that somehow we have it together because we are succeeding and yet we should be reminded that God resists those that are proud and gives grace to those that are humble.

Look at verses 18-22 which say ¹⁸ **Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,** ¹⁹ **To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.**

²⁰ **Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.** ²¹ **For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name.** ²² **Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.**

Those that fear the Lord are blessed indeed as the eye of the Lord remains upon that individual...And I think that means the favor and blessing of God will be on that person and we can see that it will be upon those who hope in His mercy as well.

The Lord will deliver their soul from death and keep them alive even in famine.

Notice in verse 20 it says that our soul waits for the Lord and that He is our help and shield. Have you discovered the Lord will help you as you look to Him? Are you trusting in His holy name?

And yes we cry out as verse 22 says Let your mercy O Lord be upon us as we hope in you. We certainly need the Lord's mercy in everything we pass through in life.

Let's look at chapter 34 for a few minutes here if you look at the title we get some specific information as we are told David is the writer and this took place when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech and this man is also referred to as Achish.

You can read about this over in 1 Samuel 21 but just to recap it briefly it was a tough time in David's life as he was on the run from Saul and when he came before the servants of this man they began to say of David that this was the man that had slain his ten thousands and David became afraid they would take his life and so as a response David had a lapse of faith and chose to pretend like he was crazy...and as he did so Achish or Abimelech as he is called in this title sent him away for he had no reason for madmen to be around him.

Let's see what David had to say if you look at verses 1-3 which say the following **I will bless the Lord at all times;**

His praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Notice David says I will bless the Lord at all times...I kind of like that. We should bless the Lord always for He is good and gracious and kind and compassionate towards us...I think too that our mouths need to reflect the goodness of God continually. Perhaps we should examine our mouths and ask the Lord whether what comes from them meets this standard or not.

You and I should boast in the Lord as we go through life. I know He has done so much for me and I hope that I am able to point others to the Lord with my boasting in His goodness.

Notice too that those that are humble will hear of the goodness of God and be glad in it as well. To be humble is an incredible desire isn't it? We should strive for that in our lives.

Let's look at verses 4-6 which say the following **4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.**

We've talked about this before but it's such a blessing to be able to seek the Lord and to know that He has heard us and notice it says the Lord delivered them from all their fears. Isn't it awesome to know the Lord hears us when we call to Him? Isn't it wonderful that the Lord will take our fears and give us peace?

In verse 5 it says that there was a radiance that came from their faces and I have to say that when someone is in the presence of the Lord and they are seeking Him there is often a radiance that is seen. Sometimes you can just tell someone knows the Lord as you speak with them.

And then notice David calls himself a poor man and the Lord heard him when he called out and the Lord saved him from all his troubles. David here shows great humility doesn't he? It's kind of like what Paul said when he said he was the chief of sinners and I suppose you and I

could say the same thing...that we are poor in spirit without the help of the Lord.

Let's take a look at verse 7 which says **7The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.** This is a truth that is a big blessing isn't it? Commentators suggest that the word angel is actually plural and it gives the idea that there are many angels around those that fear and honor the Lord. I suppose we could say those are like guardian angels and I do think that God certainly surrounds and protects those that fear Him properly.

When it comes to the fear of the Lord we should try to define that briefly for it shows up 4 times in our text. To fear the Lord means to revere Him, to respect and honor Him and a good definition for that is found in Proverbs 8:13 which says the following **The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.** If we truly have a reverence and respect for the Lord we are going to respect and honor what he hates...God is quite clear in what He approves and disapproves of in His Word and so we should have a great desire to seek out the truth that is found therein.

Verse 8 says the following **8Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!** Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good? I believe as we seek after Him and the Lord works in our lives that He certainly does show us that He is good.

To taste and see that something is good means you have to interact with it and partake of it and bring it into your life and I just have to say today if you haven't tasted and seen that the Lord is good then you are

missing out big time. I don't really know how anyone can go through life without knowing the Lord.

I can't imagine my life without Jesus. I have seen the Lord is good so many times whether I be on the heights of the heavens or I be in the lowest of the valleys He has proven Himself over and over to me.

I would say today if you haven't tasted of the Lord that you should do so. Maybe the Lord has brought you here today and you are sitting here with an ache in your soul and a desire to be filled instead of empty. As you come to Jesus you'll see that He is good.

And then we are told that those that trust in Him will be blessed. I have to just tell you that you won't ever regret trusting in Jesus. I've been serving Him for some 25 years now and not for one moment have I thought to myself I wish I hadn't met Jesus.

Verses 9-10 say⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!

There is no want to those who fear Him.

¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger;

But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

Here again we see the word fear twice in verse 9 and its really a theme in the chapter that we should fear the Lord...Here we are told those that fear the Lord will not be in want and those that seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

You want security in life? You want to be blessed as you go through life? The first step and really the only step is making sure you fear and seek the Lord.

Verses 11-14 say¹¹ Come, you children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.¹² Who is the man *who* desires

life, And loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Now verse 12 is one I think we would all perhaps think is necessary when it asks who the man is that would see many days and see much good? And then we get the answer in verses 13-14 and first we are told it is those that keep their tongue from evil. To keep our tongue from evil is surely a hard thing isn't it? Over in the book of James we are told that the tongue can be both a blessing and a cursing...and that a perfect man is able to keep his tongue from error.

I want to just encourage us today that we need to have self control when it comes to our tongues. And I think our tongues and what we say can say a lot about who we are for it is from the heart that the mouth speaks.

We should also be careful to depart from evil and look to do that which is good...How are you doing with that? Do you allow evil in your life? To actively pursue what is good, righteous and holy?

Do you seek after peace and pursue it with others? We should be actively seeking out having peace with believers especially. We shouldn't leave things open-ended when there is a grievance. The Bible says if you have a problem you should go to that person and seek to find peace in the relationship.

Verses 15-16 say ¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

**16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

For those of you that are righteous and really the only way to be righteous of course is to know the Lord Jesus you need to know that the eyes of the Lord are upon you and that His ears are open to your cries and that should be a great comfort to us all.

On the other hand we are told the face of the Lord is against those who do evil that they might be cut off from remembrance from the earth.

My question is if you had to choose which of these two categories to be which would you choose? Would you choose to be the righteous one that the Lord listens to or the evil one who is cut off from remembrance?

The reality is that you get to choose which category that you will find yourself in...And really the way to make that decision is to choose whether you will accept Jesus in your heart and be seen as righteous or you can reject Jesus and found to be evil.

The choice belongs to each individual but we need to know that what we decide about Jesus is going to make an eternal impact on our lives and our choice is going to make a direct impact on our everyday relationship with God.

Look at verses 17-18 which say **17 The righteous cry out,
and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.**

18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. When you have a broken heart you need to know that the Lord is near to you and His desire is to save you

and work in you. I hope you know that today. I know that life can have us in some difficult spots and if you just think about David when he wrote this he was in a pretty bad spot in his life as he probably had just come out of the situation that he feigned as though he was insane.

Perhaps today you are like David and you are just broken from a situation that has happened in your life. Maybe you goofed and you are feeling busted up from a failure in your life...I want you to know when you run to Jesus He will indeed forgive you and work in your life and He will restore you as well.

I think sometimes in our failures we stay away from the Lord and we can have this sense of dread as if God doesn't want anything to do with us...That's so untrue, when you know you have failed the very best thing you can do is apply 1 John 1:9 to your life which says ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He is near to those that are broken, He hears those that are righteous and so really you need to be walking in truth and staying near to the Lord and you can be assured that He is constantly working on your behalf.

Look at verses 19-22 which say ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

²⁰He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

²¹Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. ²²The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Well this is hard news to hear isn't it? The afflictions of the righteous are many. You and I will not get a free pass as we go through life. I

know the health and wealth doctrine likes to say that if you just name it and claim it that it will be yours but the Bible speaks very differently doesn't it?

The Bible makes it clear that believers are surely at times going to face trials and difficulties as they go through life. It's just part of living in a world that is fallen isn't it?

And yet we are told here that the Lord delivers him out of them all and you know not all trials are short ones are they? There are times that people pass through trials that will endure right on to the end of their lives but the beautiful news is that those trials will not last forever for once we pass from this life to the next we will be in eternity with our Lord.

The Lord has a way of watching over the righteous...He keeps us from evil often times, He manages to take what is bad and make it good once again, though the world may come against us we shall stand in His grace.

And then that last phrase of the last verse is a beautiful one isn't it?

None of those that trust in Him shall be condemned. Romans 8:1 says **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** How awesome it is that the Lord has set us free, that we have no worries when it comes to a right standing with God...Though the world will condemn us our Lord stands with us, even when we go through things that may find us to be less than perfect.

Let's pray.

Psalms 33-34 “Let All The Earth Fear The Lord”

Chapter 33

Verses 1-3

Philippians 4:4

Verses 6-7

Romans 1:20

Verses 10-12

Psalms 2:2-4

Psalms 147:19-20

Verses 13-15

Luke 12:6-7

Psalms 139:13-14

Chapter 34

Verse 7

Proverbs 8:13

Verses 17-18

1 John 1:9

Verses 19-22

Romans 8:1