

**NGC/CW 6/11/23 Summer Psalm Series**

**When God speaks...we should listen.**

**Psalm 50**

**Text:** Psalm 50

**HI:** A sacrifice of thanksgiving is what God desires of his people.

**Title:** When God speaks...we should listen!

**Date:** June 11, 2023

**Purpose:** The only sacrifice worthy of God is our thanksgiving.

**FCF/COR:** As humans, we all think that there is something we can do/must do to be obedient and please God. Yet no matter how hard or disciplined we try, it brings no relief.

**WC:** The highest possible worship we can give to God is to be thankful for Christ and the work that he has done on our behalf, perfect obedience, and perfect sacrifice attributed to us by grace through faith.

**Apologetic:** Most of us understand that God loves us. However, we are still determining if he likes us. We spend our time trying to “white knuckle” our Christianity, i.e., trying to be good enough before a Holy God. Thanksgiving is the only engine strong enough to power us through this life while simultaneously giving ultimate glory to God.

**Form:** Inductive

**Main Idea:**

**Subject:** God, as the Judge of his people, desires a particular sacrifice to glorify him.

**Complement:** The only acceptable sacrifice is Thanksgiving, i.e., acknowledgment of him in all things.

**Exegetical idea:** Quit trying your way; stop and give thanks for all things and bring ultimate glory to him.

**Theological Idea:** Thanksgiving for Christ's work is our salvation, and his glory manifested most accurately.

Introduction: When God speaks...we should listen.

(Read Psalm 50)

## I. The God of the universe call his Court into session (vs.1-6)

a) Who has spoken? Three glorious names: The Mighty One (EL), God (Elohim), and The Lord (Jehovah). (vs. 1)

b) To whom has he spoken? He summons the earth, all nations, all ranks, all characters. (vs.3)

- This call is for reverence—it's the voice of God
- It is a hopeful call because God condescends to speak to rebels
- He speaks to all creation

-He is a devouring fire, a mighty tempest...flame and hurricane are frequently described as the attendants of the divine appearance.

d) Angels and men, upper and lower worlds, are called to witness this solemn scene. (vs. 4)

e) "Gather my faithful ones...." My saints, the objects of my mercy. (vs.5)

- The term is descriptive of a relation, not an intrinsic quality. None of us possess this character by nature. We are born sinners, and there is no difference; by divine grace, we experience a change of nature.

f) Court is set...God is the judge! (vs.6)

## II. Just who is on trial? (vs.7-15)

a) God is judging **his** people. (vs.7)

b) The indictment: you are insulting God. It's not that you have neglected to give sacrifices, but you are giving them the wrong mindset. (vs.8-9)

- This is a devastating sentence because it says that the center of their religious practice is empty and void as long as this mindset persists. (vs.
- They had a view of God that made him dependent on them. They thought their gifts were "meeting a need." He has no "needs." We need a reset in our thinking.

The only thing that pleases God is our faith, acknowledging him in all things and all situations. (vs.10-13)

d) Sacrifice all of your other attempts to relieve the pressures of your life. Acknowledge that God is present and in control, and offer thanksgiving. (vs.14)

e) The counterintuitive nature of the Gospel. What do we do when we are in trouble? (vs.15)

-We will seek to relieve the pressure by any means possible.

-Our cry out to God is usually are final act.

-We need to correct our mindset

### **III. You thought I was just like you. (vs.16-22)**

a) Understanding that this indictment/judgment is not aimed at the wicked in the world but rather at the people of God. (vs.16)

### **IV. The sacrifice that glorifies God (vs.23)**

a) Here is your salvation

b) Praise is the best sacrifice

c) Holy living is the evidence of your salvation; thanksgiving is the only engine strong enough to cause us to submit to his guidance, his will.

d) Grateful hearts equal holy lives, set apart to glorify God.

