

The Constant Leaven of God's Goodness

The Songs of the Children of God

November 1, 2026

PSALM 33

1 Sing gladly, O righteous, of the LORD,
for the upright, praise is befitting.
2 Acclaim the LORD with the lyre,
with the ten-stringed lute hymn to Him.
3 Sing Him a new song,
play deftly with joyous shout.
4 For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all His doings in good faith.
5 He loves the right and the just.
The LORD's kindness fills the earth.
6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of His mouth all their array.
7 He gathers like a mound the sea's waters,
puts in treasure houses the deeps.
8 All the earth fears the LORD,
all the world's dwellers dread Him.
9 For He did speak and it came to be,
He commanded, and it stood.
10 The LORD thwarted the counsel of nations,
overturned the devisings of peoples.
11 The LORD's counsel will stand forever,
His heart's devisings for all generations.
12 Happy the nation whose god is the LORD,
the people He chose as estate for Him.

13 From the heavens the LORD looked down,
saw all the human creatures.
14 From His firm throne He surveyed
all who dwell on the earth.
15 He fashions their heart one and all.
He understands all their doings.
16 The king is not rescued through surfeit of might,
the warrior not saved through surfeit of power.
17 The horse is a lie for rescue,
and in his surfeit of might he helps none escape.
18 Look, the LORD's eye is on those who fear Him,
on those who yearn for His kindness
19 to save their lives from death
and in famine to keep them alive.
20 We urgently wait for the LORD.
Our help and our shield is He.
21 For in Him our heart rejoices,
for in His holy name do we trust.
22 May Your kindness, O LORD, be upon us,
as we have yearned for You.

Reflections on Psalm 33

The affirmation that God is the creator of all things by word and breath: 6

He knows His creation inside out and His design and purposes have the last word: 11,13-15

Implication 1: the earth is good, and God's kindness is everywhere in the creation: 4-5

Nature, red in tooth and claw with ravine, shrieked against his creed: Tennyson

There is more that is good than that which is spoiled

Goodness is deeper than evil; evil is bent goodness

The truth of Jesus as the sin bearer (2 Corinthians 5:21): sin couldn't penetrate the skin

Implication 2: humans have an instinctive "God detector": 8,15

Eternity in their hearts (Eccl 3:11; Romans 1:20); the 4-10%

In light of such overwhelming goodness, praise is the befitting response: 1-3

Resistance to God is ultimately futile, like dark trying to "overcome light": 10

Things go well when congruent to design: goodness is meant to beget goodness: 12

Dependence upon and hope in the Lord are justified, for goodness can be trusted: 16-22

We are in a good story, and we can trust goodness to have the last word

In Memoriam
Verse 127
And all is well though faith and form
  Be sundered in the night of fear;
  Well roars the storm to those who hear
A deeper voice across the storm