

Psalm 100

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church * Summer Psalms * August 28, 2011 * Pastor Michael McCall

Psalm 100. We like the psalm because it is nice and short and positive. It is convenient for worship

as it encourages enthusiastic worship...it says we are to give God praise and thanks. It affirms our theological understanding of the Bible, in which our sovereign God is in control and humankind is in God's loving care. I like the Psalm 100 because it is familiar. It is possible to NOT like Psalm 100. The language can be off-putting to some people as it is all in command form: do this, do that. We are supposed to want to praise God because God is great. We ought to be thankful because God takes care of us like a shepherd. We should be joyful because God's love is forever. "Shoulds" and "oughts" are no fun and not very motivating...however the psalm is not trying to order us around. It is trying to encourage the people of God by giving them worship with assertive language. If we take a closer look at it, we may find it very encouraging. And short and simple as it seems on the surface, we may discover a kind of depth there that can be an anchor for our lives.

SHOUT for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Celebrate! Make loud noises of joy... and this is not just for Israel or God's special people, but for all the earth... not just humans, but the entire created planet. Because God created all of it.

WORSHIP the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. We are to worship or serve God with a happy heart; approach God with songs we love to sing...for God delights in us.

KNOW that the LORD is God. It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. This verse, right in the middle, is the heart of Psalm 100. It contains all at once - the most reassuring, the most hard-to-accept, and the most profound concepts of the psalm. Think about it. We are to know that Yahweh, the God of Israel, IS the one true God, the Lord God Almighty. He is the one Who made us, so we belong to Him. We are not our own. For some of us that is the hard part. We don't like belonging to someone else. We would rather be in charge, but the

psalm says that is contrary to the way things are designed. We belong to God Who made us. When

we function outside that reality, things will not work as well. This divine reality makes a profound difference in our sense of well being. "*We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.*" If you are ok with being a sheep, this is a good thing: because you have a guide and protector. Psalm 100 tells

us that the same awesome, powerful God Who created us in the first place and is worthy of our praise is the One Who guides and protects us along the way, worthy of our affection and gratitude.

ENTER his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise

his name. The gates and courts referred to here are the Temple gates and the Temple courts where God told the people of Israel to worship. Through Jesus Christ, as Christians, we can approach God to worship anytime and anyplace...but the guidance of doing so with thanksgiving and praise remains. Thanking God for everything...praise God for Who God is.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. God created everything and called it good. God gives good gifts to his children. We thank God for all the good things that come our way because of God's love. And we will be worshipping God forever this way because there is no end to God's love and faithfulness. "**Not even DEATH CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.**" (ROMANS 8:39)