

I CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Chronicles chapter 15 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Last time we saw King Saul killed in battle against the Philistines. Then David became king over all Israel, and David, being a man of worship, wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The only problem was that they placed the Ark on a new cart and that was in disobedience to how God had instructed them. When they got to the threshing floor of Chidon or Nachon the cart began to tip and Uzza put out his hand to steady it and God struck him dead. You see, you were not to handle the Ark of God, which represented the presence of God anyway you wanted. You were not to man-handle Him, in a sense.

Well this put a damper on the celebration and David sends the Ark of God to the house of Obed-Edom and it remains there for three months. And David is angry with God, but he had no reason to be angry. It was his disobedience that led to this.

Then, in chapter 14 we see David building his house, taking many wives and going to war and defeating the Philistines in battle. And the chapter concluded with these remarks, “**Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the Lord brought the fear of him upon all nations.**” I Chronicles 14:17. And keep in mind that the Ark of the Covenant was still at the home of Obed-Edom and as we move into chapter 15 we will see David bring the Ark of God home to Jerusalem. With that said, let’s begin reading in I Chronicles 15, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word this evening!

I CHRONICLES 15

VERSES 1-2

1. As you read this you see that David is busy building himself a home, which there is nothing wrong with that except that the Ark of God had no place to rest. And we are not sure if David was going to place the Ark in one of these buildings or not but after this incident with Uzza, he has a change of mind and makes a tent for the Ark to dwell in. Where was the tabernacle or that portable worship structure where the Ark was once located at? That was in Gibeon and offerings were being made to the Lord there, but David must have felt the Ark belonged in the city of David, Jerusalem!

2. Now how come David wants to move the Ark since the last time he tried Uzzah was killed by the Lord? Isn't he still afraid of what might happen? I don't believe he is and the reason is simple, he is going to obey the Words of the Lord as we will see in the next several verses.

VERSES 3-10

1. David had 3 long months to reflect on what had happened and now he recognizes how the Ark of the Covenant was to be carried, but how did he come to that conclusion? It is very simple, by reading the Word of God. Remember what Paul told Timothy, a young pastor in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Listen carefully to what Paul is saying here. He is telling us that the Word of God is coming from the very breath of God and that it is profitable to our lives. It is profitable in that it will tell us what is right. It will tell us what is wrong. It will tell us how to get right when we have gone astray. And it will tell us how to stay right. In other words, it will help us to live out our faith or in David's case; it corrected his sin and put him back on track! That is one of the reasons that the enemy loves to get us away from God's Word, so that we are walking aimlessly through life. May we learn the lesson!

You see, how important that is for all of us, to make sure our actions line up with the Word of God. If that is our desire and we are seeking God for guidance, we will be blessed. David was not going to make the same mistake twice and so he calls for the Levites to transport the Ark of God according to what God had commanded.

VERSES 11-15

1. I like this about David. You see, David made no excuses for their failure, he knew it was wrong, that they had sinned and it was because they did not consult the Lord, the Word of God in the transporting of the Ark of the Covenant, and God judged them for that. They tried to carry the Ark of God the way the world did, the way the Philistines did, on a cart. And as good as their intentions were, God did not honor it.

We are told in Numbers 4:15, **“And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.”**

You see, when it was time for the children of Israel to move, as they journeyed to the Promise Land, they did not call two men and a camel to move the things that were in the tabernacle and the tabernacle itself! The Kohathites were responsible for the furnishings of the tabernacle and they needed to be careful with the holy things of God. Aaron and his sons would cover the Ark before the Kohathites moved it, for they were not priests and they were not to look upon the Ark! And they would not touch the Ark; they would place the poles through the rings in the Ark and then place the poles on their shoulders!

When Uzzah was struck dead it was because they violated what God had told them. You see, the Philistines would carry their gods on carts and wheels and we are not to do the same. As we said last time, these carts were nothing more than boards and big wheels and thus, the world gets their board members together to vote on something, they call in the big wheels to get the work done, but not us. We are to rely on God, be led by His Spirit and see what God can do. You see, God is asking us to go before Him and seek His council for our church and not to make some big plan that the board votes on and some big wheels are called in to make things happen and then ask God to bless it.

VERSES 16-24

1. Did you notice all the worship people that were involved in bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem! That means worship; the worship of God was an important aspect in their lives. Today, many times, people see worship as a filler before the message is given. There are those that will even time it so they arrive as worship is over and they can jump right into the message. What a sad statement that is!

We were created to Worship the Lord and thus, if your heart is distant from God, you will not want or desire to worship Him. Some may be offended by that, but it is just the reality. You see, when you have drawn close to the Lord, when you are walking with Him, you can't help but worship Him! Remember what John said in Revelation 4:11, and this is from the King James Version of the Bible, "**Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**" And when you read the Psalms the focus is the worship of God, all of them! We see that in Psalm 22:3 where we are told, "**But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.**" In Psalm 47:6-9 we are told, "**Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne. The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.**" And of course we can go on but you get the idea and when we come to the book of Psalms we will see that for ourselves!

VERSES 25-28

1. So not only were they worshipping the Lord as the Ark was returning, but in II Samuel we are told that every six steps there was this sacrifice of seven bulls and seven rams that were offered up to the Lord, (II Samuel 6:13). Imagine, every 6 steps they stop, the sacrifice is made, and they continue on for another 6 steps and another sacrifice, and this goes on for some 8 miles or so until they get to Jerusalem! David is showing the honor, the respect that is due the Lord and if you think about it, 6 is the number of sinful man and thus, it is appropriate to stop every 6 steps. And for us, we need to take that time to put to death those fleshly ideas and seek what the Lord would have us to do. It is not always easy, it is not always as fast as we like, but in the end there is great blessing and celebration, there is great rejoicing in the Lord!

2. I want you to notice that there was great joy as they brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. There was a celebration. I think many Christians have lost that joy. You go to a church service today and many have such solemn faces you think that someone has died, and maybe that is true. Maybe their relationship with the Lord is dead or dying and that is why they have lost that joy.

Think about the Green Bay Packers season this year, they won the Super Bowl and when you look at the faces in the crowds at the Packer games there is joy, there is excitement, they are yelling and screaming for what? For someone running down the field with a dead pig under their arms! And yet when people come to worship the Lord there is no joy, no excitement, no screaming or yelling unless the pastor goes too long! Folk's, we are meeting with God, we have come to worship the Creator God and if you can't be excited about that, then there is something wrong with you! Listen to what verse 28 said again, "**Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.**" That is how it should be!

3. One more point here and that is David, he dressed like the common people even though he was the king, why did he do that? Because David felt that yes, he was their king, but before the Lord he was no better than anyone. David did not want to be above the people when he came before the Lord, he wanted to be equal with the rest of the people and not come as the king. And David was also dancing before the Lord and don't get the idea that David was the only one dancing, I get the picture that all were dancing and David joined in, not because he had to but because his love for the Lord, that joy just overflowed and he was just rejoicing. But, as we will see, not all were rejoicing in this celebration!

VERSE 29

1. As David and the men and women of Israel are entering the city of David they pass by his house, and David's wife, Michal, the daughter of King Saul was not involved in this celebration but was watching from her window. And as she sees her husband David dancing and looking like the common people, she is upset, she despised David for what he was doing. That word, "**despised**" is the Hebrew word BAZAH, (baw-zaw') and it carries with it the idea of disdain, to think to scorn, a vile person. And David basically told her, "I did it for God and not for you or anyone else!"

Now here's the thing. When you mix a saved person with joy in their heart for the Lord with an unsaved person, who hates the Lord, you will have trouble and that is what we see here! And this does relate to us. You see, as you are on fire for God, as you are just in love with Him, there may be family or friends that will try to bring you down as we see here. "Why do you have to go to church again?" "Why are you so fanatical about Jesus?" "What is wrong with you?" And that list can go on. May you not be swayed by their words, may you be like David, who basically said to Michal, "I am doing this for the Lord and not for you!"

It is as Spurgeon wrote, "No doubt, there are particularly nice and dainty people who will censure God's chosen if they live wholly to his praise, and they will call them eccentric, old-fashioned, obstinate, absurd, and I don't know what besides. From the window of their superiority they look down upon us." They just don't get it; they don't understand what true worship is about. It is not about the music or the songs but about our life that we give to Him and are not embarrassed to let others see our love for Him!

For Michal, like her father Saul, she shows no joy, no interest in worshipping God. And because of that she was barren. And how true that is of those that don't worship God, spiritually they are barren. And Morgan wrote this, "The incident illustrates the perpetual inability of the earthly minded to appreciate the gladness of the spiritual." They can't understand it folk's and they won't understand it apart from Christ who is the mediator between God and man, the bridge builder, the only one that can restore that relationship and bring us that joy once again!

I CHRONICLES 16

VERSES 1-3

1. Keep in mind that this tent or tabernacle that David built next to his house or palace is not where the rest of the implements of the tabernacle were located; they were still in Gibeon in the tabernacle there. David only has the Ark of the Covenant in this tent. And as the Ark was placed in this tent there was the burnt offerings that were made, and this spoke of consecration. There were the peace offerings that were made and that spoke of fellowship. You see, they had peace with God through the burnt offering and because of that they could once again have fellowship with God or peace with God. That is what Christ has done for us. It is His shed blood, His sacrifice for our sins that has sanctified us before the Lord and because of that we now have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Paul put it like this in Romans 5:1-2, **“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”** Not only have we been declared justified before God, at peace with God through Jesus, but we also have access into His grace through Jesus, and again this is through faith. Paul says **“we have access”** which is in the perfect verb tense indicating this is a permanent possession. It is as Clarke said: “And this access to God, or introduction to the Divine presence, is to be considered a lasting privilege. We are not brought to God for the purpose of an interview, but to remain with him; to be his household; and by faith, to behold his face, and walk in the light of his countenance.”

2. Notice also the joy that is seen in this celebration because of what God has done and David wants to share those blessings with those around him. So he does this by giving the people bread and meat and raisins. Some feel that these three were all bread and others place wine in this section. In whatever the case, David blessed the people not because he had to but because he wanted to. What a great lesson for us. Do we bless people because we feel forced to do so or do we bless them because we want to show them what God has done and freely give to them?

VERSES 4-6

1. Now we see David appoint permanent worship people you might say. Before, when they brought the Ark to the city of David, it was temporary, but now it would be an ongoing ministry to God. Of this Payne wrote, "David's appointment then of Levites to minister in music and praise to God marks a significant advance in the history of Israel's worship. His previous arrangements for music had been devised for just one occasion; but now a continuing service is envisioned."

2. There is another important point here regarding what these priests were to do. They were to commemorate or remember what God has done; they were to write these things down! They were to recall all the things that God has done in their lives! What does that do in a person's heart? It causes them to be thankful or to thank God for what He has done, just as the priests were to do. And what happens as you remember and thank God for what he has done in your life? You can't help but praise Him! In the New Testament we are called priests and thus it is our responsibility to minister before the Lord and remember what He has done, to be thankful for what He has done, and then to praise Him. I think it is a great idea to write down the things that God has done in your life because as you do you will not be able to stop praising Him. I think we lack that heart of praise and worship because we don't recall what He has done and is doing. Another great lesson for us!

3. The leader of the worship team, you might say, was Asaph and they had a variety of musical instruments to worship God by. You know what they didn't have, an organ! Now I am not coming down upon those who love to worship with organ music, but I am coming down on those that say that is the only way we are to worship the Lord by. In fact, listen to what Psalm 150 says about worship, **“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”** Psalm 150:1-6. The worship of God was not a death procession, it was joyous and it should be joyous in our lives also, they should hear the praise and worship of God flowing from our lives!

VERSE 7

1. In II Samuel 23:1 we are told that David was known as the sweet Psalmist of Israel and here we see a Psalm of thanksgiving to God for what He has done. David wrote at least 75 of the Psalms in the book of Psalms and here, we see a compilation or collection of a few different Psalms. Let me show you what I mean and then we will look at this Psalm.

- In I Chronicles 16:8-22 we see it come from Psalm 105:1-15.
- In I Chronicles 16:23-33 we see it come from Psalm 96:1b-13a.
- In I Chronicles 16:34-36 we see it come from Psalm 106:1b-c, 47-48.

Now what is interesting is that those three Psalms have no author to them and thus, by looking at what David wrote here, we should attribute them to David as being the writer or author, they were his!

VERSES 8-13

1. Here we see David start out with a call to praise the Lord for all that He has done and to make Him known! How often do we thank God for who He is and what He has done in our lives? Spurgeon puts it into perspective for us and he really gets you to think about our lack of praise. He wrote, “All the good that we enjoy comes from God. Recollect that! Alas, most men forget it. Rowland Hill used to say that worldlings were like the hogs under the oak, which eat the acorns, but never think of the oak from which they fell, nor lift up their heads to grunt out a thanksgiving. Yes, so it is. They munch the gift and murmur at the giver.” May we look up and thank our God and not just take all these blessings for granted!

2. Here is something else to think about. Do we talk of the wondrous works of God to others? Do we make known His deeds that He has done? Why is that? You see, we can talk about sports, we can talk about politics, we can talk about this and about that, but when it comes to the Lord and what He has done, we are silent. That should not be! When you see a beautiful sunset, you should say, “Look at this beautiful sunset that God has given to us to enjoy” and not just, “Look at this beautiful sunset” as if it were just a random chance happening!

F. B. Meyer had this to say regarding this issue, “We do not talk sufficiently about God. Why it is so may not be easy to explain; but there seems to be too great reticence [shyness] among Christian people about the best things. . . . We talk about sermons, details of worship and church organization, or the latest phase of Scripture criticism; we discuss men, methods, and churches; but our talk in the home, and in the gatherings of Christians for social purposes, is too seldom about the wonderful works of God. Better to speak less, and to talk more of Him.” Amen to that!

3. And let me say this. David appealed to the people to reflect upon God’s faithfulness as manifested in the nation’s history. Why is that? The reason is simple. You see, the God who was faithful to them in the past is the same God who is with them today. The God who has proved Himself in the past is the One who they can depend on today, tomorrow and forever. The same is true in our own lives. As we reflect upon what God has done in the past it gives us assurance that He can take care of what we are going through today, He is faithful! We too can depend upon Him today, tomorrow and forever!

4. One last point here. When you see the word, “LORD” in all capitals it signifies the name of God, Yahweh or Jehovah. When you see, “Lord” with a capital “L” and lower case “ord” it signifies His title as lord or master. Now there is something of importance here, for the name of God is not a noun, like our names, but it is a verb. It is an action word and thus His name Yahweh means “the becoming one.”

You see, God will become to you whatever you need Him to be in your life. Like Jehovah - Jireh, or “God will provide.” Jehovah - Rophe, “God heals.” Jehovah - Nissi, “God, my banner.” Jehovah - M ‘Kaddesh, “God who sanctifies.” Jehovah - Shalom, “God is peace.” Jehovah - Tsidkenu, “the Lord our righteousness.” Jehovah - Rohi, “God my shepherd.” Jehovah - Shammah, “God is there.” And there is, of course Jehovah - Yeshua, “the Lord has become our salvation.” We as Christians are to make known His Name, and that doesn’t mean shouting out Jesus to everyone. What it does mean is to let people know who the Jesus of the Bible is, the real Jesus and not the one the world has come up with today. We are to proclaim His character; all that He is, to those around us, that is what it means to proclaim His Name! He is exactly what we need, no matter what we are going through, our provider, our healer, our banner, the one who sanctifies us, our peace, our righteousness, our shepherd, the one who is always there and our salvation! May we not forget that and may we let others know of who He is!

VERSES 14-19

1. Here we see David calling them to remember God’s covenant with His people. But before He speaks of this special relationship He has with God’s people David wants them and us to understand that **“His judgments are in all the earth”** or His authority is not limited to just the Jewish people!

That is interesting because today you hear people say foolish things like, “That is your religion” or “That is what you believe” or “That is the God you serve.” As true as that might be, the reality is, He is judge over all the earth and unless you come to Him and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, you will die in your sins. You may not believe in Him, but the fact of the matter is, you won’t escape His judgment!

2. Now how long was this covenant that God made with Israel? What were the conditions that were needed for that covenant to stay in place? We are told that **“To Israel for an everlasting Covenant.”** Now isn’t that interesting, it was an everlasting covenant! Today people want to take that everlasting covenant and say that the Jews forfeited the covenant that God made with them and yet, God says it is everlasting. How in the world do you negate, destroy and everlasting covenant? You don’t! If they could then we would be in trouble for the everlasting covenant that God has made with us would not be everlasting, we could lose our salvation!

Listen to what Peter said in I Peter 1:3-5, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”** This is so important for us to understand.

You see, keep in mind that this section deals with our salvation and as Peter speaks of what God does in our lives, what comes forth from the lips of Peter? Praise unto God for His abundant mercy that He has bestowed upon us! Now Jeremiah illustrates the problem for us as he tells us, **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”** Jeremiah 13:23. Obviously an Ethiopian can’t change the color of his skin nor can a leopard change or remove his spots, it is part of their make-up.

Now that is leading us into an important aspect and I know you are wondering what does that have to do with us? Well it is as simple as this. Apart from Christ we are dead in sin and the flesh controls our lives. Thus, we can’t do anything good because it is not part of our nature apart from Christ. We can’t change our spots or the color of our skin you might say, our sin; we are incapable of doing that. Then what can be done?

Here is the beautiful thing. God has **“begotten”** us or we are born again in Christ. That old flesh nature is now dead and the spirit controls us. That is Paul’s point in II Corinthians 5:17 as Paul said, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”** We are a new creation in Christ, not because we can change our ways, but God can and He has!

What about this eternal security? Can we lose our salvation? Well, think about our earthly inheritance, is it safe, is it everlasting, will it not fade away? Of course not, nothing of this world will last, it is always moving from order to disorder, from new to rotting and decaying, from yours to someone else’s. You can’t take it with you.

But look at our heavenly inheritance, it is “**incorruptible**” or it will not be destroyed, it will never be lost. Our heavenly inheritance is “**undefiled**” or it is unstained or unpolluted. And our heavenly inheritance will not “**fade away**” which speaks of a flower that does not wither and die. The kingdom of this world, the things of this world, the things we tend to treasure and hold onto so tightly will all go away but what God has for us will not!

And folks, if you think you can lose your salvation, think again because Peter tells us it is reserved in heaven for us. If God has a place reserved for us do you think He will lose it or give it away to someone else? Of course not because our salvation is based upon His finished work, His faithfulness and all we must do to receive that gift is to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

Notice again that Peter says that we “**are kept**” or PHROUREO, (froo-reh’-o) in the Greek, and it was a military term used to refer to a garrison within the city. If God is on guard over our salvation do you really think the enemy is going to be able to take it away? Of course not! Paul said in Philippians 1:6, “**being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**” Do you see that, He will complete the work He has started in our lives! What peace that should bring to each of us!

Listen to these verses in Peter once again and this time we will read from The Amplified Bible. We are told, **“Praised (honored, blessed) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)! By His boundless mercy we have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [Born anew] into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change and decay [imperishable], unsullied and unfading, reserved in heaven for you, Who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God's power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time.”** I Peter 1:3-5.

Praise the Lord for His everlasting covenant that He has made with us; we can rest in Him and not be fearful!

3. Listen to how J. Vernon McGee puts this into perspective for us. He wrote, “

There are many people who would like to minimize the covenant that God made with Abraham. Well, my friend, David doesn't minimize that covenant. David says, “Let's talk about it.” God's covenants are still important today. God made a covenant with Abraham and He hasn't gone back on it. God promised Abraham that He would give to him and to his offspring the land we call the Holy Land, and God is going to do it. When they get that land given to them from the hand of God, they will not need to fear the Egyptians or the Arabs or the Russians. They won't need to fear anyone because every man is going to dwell under his own vine and under his own fig tree in peace. In other words, people will own their own property. All the land belongs to God, and God will give it to them in His time.

Just as God made a covenant with Abraham and with his offspring, so God has also made covenants with us. He has promised us all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, Vol. II, p. 380

4. So God has given this land, the land of Israel to His people and He can do that because the land is His and He can give it to whoever He wants! What about the PLO, the Hamas, the Hezbollah, Europe, Iran and-so-on who say that the land does not belong to Israel?

Tough! I think I will listen to God rather than man on this one! In Genesis 12:1 and

13:14-17 we are told, **“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.’ . . . And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: ‘Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are - northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.’”**

You see, God gave them the land and thus, it is theirs! The land belongs to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, it is His covenant that He made with them and He will fulfill it!

VERSES 20-22

1. Here we see David speak of God's protection upon His people as they traveled to the Promise Land and nations were not able to conquer them! Even in their captivity in Babylon, as the writer of Chronicles was aware, God protected His people. Now I know, some of you are thinking that many bad things happened to the Jewish people throughout the centuries! That is true, but God brought chastening upon them to draw them back and when you look at the big picture, they are still here. And keep in mind that the verse says that "**He permitted no man to do them wrong**" and the idea is, this all happens with the knowledge of God and He can allow things to happen in the lives of His people to make them better!

And think about this for a minute. Not only has God given Israel the land but God has protected them. We are witnesses of that fact for we have seen the Jews wander without a homeland for almost 2,000 years and yet they not only have returned to the land, kept their Hebrew language, but they have also maintained their identity as a people. No other nation has done that, been wandering without a homeland for that long and still kept their national identity. But God did this with His people, Israel.

VERSES 23-30

1. Here we see David give the command you might say to praise the Lord and not just the Jewish people, but all the earth because there is no other God besides the Lord! And we are to **“worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”** This does not simply mean to worship Him in a beautiful church. It means to worship Him in the beauty of holiness; all that He is in His person. I pray that you are filled with worship right now, that you are just holding back a big “Amen, glory to God!” How can you not feel that way when you see all that God has for us, all that He is!

2. In regards to there being only one true God, listen to what Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Commentary has to say,

Some people object to Christianity’s claim that its God is the one true God. But the Bible states emphatically that the Lord is above all other gods, which are idols (1 Chr. 16:23–27). He alone deserves worship, for He is the Creator and Sustainer of life. Most ancient cultures worshiped many gods, almost all of which were associated with nature. For example, the gods of the Canaanites were part of what was essentially a fertility cult designed to increase their harvests and the birth rate of their women. The Hebrews were virtually unique in their belief in one supreme God.

Today, too, people worship and serve a variety of gods, as well as a variety of often conflicting ideas about God. Meanwhile, the belief that there is one supreme God seems to be less and less popular, especially in an age that holds tolerance and religious pluralism to be among the highest of values. Yet God has not changed. He still invites - indeed, commands - all the families of the world to give Him the glory due His name (1 Chr. 16:28–30). Doing so need not be a statement of intolerance, simply a response to what is true.

- Radmacher, Earl D.; Allen, Ronald Barclay; House, H. Wayne: Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary, 1 Ch 16:22-24

VERSES 31-33

1. Here David speaks of creation itself praising the Lord and awaiting the judgment of God to come. Paul, in Romans 8:19-23 expounds on this idea of the whole creation groaning as he wrote, **“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

Listen to how J. B. Phillips translates verse 19, it goes like this, “The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own.” Also, this word is used several times in the New Testament to refer to the Lord’s return. So what we see here is that all of creation is straining to see something that they are earnestly waiting for with joyful expectation. And I believe Paul is speaking of all or nature, that they have been affected by sin and they too are waiting for the redemption of their bodies you might say, for the return of the Lord just as we are!

And isn’t it amazing that nature itself testifies that there is a God and man, who was created in the image of God refuses to see it and praise the Lord for all that He has done and all that He is! Our Lord does reign and one day He will rule and reign on this earth but prior to that happening, He is coming to judge the earth, the ungodly and redeem His people Israel!

VERSES 34-36a

1. Here we see the conclusion of this Psalm and David concludes with God’s faithfulness to His people and notice how the people responded to this in the last part of verse 36.

VERSE 36b

1. This Psalm was not just for David, but for all the people as they were in agreement with what was spoken and shouted out, “**Amen!**” or “So be it!” May we have hearts knit together in the Lord! We may not agree on everything and we won’t, but may we be in agreement in the Lord and give Him the praise that is due His Name!

VERSES 37-43

1. Here we see that the Ark was in the city of David, next to his palace, in a tent and the tabernacle itself remained in Gibeon and that is where the sacrifices took place. This probably continued on till the temple was built, but we are not sure.

And these worship people, the people attending to the worship of God, ministered all day long, there was continuous worship coming from this tent. I like that because our bodies are nothing more then tents or temporary dwelling places and we should be worshipping the Lord all day long with our lives!

2. As I close this evening look again at what we are told in verse 43, **“Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.”** In other words, after they were blessed by David, they went home to bless their own houses. I like that because there are many today who feel that church gets in the way of their family life. They think that if they go to church they are going to miss out on the blessings of doing this or doing that. The fact of the matter is that the opposite is true. It is as you go to church and worship and learn about the Lord that you will bless your family and as you and your family gather together in church it is your family that will be far richer because there is nothing more profitable to do!

I remember years ago we use to go to church on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Monday evening prayer, Thursday Bible study and that was not even enough. And I will tell you this; my family was blessed by it. How can we think that replacing time with God with other things will bless us, it won't and the reality is, it will hurt you! Remember what Paul said in Hebrews 10:24-25, "**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**"

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, "**And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.**"

I don't know if you have had anyone say something like this to you, but I have on several occasions. "I don't need to go to church, we have church in our house, or on the golf course, or in the woods, or listen on the radio or television or whatever!" The problem with that kind of thinking is it is wrong. Paul is admonishing us to gather together as a local body of believers to worship God, to stir each other up for good works and-so-on. So if you are not doing that, then you are negating what the Scriptures are saying here and you are not only hurting yourself, but also your family!