

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 129 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We are continuing in a section of the Psalms that are called “A Song of Ascents.” What that means is that these were the Psalms that were sung when the children of Israel were traveling to Jerusalem, to the Temple for the feasts days. They cover Psalms 120 through 134.

Keep in mind as we go through this Psalm that the Jewish people have been the brunt of many threats against their lives, against their existence. Anti-Semitism is seen in the Scriptures and we see it on the rise today. People are coming against the Jewish people and making them out to be terrorists. It is amazing that the Devil tried to stop the first coming of Jesus by destroying the Jewish people and ultimately the children in Bethlehem, thinking he would kill this child king. But he failed. And that has not stopped the Devil today in trying to stop the second coming of Jesus Christ and thus, his attack is once again against the Jewish people. And so, this Psalm, Psalm 129 speaks of God’s protection of His people from the wicked back then and today! So let’s begin reading in Psalm 129, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 129**VERSES 1-3**

1. From its start, from its birth you might say, the Jews have been a persecuted people. As you look at all that they have been through over the years, all the threats and times it looked like they were done, you realize that the only reason they are still even in existence is because of the power of God upon them. No other nation has been without a homeland for almost 2,000 years and remained a separate people. And God preserved them and brought them back into the land, even preserving the Hebrew language.

Look at the oppression they encountered in Egypt and I think that in verse 3 the Psalmist is speaking of the cruel taskmasters who rode over them like a farmer plowing his field. Those “**furrows**” spoken of could be the welts that were caused as they were whipped by their taskmasters. And yet we see that God delivered them from their enemy, He preserved His people, the Jews!

2. Now let me be clear on this. We are not Israel, never have been and never will be. But I think there is a lesson we can apply to the church in regards to this. You see, when you look at the history of the church and see the persecution it has endured over the years; once again it stands by the power of God. Satan has used persecution to destroy the church, he has tried to infiltrate the church and yet, in all his attempts, the church still stands because of God and not because of our strength!

You can read Foxe's Book of Martyrs and see what people went through for their faith in Christ, how they were put to death. And you will see that in the midst of persecution the church grew stronger! You can see today that the persecution against Christians in this world is on the increase. More Christians have been martyred for their faith in our time than at any other time in church history! Read today of the persecution that has come upon the church.

Then how can the church survive? If it were not for the Lord it would not! It is as Jesus said, words of comfort in Matthew 16:18, "**And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**" If our faith is built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, not the pebble, Peter, then understand that the enemy will not overtake His Church! God will watch over us as He does with Israel!

VERSES 4-8

1. Yes God did break those cords that had them in bondage in Egypt as well as other times they were in captivity. You see, God is faithful and He has and He will deal with the wicked.

2. Now here in verse 6 it speaks of grass on their rooftops or housetops, what is that all about? Keep in mind that many of their roofs were made of dirt and thus, as the grass seed would blow some could land on this dirt and germinate. The problem was that this grass would wither away in the heat of the sun because there was no depth to the soil. What the Psalmist is saying is that the wicked will fade away just as quickly, they have no depth to their lives; they are going to wither away!

3. In verse 8 it may seem a little confusing. Who is blessing who here? Notice it says, **“... ‘The blessing of the LORD be upon you; We bless you in the name of the LORD.’”** First of all this was something that was spoken of at harvest time as the workers and the employers would bless each other. We saw this in the book of Ruth with Boaz and his workers. In Ruth 2:4 we are told, **“Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, ‘The LORD be with you!’ And they answered him, ‘The LORD bless you!’”** I wish we would see that more in the work place today!

But how does that relate to what we are talking about here in this Psalm? The onlookers, the Jews say to the reapers, **“The blessing of the LORD be upon you.”** And it is the reapers; those who are coming against the enemies of the Jews who respond back by saying, **“We bless you in the name of the LORD.”**

And the idea is that the enemies of God’s people should be denied the blessings of God and we have seen that throughout their history. Study the nations that have tried to come against Israel, the Jews and see if they are a world power today. **“The LORD is righteous; He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked.”**

PSALM 130

Someone has said that, “The best prayer comes from a strong, inward necessity.” How true that is. When things are going well many times our prayer life disappears, we don’t see the need at this time to come before God. But as the storms of life come, and they will, it is amazing how our prayer life comes back. Here in Psalm 130 we see the Psalmist crying out to God for His mercy to be poured out upon him and the nation of Israel during this trial. So let’s dig in and see what the Lord has for us.

VERSES 1-3

1. As you read this you can feel the pain of this trial in this man’s life. He was in the pit you might say as he was crying out to God. It is as Lamentations 3:55 says, “**I called on Your name, O Lord, From the lowest pit.**” And the Psalmist is not making excuses for his sins, he understands how many there are. And really, think about that for a minute. If God kept track of all our sins imagine the filing system He would need! The reality is that it is our sins that have separated us from God; we could not stand before Him.

The Psalmist is basically saying, “Lord, if You’re keeping track of my sins, our sins, then no one has a chance because we all fall far short.” And what a horrible place that is. What a hopeless place to be. Can you imagine if the Psalmist just stopped here? That is where many are today, in that hopeless condition. But he does not end here; he goes on to say in verse 4 . . .

VERSE 4

1. Notice what this verse opens up with. It opens up with the word “**But**” and I am thankful for that! Yes I am a sinner separated from God and if He kept track of all my sins, forget about it! “**But**” it is the Lord who can extend to us His forgiveness through Jesus Christ, the One who has paid the debt for my sins, your sins!

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 10:17, “**... ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’**” What a joy to realize that God forgives us our sins if we are covered by the blood of Christ. Our sins are cast as far as the east is from the west, to be remembered no more. He didn’t say as far as the north is from the south, for that would be only some 12,429.91 miles, for the earth’s polar circumference is 24,859.82 miles. But the east and the west never meet, and thus, our sins are forgiven, forgotten, to be remembered no more. It is as David said in Psalm 32:1-2, “**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**”

I am so thankful that the Psalmist did not say, “But there is condemnation with You!” Or, “But there is death and destruction with You!” But he said these beautiful and encouraging words, “**But there is forgiveness with You.**” It truly is a blessing to be forgiven our sins, for God’s grace and mercy is so rich and deep!

2. Now it also says that, **“You may be feared.”** What is that all about? Think of it like this. When you think about what it cost God to save us, to forgive us of our sins and that this forgiveness that He extends to us is free, it is full, it is eternal and it is for all who would receive it, it should cause us to reverence the Lord. It should cause us to honor Him and love Him and trust Him and worship Him forever for what He has done for us! That is just the result of what God has done in our lives, we reverence Him! We honor Him! Creating the heavens and the earth really cost God nothing, He spoke the worlds into existence. But to save man He had to become flesh and dwell among us. He had to go to the cross of Calvary. He had to die for us so that we may live with Him! May we honor the Lord, reverence the Lord!

VERSES 5-6

1. Please understand that the Psalmist is not waiting for the Lord to forgive him of his sins. That has already taken place. Then what is he waiting for? He is waiting to be delivered from the situation that he is in.

The Hebrew word that is translated **“wait”** is QAVAH, (kaw-vaw’) and it speaks of a cord. Think of it like this. Some of you may remember who are my age or older, before all the electronics we have today to reach out and touch people, we had tin cans with a rope attached to each end and we would use that to talk to our friends. No long distance calling here.

That is kind of the idea here. One end of this cord is attached to God and the other is to the Psalmist and as he is attached to the Lord his hope is in the Word of God or the promises of God found in the Word of God. His hope is not in who is in office at the White House. It is not in a job or a home or this or that, he is waiting upon the Lord and resting in His Word! And this is not a casual waiting upon God, you get the feeling that he is spending his days and nights just waiting upon God, reading the Word of God, and then resting in the Lord, the One who he is attached to! May we do the same!

2. Now verse 6 may seem a little strange as it speaks of his waiting upon the Lord more than those who are waiting for morning, what is that about? You need to place yourself in the Psalmist's sandals you might say. Place yourself into their time period. You see, the cities were usually walled in those days to protect them from the many enemies. Thus, as night came around, the gates of the city were locked, and while most of the city slept, a handful of men had guard duty.

It was their responsibility to watch from on top of the wall of the city for any signs of an enemy invasion. The night time was a very dangerous time and these men longed for the morning to come so that the danger would be over. The Psalmist is comparing the longing these guards had to the longing to see the Lord come. We too are waiting for that blessed day when He will return and, after the seven-year Tribulation Period He will set up His Kingdom on this earth and righteousness will fill the land. We will not have all these murders and evil that we see today! It is as Paul points this out for us in Titus 2:13 as he says, **“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”** Lord, come quickly!

VERSES 7-8

1. We have seen the Psalmist hope in the Lord and His Word and now he is calling for the nation of Israel to do the same. And I get the idea that the Psalmist was delivered from this situation and he wants the nation to look at what God has done in his life to encourage them to look to the Lord, to trust in the Word of God, to have that hope and that rest that only the Lord can give to us as we trust in Him, as we are connected to Him!

2. As the Psalmist concludes he speaks of Israel being redeemed, how is that accomplished? Jews are saved by believing in the Messiah, Jesus Christ just as we are. And one day the nation as a whole, at the end of the Tribulation Period will turn to Jesus as their Messiah! But let's look at this as redemption for all who come to Jesus.

Keep in mind that God gave Jacob the name "Israel," He changed his name! He went from supplanter, deceiver, heel-catcher, to "governed by God" or "God rules." God took Jacob with all his iniquities, and forgave him. He wasn't perfect, just as we are not perfect.

You see, we are not saved by our righteousness, but by grace. Paul put it this way in Ephesians 2:8-9, "**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**" It is the grace of God given to us through His Son Jesus Christ that saves us. And if God could forgive Jacob, then He can forgive all the Jacob's of this world, He can forgive you and me and that is exactly what He has done if you have applied the blood of Christ to your life, if you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior!

PSALM 131

Psalm 131 is a Psalm of David and is called, “*A Song Of Ascents Of David.*” And yes, this is a short Psalm but there are some very deep things that are spoken of here. Have you had questions that God just does not seem to answer? Have you wondered why very difficult things have come upon your life? For David and really for all of us is that we need to have that child-like faith that hopes in the Lord, that trust in the Lord. So let’s see what David has to say and what we can apply to our lives in our walk with the Lord.

VERSE 1

1. Have you ever talked with someone and they seem to know all the answers to everything! They speak as if they do but no one has the answers to everything except the Lord. And David was a man who walked in humility most of the time but not all of the time. There were those times he was like Frank Sinatra, you know what I mean, “I did it my way!” But his heart was to serve the Lord and to walk in humility and by the grace of God he was a man after God’s own heart! And God is coming to us, asking us to surrender our lives to Him and walk by faith. Don’t do it your way, do it His way. In other words, it is not my way, it is not your way, but it is ***YAHWEH!***

2. Now it is not that God is saying that to know Him you need to be stupid, don't learn anything. Some people feel that way, that to be a Christian you have to turn off your brain. That is not true and that is not what David is saying. But he is saying that he could not know everything and those things that were too deep for him, he just trusted in the Lord! There are just some things about God that I will never understand with my finite mind. I will not understand how God could have always existed, it does not make sense to my thinking and yet, I believe it by faith because that is what the Scriptures teach. And think about it, there are many things that we don't know and we have to trust the Lord in and David is going to expound on that as he talks about having a child-like faith.

VERSE 2

1. How come so many Christians are anxious, nervous, fretting this and fretting that? Because they have not learned how to rest in the Lord and what I mean by that is that they have not learned to trust in the Lord. Look how did David calmed and quieted his soul! He gives to us a picture of a weaned child who is satisfied with his mother. Newborns cry, they fret until they are satisfied with being fed. But they learn over time to trust their mother, to be able to rest in her arms even when there is no feeding.

As Christians, can we or have we learned to rest in the arms of the Lord, being satisfied in Him? We need to. Paul put it this way in Philippians 4:6-7, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

Dr. Gaebelein makes these comments on what is going on here in Psalm 131. He wrote,

As the weaned child no longer cries, and frets, and longs for the mother's breast, but rests still and is contented, because the child knows it is with its mother; so the soul is weaned from all discontentment, ambitiousness and self-seeking, or any kind of selfishness, waiting on the Lord, finding rest and contentment only in Him"

- Dr. Gaebelein, The Book of Psalms, p. 463

As we grow in the Lord, as we mature in the Lord we must come to that place in our relationship with Him that we just trust in Him and we are content, we are at rest in His arms! That is where David found his rest and it is where we should find ours!

VERSE 3

1. Now the Psalmist is taking what he has learned, to hope in the Lord, to rest in the Lord and he wants his people, the nation of Israel to learn this lesson! All should have confidence in the Lord like this and that means you and me as well!

2. Now let's look over this Psalm once again because it started out in humility and ends in hope in the Lord. You see, to hope in the Lord, to place our trust in him is the antithesis or direct opposite of pride. Pride says, "I'm in charge, I can do it and I don't need God or anyone else's help."

Like it or not, there is no hope in that. But, as you humble yourself before the Lord, as you trust in Him, you will say, “I can’t do it on my own. I am weak. I need God and I believe He will help me through this situation.” In other words, when we are weak, then I am strong!

Jeremiah reminds us of this very thing as he wrote in the book of Lamentations, **“The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.”** Lamentations 3:24-26. We don’t have to scream and yell and make all kinds of noise, we can wait quietly on the Lord and the salvation He will bring to the situation we are in. And what a witness to others of the God you say you serve! Or you can scream and yell and make all kinds of noise and you will just drain yourself of the strength that you had. Rest in the Lord, trust in Him and see the salvation that He will bring to the situation you are in!

3. A. W. Tozer makes this same recommendation as David did regarding waiting and resting in the Lord, just trusting in Him, having confidence in Him! He wrote, “Never forget that it is a privilege to wonder, to stand in delighted silence before a Supreme Mystery and whisper, ‘O Lord God, thou knowest.’” May we believe that!

PSALM 132

This is another Psalm that deals with trusting in God, believing in the promises of God. We need to believe that what God has promised He is faithful and able to do. Now who wrote this Psalm and when was it written is up for debate and I will share with you a few ideas.

The first is that it was written by David when he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem from Kirjath Jearim. The way that it is written it seems to be after the time of David. That leads some to believe that Solomon wrote this as he brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple. That could be but as you read this Psalm it seems like the nation was or is in captivity and they are calling on God for help. They want God to remember the covenant that He made with David. So it could be after their exile in Babylon. I tend to lean in that direction but I would not be dogmatic about it. But let's look at the lessons the Holy Spirit has for us as we look at this Psalm that once again deals with trust, trusting in the Lord!

VERSES 1-5

1. The Psalmist is speaking of all that David went through to build God a house and in reality, David was not allowed to because he was a man of war. His son Solomon built the Temple where the Ark of the Covenant rested.

But during David's time as King, as you may remember, the Tabernacle was in Shiloh, and the Ark of the Covenant was in Kirjath Jearim, after a 7 month stay in captivity by the Philistines. And by the end of 7 months they were more than happy to return the Ark back to Israel.

Thus, one of David's first actions was to bring the Ark to Jerusalem, but because of a worldly approach in the handling of the Ark, because they did not obey God, Uzzah was struck dead as he tried to keep the Ark from tipping over when the cart that was carrying it hit a rock. So David leaves the Ark at the house of Obed-Edom, where it remained for 3 months, till David saw his sin and brought the Ark back according to the instructions of God.

Then one day, as David sat in his beautiful cedar house, he saw the Ark of God sitting in this tent, maybe a flap of the tent was blowing in the breeze, and his hearts desire was to build God a home. And after telling Nathan about what he wanted to do, and Nathan giving David the okay to build this house, the Lord told Nathan to speak to David and tell him that because he is a man of war, he can't build this house, but his son Solomon will be able to as I have said.

Now instead of complaining, David did everything he could, gathering together all the materials for the Temple. That is a servant's heart, just wanting to serve at any capacity. And so after the Temple was built the place of worship went from Shiloh to Jerusalem, uniting the nation together in the worship of God.

VERSES 6-9

1. Now this seems confusing because Bethlehem was never a place where the Ark of the Covenant rested. Keep in mind that Ephrathah was the ancient name for Bethlehem. Yes, it was the birthplace of David and of Jesus but the Ark of the Covenant was never there.

So what is this speaking of?

Some feel that Caleb Ephrathah that is spoken of in I Chronicles 2:24 is speaking of Kirjath Jearim and if this is true, it would make sense because this is where the Ark of the Covenant rested for a time, until it was finally brought to Jerusalem. As the Ark was brought up from Kirjath Jearim, and then from the house of Obed-Edom, there was great celebrations throughout the land. And then when the Temple was completed and the Ark of the Covenant brought into the Holy of Holies, the Shekinah Glory or the presence of God filled the place. In other words, it was truly “**A dwelling place for the Mighty God of Jacob.**”

VERSES 10-12

1. This was a conditional promise made to David. ***IF*** his son’s were obedient they would remain on the throne. We read of Ahaz, that “**He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.**” II Chronicles 28:3-4.

Also, there was Manasseh, one of the most wicked Kings in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and another descendent of David. We read in II Chronicles 33:6-10, **“Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, ‘In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever; and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers; only if they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.’ So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.”**

Because of their failure to be obedient, God brought judgment and removed them from the throne.

2. And now it seems that their captivity for their disobedience to God is over and the Psalmist wants God to remember the covenant that He made with David and put a King back on the throne. Interestingly enough, if they would have received Him, Jesus would have sat on the throne in His first coming but they rejected Him. Now, when He comes again they will receive Him and Jesus will sit upon the throne of David forever! He will fulfill His promise that He made to David. The Son of David will sit upon the throne! And if God is faithful to His people then we can trust in Him, we can rest in His promises to us!

VERSES 13-18

1. I don't know about you, but if I were going to pick a place to live, it would not be Jerusalem for it is a rocky, barren area. I would choose Hawaii or some place like that. But God has chosen this place called Jerusalem to put His name, and because of that, it is the focus of the world. And I have to tell you, there is something special about this place and one day we will be with the Lord there!

2. Like I have said, there is coming a day when a descendent of David, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will sit on the throne of David, and from that point, His kingdom will never end.

It is as Isaiah 9:6-7 says, **“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”** For those that come against Him, they will be put down. For those who love Him, they will live with Him! It is as Thomas Kelly wrote,

The head that once was crowned with thorns

Is crowned with glory now!

Heaven’s royal diadem adorns

The mighty Victor’s brow!

- Thomas Kelly

PSALM 133

This Psalm extols the beauty of unity. Many today are confused about this issue of unity, but it is very important. Some feel that we should have unity no matter what. Others feel that if you don't agree with everything we believe we are not going to unite together. I think there is a balance and that balance is this. There must be unity that is in accordance to the foundational truths of God found in the Word of God. You see, Christ is the One who has united us together, both Jew and Gentile into one body, the body of Christ. But make no mistake about it, that unity must be based in truth. And we will talk about how we have neglected this unity and what that can do as we read through this Psalm. So let's dig in and see what David has to say regarding unity in this second to the last Song of Ascents.

VERSE 1

1. Picture a large group of people ascending up to Jerusalem, in unity, singing this song. Unity is important in the body of Christ. The key is "**brethren.**" If they are not brethren, if they are not believers then there can be no unity.

Paul points this out in II Corinthians 6:14-18. He says, **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”**

2. What I find interesting is that most divisions in the body of Christ are over non-foundational issues and then when it comes to the foundational issues, we seem to ignore those things. Make no mistake about it, false doctrine should be exposed and not swept under the carpet. We should strive for unity in the Spirit. In John 17:20-23 we see Jesus praying for us, that we would be *ONE* just as He and the Father are one.

He said, **“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”**

Jesus wants us to be One, may we not let things get in our way. Yes, doctrine is the determining factor if we unite or not, but don't let personal convictions rob you of the unity that God desires. We may not agree on the gifts of the Spirit, if they are for today or not. But that should not be a dividing factor. We may not agree on when the Rapture is going to occur, but that should not cause us to divide. And what happens so often is that there is so much division in the body of Christ that as the world looks at us they see just a bunch of noise. Let me explain.

At a meeting of the American Psychological Association, Jack Lipton, a psychologist at Union College, and R. Scott Builione, a graduate student at Columbia University, presented their findings on how members of the various sections of 11 major symphony orchestras perceived each other.

The percussionists were viewed as insensitive, unintelligent, and hard-of-hearing, yet fun-loving. String players were seen as arrogant, stuffy, and unathletic. The orchestra members overwhelmingly chose "loud" as the primary adjective to describe the brass players. Woodwind players seemed to be held in the highest esteem, described as quiet and meticulous, though a bit egotistical.

Interesting findings, to say the least! With such widely divergent personalities and perceptions, how could an orchestra ever come together to make such wonderful music? The answer is simple: regardless of how those musicians view each other, they subordinate their feelings and biases to the leadership of the conductor. Under his guidance, they play beautiful music.

- Today in the Word, June 22, 1992

You see, if we truly are under the authority of our Leader, our Conductor you might say, if Jesus is the head, then we will work together in unity and we will produce beautiful music, there will be lasting fruit in the work we are doing!

But, if there is a turning away from the truths of God found in the Word of God, then there can be no unity as Spurgeon wrote, “It is our solemn conviction that where there can be no real spiritual communion there should be no pretence of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin.”

3. I think you understand what I am saying and now David is going to tell us what unity is like. And as you will see, it is beautiful, it is refreshing.

VERSES 2-3

1. Notice the picture that David is painting for us here in regards to unity, what it is like. He tells us it is like the oil poured over the head. Not just a few drops, poured over the head and dripping down on the beard! Keep in mind that as they poured the oil over the high priest, over the head of Aaron, it flowed onto the breastplate which had the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, showing that unity and the closeness they had to one another. And the oil showing the oneness they had in their relationship with the Lord.

Paul put it this way in Ephesians 2:14-16, **“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”**

Christ has broken down the walls of division, don't build them up again. Satan loves to divide and conquer and think about it. A nation that is divided is weak, and a nation that is in unity is strong. A nation that allows compromise is weak; a nation that stands on God's Word is strong.

Unity is important in our lives, that we have a oneness in belief which then leads to a oneness in our actions. And it is out of that, as the world looks at us, they will see and know the love of God which will lead them into a relationship with God! Don't let petty differences, pride, or anything else get in your way of God's love for us as we walk in unity with Him and other believers, showing the world what true love is all about!

Let me share this story with you, something to think about. We are told, The year of 1730, a notable one for American Christianity, witnessed the arrival of 26-year-old George Whitefield, already famous for his evangelical preaching in England. Whitefield, a Church of England priest, welcomed as co-laborers Baptist, Presbyterians, Quakers, Lutherans, Congregationalists, Dutch Reformed, and anyone else who preached individual conversion. As he crossed the Atlantic, he wrote to a clergyman friend in England: “The partition wall has for some time been broken down out of my heart, and I can truly say whoever loves the Lord Jesus, ‘the same is my brother, and sister, and mother,’”

- Raymond W. Settle

May we have that same heart as we reach out to the lost world for Jesus Christ! Remember, this is what Jesus was praying for, this is what He wanted manifested in our lives, may we surrender to His will and walk in obedience, in love, and see the world drawn to His love through us!

And so, in those areas that may be dry and desolate, allow the oil of the Holy Spirit to flow over your life and cut down on that friction that may be arising between you and others. In those areas that may be dry and desolate, allow the fresh water of the Holy Spirit to refresh your soul. You see, unity in the body of Christ is refreshing to our lives. May there be unity again in the body of Christ, working together for our King! It is like this, “In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, liberty. In all things, charity.” It is what Jesus prayed for His disciples, you and me the night before He was to be crucified. I think it is important for us to understand and live!

PSALM 134

This is the final Psalm dealing with the Songs of Ascents. Here we see the pilgrim in the Temple and praising the Lord in the evening. So let's see what joy this pilgrim has as he worships the Lord, the One he has come to fellowship with!

VERSES 1-3

1. If you remember, David had the Kohathites and their descendants; Heman was one of them, worshipping the Lord all night long around the tent where the Ark was located.

How beautiful it must have been to hear their voices singing praises to God as you went to bed and as you woke-up in the morning. There is just something about praise and worship music that lifts your downcast soul, gets you re-focused back on the Lord. And what a way to end, in unity singing praises to the Lord. (I Chronicles 6:31, 9:33).

2. And try to picture what is going on here. After a long day of activities, the Temple was a very busy place, the priests and Levites stood watch during the night time, the worship people were singing. And I guess it is true, **“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”**

Now what I do want you to notice is that they were not complaining about working the night shift. The singers were not singing the blues! They were blessing the Lord, they were praising the Lord. And when you do that, when you lift up your hands to bless the Lord even in the most difficult or maybe not the most convenient times, He will reach down His hands to bless you. May we do as the Psalmist has done as he stood in the presence of God, **“Behold, bless the Lord, All you servants of the Lord, Who by night stand in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the Lord. The Lord who made heaven and earth Bless you from Zion!”**