

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HATH MADE PSALMS 118

Text: Psalms 118:24

Psalm 118:24

²⁴ This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Introduction:

After encouraging others to unite in praise, the writer celebrates God's protecting and delivering care towards him, and then represents himself and the people of God as entering the sanctuary and uniting in sincere praise, with prayer for a continued blessing.

Note some important truths from this passage this evening.

The psalmist in this chapter was prompting praise.

Not those that the Psalmist prompts:

- The People (vs. 1-2, 4, 24)

Psalm 118:1-2

¹ O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. ² Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 118:4

⁴ Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 118:24

²⁴ This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

He urges the congregations to praise God by repeating “His mercy endureth forever.

As we read these verses we concluded that all believers are to give thanks, and rejoice in the day that the Lord hath made.

Not only did he prompt the people he also prompted:

- The Priest (vs. 3)

Psalm 118:3

³ Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

The psalmist now urges Aaron’s descendants to also praise God because God’s mercy endureth forever.

Note the reasons the psalmist gives to give thanks:

1. HIS PATIENCE (VS. 1-4)

Psalm 118:1-4

¹ O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. ² Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever. ³ Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever. ⁴ Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Illustration:

I read the story of a land surveyor, and he was called to a golf course that they expanding from 9 holes to 18 holes.

Using a machete to clear thick brush in an area he was mapping, he came upon a golf club that an irate player must have tossed away.

It was in good condition, so he picked it up and continued on. When he came out of the brush onto a putting green, two golfers stared at him in amazement.

He had a machete in one hand, a golf club in the other, and behind him was a clear-cut swath over 100 yards long.

“There,” said one of the golfers, “is a guy who hates to lose his ball!”

Note:

God is patient with all of us.

He is good because “His mercy endureth forever

The word mercy means: kindness, piety, or the show mercy.

When the best of the earth fails and passes away, we are to know that we can always count on the love and mercy of the Lord.

It simply does not change.

It endures forever.

Note also that the psalmist says that he cannot sufficiently express all this by Himself.

There is so much to be thankful about, that it is a discipline that we all need to do.

Not only are we to be thankful for His Patience but also:

2. HIS PRESENCE (VS. 5-18)

Psalm 118:5-18

⁵ I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. ⁶ The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? ⁷ The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me. ⁸ It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. ⁹ It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes. ¹⁰ All nations compassed me about: but in the name of the LORD will I destroy them. ¹¹ They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about: but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. ¹² They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. ¹³ Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: but the LORD helped me. ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. ¹⁵ The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. ¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. ¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. ¹⁸ The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

The psalmist is describing a great distress.

Literally, it means “a tight place.”

He was in trouble.

But as he prayed, he discovered an important and eternal truth.

- God is With Us

God is the with-us God.

No matter how bad it seems, God hears.

No matter how bad it is going, God is present.

The Lord is on our side!

You see...

- God Is Worth Trusting

The psalmist wants us to see that it is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in any human source.

He then uses pictures to describe to us the trouble he was in.

His enemies surrounded him, swarmed him like bees.

It was a furious hostility that was like the crackle of a surrounding fire.

But what he discovered is that the power of evil turns out to be as short-lived as it is fierce.

For the Lord's name is sufficiently powerful.

He has the power to save, bring judgment on His adversaries, as well as bring help to His children.

When we trust in Him, He sets us free, and we sing a victory song!

But getting to that victory song is not easy.

We consider one more reason we should be thankful for:

3. HIS PRESERVATION (vs. 19-28)

Psalm 118:19-28

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD: ²⁰ This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. ²¹ I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. ²² The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. ²³ This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. ²⁶ Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed

you out of the house of the LORD. ²⁷ God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. ²⁸ Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

There are some lessons here that must never be lost to us...

1. It is God that saves.

The psalmist is able to identify a common theme.

The Lord is salvation.

He preserves His people.

And just as He worked in old, He works now.

There is continuity.

But what must not be lost here is that man needs God's salvation.

He cannot save himself.

He is absolutely lost in sin and unbelief.

2. God uses the rejected to accomplish His will.

While we could site several examples, the preeminent one is Jesus Himself.

He suffered supreme rejection and humiliation.

Note how this is described in Acts 4:8-12:

Acts 4:8-12

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, ⁹ If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; ¹⁰ Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Jesus enters into Jerusalem triumphantly.

But that happy time was short-lived.

Jesus was reviled, insulted, rejected and crucified by the leaders of the nation of Israel.

Yet, the ultimate victory and glory belonged to Jesus.

For what on one day looks like a negative, turns out in the light of another day, to be a positive.

3. God designs us to reflect His light.

When we come in the name of the Lord, there is a blessing for us.

We exist and we are protected by His light.

It shines upon us.

And it shines through us.

Close:

May we understand the importance of giving thanks unto the Lord.