

Ps 33 (ESV) Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. ⁽²⁾ Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! ⁽³⁾ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ⁽⁴⁾ For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁽⁵⁾ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. ⁽⁶⁾ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ⁽⁷⁾ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁽⁸⁾ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁽⁹⁾ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. ⁽¹⁰⁾ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. ⁽¹¹⁾ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. ⁽¹²⁾ Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! ⁽¹³⁾ The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; ⁽¹⁴⁾ from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, ⁽¹⁵⁾ he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. ⁽¹⁶⁾ The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ⁽¹⁷⁾ The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. ⁽¹⁸⁾ Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ⁽¹⁹⁾ that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. ⁽²⁰⁾ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ⁽²¹⁾ For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ⁽²²⁾ Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

1. We aren't sure of the specific occasion that prompted David to write this Psalm

A. But the message of this Psalm is great!

- 1). It is a call to God's people to live a life of unbroken praise to Him
- 2). But it is not a mindless praise – this Psalm gives reasons for that praise

Point: Worship – praise is based on something – it is logical – because of who He is

A. That is scriptural isn't it – worship inspired by truth – not a whipped up emotion based on nothing

Jn 4:23–24 (ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in *spirit and truth*, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ⁽²⁴⁾ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in *spirit and truth*."

- 1). Some think this is speaking of the Holy Spirit – I don't think so – it is a small "s"
 - a). I think it is the human spirit – that is filled with passion
- 2). Here is the way I think this works
 - a). Truth is the fuel that ignites that passion in my heart – in my spirit
It ignites affections for God – reverence – adoration – gratitude - joy
 - 1a). Then I express that passion when I worship
- 3). Of course the Holy Spirit is involved in all this
 - a). I would have no desire to worship or no understanding of that truth that inspires worship

Transition: So this Psalm gives a call to passionate worship – and provides the fuel to ignite it

I. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Ps 33:1–3 (ESV) Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. ⁽²⁾ Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! ⁽³⁾ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Shout for joy in the Lord (NIV Sing joyfully to the Lord)

1. Means to "Sing aloud with jubilant exultation"

A. Why? Because of what God has done – and because of who God is

Oswald B. Milligan: Worship is giving to the Lord the glory that is due in response to what he has revealed to us and done to us in Jesus Christ his Son.

- 1). Dead worship – half-hearted worship makes no sense from the recipients of such mercies
- B. Half-hearted – mind wandering – thinking about something else – heartless worship
 - 1). I have to think is an insult to Him!

2. He speaks of using instruments

Ps 33:2 (ESV) Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

A. There are those who believe instruments in a church is wrong – unbiblical

Reason: They don't see it in the NT – but we do see it in the OT

1). Isn't God the same yesterday – today and forever – if He enjoyed it then He enjoys it now

B. Psalm 150 speaks of praising Him with trumpet, harp, lyre, tambourine, strings, flute, cymbals

3. He speaks of singing a new song

Ps 33:3 (ESV) Sing to him a new song...

A. Find those new songs that are filled with truth – not the “Jesus is my boyfriend” songs

1). But we should be singing new songs along with the old – that exalt Him

That contain that truth that inspires worship

a). Shows we should also be thinking about what we're singing

4. He speaks of playing those songs skillfully

Ps 33:3 (ESV) ... play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

A. It's important the worship group practices so they are skillful

1). Why? So they can impress you? No! So they become transparent – so you don't notice them

a). Somebody making a million mistakes draws attention to themselves and off the Lord

Somebody who is skilled doesn't get in the way - your attention is on the Lord

Thought: I think there is a balance here – worship leaders can rely on their musical skill alone

A. Was reading an article on worship leaders – amazing how many don't even seek the Lord

1). Don't read their Bible – don't pray during the week – don't prepare their hearts

2). They are relying on their skill alone – thinking that will be good enough

B. But a worship leader leads the congregation into worship

1). They take us where they've been during the week

C. The greatest skill the members of a worship team must have

Is knowing how to draw near to the Lord – skilled at living intimately with God

1). Then add musical ability to that and you have a real worship leader

a). There will be an anointing upon that ministry

Transition: INTERNAL SUMMARY

A. Our worship should have intensity – joy - thankfulness

1). Our worship leaders should live there – and know how to lead us into true worship

B. Now David gives us reasons – truth to fuel that worship

II. THE CAUSES TO WORSHIP

The Truth About God's Character Fuels Passionate Worship

Ps 33:4-5 (ESV) For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁽⁵⁾ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

A. Here is truth that fuels passion – who God is and what God has done

Point: Passionate worship is built upon accurate theology

Ps 33:4 (ESV) For the word of the LORD is upright... (right and true)

A. Means = all God commands are perfectly right and absolutely true

1). I have a book filled with truth that has no error – that will always guide me perfectly

2). A book filled with promises that contain great comfort for anything I go through

a). Thank you God for your amazing Word – what a gift

Ps 119:103 (ESV) How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

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- B. I worship Him when I think of the book I have the privilege to read
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Ps 33:4 (ESV) and all his work is done in faithfulness.

- A. He is faithful – we have a book filled with breath taking promises
- 1). And all those promises are backed by His faithfulness – He will do what He said
- B. This world is going to end like He said – we WIN in the end
- 1). My future will end like He says it will – I end up with Him because He is faithful
- C. All the promises of provision are sure
- 1). Not one will fail because they are based on His faithfulness
 - 2). I see so many afraid because of the shaky economy – what will happen in the next year or two
 - a). My future is based on His promises that are backed by His faithfulness
 - 3). Let me give you the most stable financial plan there is

Mt 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things (the necessities) will be added to you.

 - a). Be wise with your money but don't trust it!

Prov 23:5 (NIV) Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Transition: We worship Him

- A. Because of the Word He has given us – all those promises!
- B. Because of His faithfulness that backs all those promises up – not one will fail
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Ps 33:5 (ESV) He loves righteousness and justice...

- A. God loves righteousness and justice – His soul delights in them
- 1). I am never going to be led into something that is sinful – carnal – aren't you glad
 - a). I will be led by His Spirit using His word into ways that are pure – clean – satisfying
 - 1a). Things that enhance life not tear it down – restrict it
- B. Before I was a Christian I wanted sin – but I was so empty – so guilty
- 1). Now I am lead into those things I don't regret – those things that bring true life

Ps 23:3 (ESV) He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

 - a). Led to those good works that will produce satisfaction now and eternal rewards later
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Ps 33:5 (ESV) ... the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

- A. His fingerprints are everywhere – if you're not seeing them – you're not looking

Ps 23:6 (ESV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...
- B. If you're saved then you are a recipient of daily goodness
- 1). You enjoy being chosen – adopted - drawn
 - a). That is a reason to worship with all your heart – consider the alternative
 - 2). If you're here today – you've been kept - sustained
 - a). In your own strength you'd been devoured long ago – Worship Him!
- C. Think of it all: Family, friends, church, Golden retrievers – food – sunshine
- 1). What about this – every breath you take is a gift!

Job 12:10 (ESV) In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.
- D. God has promised to care for you so well He says
 “Be anxious about nothing! Give thanks in everything!” You kidding me!

Point: Your life is filled with His goodness! Your future is guaranteed by His faithfulness!

- A. How about this one – this reality constantly amazes me – I REALLY KNOW GOD! Me!
 - B. This world is constantly tugging at my joy – trying to drag me down
 - 1). This whole hunting for a house to rent – one dead end after another
 - a). I feel doubt begin to nip at my heels – only 5 weeks left! PANIC
 - 2). Then all the promises flood into my mind
 - a). I think of who I am – I belong to Him – I have a Father! He is good!
 - b). My hope in Him will not be put to shame!
He has gone before me to prepare the way – He has my next pasture picked out
 - 3). Then I rest again – joy comes back – I can rest because He's good! He's faithful!
 - a). I have promises!!! He has spoken and so it will be!
 - C. That is all worship inspiring truth
- Thought:** To doubt Him when He has promised – doesn't honor Him!
- A. To rest when the pressure starts to build – that will!
 - B. To enter into situations where people are bidding above what is being asked to rent a home
 - 1). To say "No thank you. If God wants me to have this I will."
That kind of thing freaks people out – but it honors God! We trust Him.

Transition: We could go on for days about how the truth of God's character inspires worship

The Truth About God's Greatness In Creation Fuels Passionate Worship

Ps 33:6–9 (ESV) By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ⁽⁷⁾ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁽⁸⁾ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁽⁹⁾ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Ps 33:6 (ESV) By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

1. Creation – no problem – “Let there be...”

- A. Out of nothing everything came into being
 - 1). It was as easy for Him to create this great universe as it is for man to breathe!
 - B. Do you realize how easy your problems are for Him – with a word they cease
 - 1). The only reason He prolongs them is for your good – to develop you!
- Thought:** Let's take this a bit deeper – we want to grow don't we – we want to get stronger
- A. I think all of us would say
“I believe He is so powerful. My problems are nothing to Him. I mean just look at creation”
 - 1). But then do you worry about all those little things in your life
 - 2). We can act almost like an unbeliever when the slightest problem hits
 - B. I think we have to shake ourselves – stop allowing our flesh to dominate us like that
Ps 43:5 (ESV) Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God...
 - 1). Stop it David! Trust Him! Don't let doubt defeat you – believe the promises!
 - C. Next time you worry – look around – look up at night – then say “He's powerful enough”
 - 1). Then worship Him because that God promised to take care of you

Ps 33:7 (ESV) He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.

1. He gathered the seas together so that dry land would appear

- A. Storehouses refer to the deep reservoirs of water within the earth
- Thought:** Next time you look out at the ocean – it's immensity and amazing power
- A. Think of God – He controls that – He moved things around so it would be contained

- 1). He lifted up the continents – lifted up mountains – to make those basins - EASY!

Ge 1:9–10 (ESV) ⁽⁹⁾ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ⁽¹⁰⁾ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Transition: In v. 8-9 David comes to the logical conclusion when you ponder such a God

Ps 33:8–9 (ESV) Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁽⁹⁾ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

1. Let everybody in this earth revere Him – respect Him – stand in awe of Him!

- A. Why? Because you’re dwelling in a creation with His fingerprints all over it
 - 1). You’re dwelling in a creation that is constantly shouting out I have a maker
 - a). He spoke and I happened! He spoke and the Red Sea parted
He spoke and the violent storm on the Galilee calmed – glass
He spoke and the fish filled the nets – talk about provision
- B. We live in a God drenched creation – lift your eyes off just what you see

The Truth About God’s Sovereignty Over Human Affairs Fuels Passionate Worship

Ps 33:10–11 (ESV) The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. ⁽¹¹⁾ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

1. The nations plan and plot and we worry so much about them

- A. What is Putin going to do? What is Kim Jong-Un going to do? What about that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi?

We worry about what people will do in our lives – what are their plans

- A. But the Lord frustrates those plans – it’s not up to nations or to individuals
 - 1). It is all up to my Lord – He is in absolute control
- B. This is what allows us to take risks on the mission field – to attempt things that are dangerous
 - 1). He is in control NOT man!
 - 2). Smuggling Bibles – I’ve watched Him control the environment at the border
 - a). Being stopped in Viet Nam for some reason they let me go!
When all the warnings were - they wouldn’t – disappear into the system
 - 1a). He was in that room – I sensed Him – such peace and joy

2. Here is my hope and this causes my heart to worship

Ps 33:11 (ESV) The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

- A. I rest in His counsel – His plan that I have been swept into
 - 1). What a truth for today – where men vent and rage against the Christian
Governments write their little laws trying to legislate away Almighty God!
 - a). The one who spoke creation into existence frustrates their plans so easily
- B. Think of it – our nations ruling party voted God out of their platform
They painted White House in rainbow colors – shaking their fist at Him – We don’t care what you say
 - 1). Unless they repent they will discover God has voted them out of Heaven!
 - a). Judgment has already begun – Romans 1 – God is turning away
 - 1a). When you see immoral heterosexual sin widely accepted
 - 2a). When you see homosexual sin openly celebrated
 - 3a). When you see your nation – and its leaders acting like they have no common sense
Making judgments out of a reprobate type of thinking
 - 4a). It has begun – God has removed His gracious hand of restraint

- C. In the midst of it all – here is God’s plan for me

Je 29:11 (ESV) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- 1). So who am I going to let affect me - puny little man who boasting against God
Trying to stop His work through their puny little threats and puny little laws
a). Or Almighty God who says – rest – my plans never fail

Transition: David goes on to tell us who will be blessed in the end

Question: You want to be blessed as a nation or as an individual? THEN decide who is your Lord

3. The way of blessing

Ps 33:12 (ESV) Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

- A. You want to be blessed O man? You want to be blessed America?
You want to lead this nation into blessing rather than cursing Mr. President? **THEN BOW to the KING!**
1). God’s Son is on the throne – the KING of kings – LORD of lords – PRESIDENT of presidents
- B. You think you can get away with what you’re doing! You think you won’t be brought into account
He sees it all: Ps 33:13–15 (ESV) The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; ⁽¹⁴⁾ from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, ⁽¹⁵⁾ he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.
- C. Don’t think your rebellion doesn’t carry a huge price tag with it
Ho 8:7 (ESV) For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind...
Ga 6:7 (ESV) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
1). We are beginning to reap what we’ve sown as a nation

4. Don’t be fooled by any security you have erected – it is a straw man

Ps 33:16–17 (ESV) The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ⁽¹⁷⁾ The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

- A. What is the most powerful weapons against the one who created all we see with a simple command
1). We have nuclear weapons! You might as well throw a grain of rice at God!
- B. We work so hard to feel so secure – to get ourselves to a place we don’t NEED Him
1). Our investments – portfolios – insurance – possessions.....
2). None of that can protect a person if God is against them

Point: The only hope this nation has – the only hope an individual has

- A. Is to repent of our sins and bow to Him

Transition: But for those who do – there is great hope – look at how David finishes up

IV. THE CHOICE WE ARE GIVEN

Ps 33:18–19 (ESV) Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ⁽¹⁹⁾ that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

1. His loving eye – His shepherding eye is on those who fear Him

- A. Who is that? Those who follow Him – those who aren’t playing games with His Word
1). Fear is a reverence that displays itself in obedience isn’t it?

Pr 3:7 (ESV) Be not wise in your own eyes; *fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*

2. His loving eye is upon those who hope in His steadfast love

- A. Those who have placed their faith in Him – they aren’t hoping in the vain plans of the world
1). They take care of things like bank accounts etc. – they are wise
But they understand His love is what undergirds their life – they put their trust in Him
- B. He is their life – He is their hope – He is their primary passion

Col 3:4 (ESV) When *Christ who is your life appears*, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Thought: Here is the promise you need today

Ps 33:19 (ESV) that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

A. In a day when terror is frightening so many – can't go to a soft target – really?

In a day where insanity of government adds over 2 billion dollars a day to our debt

1). That kind of foolishness cannot lead to any kind of security

B. Here's your hope – here is why you want to shake yourself out of indifference and apathy

Why you want to confront your own doubt – your own unbelief – and think Biblically

Ps 33:18–19 (ESV) Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ⁽¹⁹⁾ *that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.*

1). No matter what hits – Here is my hope – He will sustain me until it's time to go home!

2). That His judgment on others will not hit the lives of those who live closely to Him!

Transition: I love the way David ends this – the confidence of the one who has chosen well

A. Those who have chosen to think Biblically – respond to God correctly

Those who follow Him – worship Him – revere Him – draw close to Him

B. There is such a quiet confidence here

Ps 33:20–22 (ESV) Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ⁽²¹⁾ For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ⁽²²⁾ Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

1. No panic – we wait and we trust – He is our help and our shield

A. The world is going crazy – but our heart can still be glad

1). Because our hope isn't in this world – it is in God! His faithfulness and loving plan for us

B. Lord let your steadfast love be upon us! That is what we want – YOU!

CONCLUSION

1. David calls us to worship – then gives us reasons why we should

A. Praise is the proper response isn't it?

Half-hearted praise makes no sense – I think it must be an insult to God

B. If you had done everything for somebody like He has done for you

1). There is no gratitude – a cold – half-hearted thank you – you'd question that!

I'm not doing it for a thank you – but still that is strange!

2. Let's answer this call to worship God appropriately