

A SONG TO SING ON THE WAY TO CHURCH

TEXT: Psalm 100

INTRO.: A. David was excited about going to God's House, so he penned these words to be sung on the way, by God's people. We usually think of singing when we get to church, but the Jews also sang on the way to worship in a procession.

B. This is one of the few Psalms which have no mournful notes at all. It is a totally happy Psalm, suggesting that every believer should be happy regarding the privilege of worship & should vocally praise the Lord & offer thanksgiving to Him for this honor. This Psalm speaks of meeting the Lord in worship and prefigures the Millennium when His praise will fill the earth and righteousness will prevail.

C. Hopefully Thanksgiving should lead to thanksgiving and be more than just a giant meal, a football game and friends and family gathering together. It should be a day when we set aside time to praise the Lord.

TRANS.: There are only 2 Psalms designated as "A Psalm of Praise" – this one and Ps.145.

I. PRAISING ON THE WAY: vv.1-3

A. Singing His Praises:

NOTE: V.1 expresses the thought that praise should be universal among God's people.

1. We should come shouting – **"a joyful noise"** – not an unthankful grunt! v.1
(We need a shout in the soul which finds expression on our lips.)
2. We should come serving – **"serve the Lord with gladness"** – not with sadness! v.2
3. We should come singing – with a song in our hearts and praise on our lips. **"come before His presence with singing..."**
4. We should come simply – and humbly! v.3 He is not just our Redeemer, but our Creator!

a. This is about His power – **"He that hath made us, and not we ourselves"**

ILLUS.: The "Big Bang" is a BIG BUST! Evolution is not good science, it is not science at all. Part of our praise should include an acknowledgment of who He is and who we are! He not only created us, but recreated us when He made us new creatures in Christ!

b. This is about His purchase - **"...we are the sheep of His pasture"**

NOTE: There are three Greek words dealing with redemption: *agarozo* (purchased out of the slave market" – *exagarozo* (taken off the auction block – never to be sold again) and *loutron* (set free)!

II. PRAISING AT HIS GATES: v.4a

A. Preparing the Heart:

1. Before entering the Temple the O.T. believer would pause at the beautiful gates & contemplate His majesty and beauty!
 - a. There were several barriers to the O.T. believer which kept him or her from close personal worship and fellowship with the Lord.
 - b. First the gates had to be opened & once inside, he could only get into the outer court, before passing through another set of gates into the inner courtyard.
 - c. Next, in front of him was the imposing bronze altar of sacrifice, reminding him of need of a blood sacrifice before proceeding further.
 - d. Then came the barrier of the "bronze sea" or laver of cleansing, reminding him that even though a sacrifice was made, he needed daily cleansing.
 - e. He had to gaze through two imposing brass pillars which stood as silent guards

and admitted only the priestly class.

- f. He could never enter the Holy Place and even the priests could not enter the Holy of Holies and approach the Mercy Seat once per year!

NOTE: Praise the Lord we can come "***boldly to the throne of grace***" through His blood shed on Calvary and His victorious resurrection from the grave. We no longer have to fear His presence or His punishment! If the O.T. believer could render praise and thanksgiving, how much more the N.T. saint!!!

III. PRAISING IN HIS HOUSE: v.4b,5

A. Our Praise Should Be Visible: v.4b Clapping, lifting up hands, dancing!

Ps 47:1 *O clap your hands , all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*

Neh 8:6 *And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.*

Ps 150:4-5 *Praise him with the timbrel and dance : praise him with stringed instruments and organs. 5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.*

B. Our Praise Should Be Vocal: *"joyful noise...singing"* Neither can be done in silence!

C. Our Praise Should Be Volitional: not mindless, nor man centered! (Benny Hinn, etc.)

1. David praised the Lord for His goodness, mercy and truth! v.5

CONCL.: A good example of praise is set forth for us by the prayer of an elderly saint of God at a prayer meeting one evening.

He said, "**O Lord, we will praise Thee; we will praise Thee with an instrument of ten strings!**" People wondered what he meant, but understood when he continued, "We will praise Thee with our *two eyes* by looking only unto Thee. We will exalt Thee with our *two ears* by listening only to Thy voice. We will extol Thee with our *two hands* by working in Thy service. We will honor Thee with our own *two feet* by walking in the way of Thy statutes. We will magnify Thee with our *tongue* by bearing testimony to Thy loving kindness. We will worship Thee with our *heart* by loving only Thee.

We thank Thee for this instrument, Lord; keep it in tune. Play upon it as Thou wilt and ring out the melodies of Thy grace! May its harmonies always express Thy glory!"

GOD inhabits the praise of His people! How are YOU doing?!

