

Christmas Psalms

Psalm 98:1-9

“Joy to the World” – December 23, 2018



Introduction

What we value is where we look to find our joy, significance and meaning. God offers us true joy by offering Himself. We were made for Him and until we find our satisfaction in Him, we will never be satisfied. And yet, sin turns the world upside down so that we seek to satisfy ourselves with God's *gifts* instead of God Himself – the Giver of every perfect gift. If we are to avoid treating God as mere background music (something that makes us feel good when we need it and something that can be ignored), we need to see God for who He is. That's what we see in Psalm 98...

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. He's the King who redeems (1-3)
- II. He's the King who reigns (4-6)
- III. He's the King who *will* return to judge (7-9)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [Psalm 98:1-3](#)

The Psalmist begins by reflecting on God's salvation. Based on God's deliverance, the people of God are called to sing to the Lord a *new song*. What makes a song a 'new' song? The *reason* God saves is because He 'remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness' (v3). It is not because we are worthy, because we've earned it, or have been good enough...it is because this is who God is! But if God's salvation is a righteous salvation (see v2), how can He forgive sin? How does the salvation in Psalm 98 point to the salvation that Jesus has purchased for His people on the cross?

Additional Reading: Romans 3:23-26, Psalm 103:6-14, Hebrews 8:12

2. Read [Psalm 98:4-6](#)

After calling God's people to praise God, the psalmist now expands to calling all the earth to make a joyful noise of praise to the Lord. How can God command us to have joy (especially when we don't feel like it)? What is our part in it and why is it necessary to rely on God, even in our obedience?

In the ancient Near East, having a good and strong king meant the difference between safety and harm; confidence and fear. Psalm 98 points us forward to the fact that Jesus is our King – the King who rules over all things *today*. What are the things that cause fear and worry in your life? Can you see how Jesus rules over *those* things too? How can knowing and resting in His rule help us overcome fear and worry?

Additional Reading: Philippians 2:12-13, Galatians 5:22-23, Psalm 23

3. Read [Psalm 98:7-9](#)

After beginning with the *people of God*, then calling on *all nations* to praise God, the Psalmist expands to *all creation*, calling on nature itself to praise God. Though the heavens do declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:1) and praise God today, the earth still groans under the burden of sin and the curse – longing for the day of redemption (Romans 8:18-25). The curse of sin will be lifted, sin and wickedness will be removed, and those who wait on God in faith will be vindicated *when* King Jesus returns (as He promised – John 5:22-29; Acts 17:31). Knowing this day is coming, how should we live today?

Additional Reading: Revelation 21:1-4

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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