

Psalms 92,93,95

Psalms 95:6,7 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

These three Psalms each give reason for the offering of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Psalms 92: "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High." This conclusion will be inevitable for those who give it a go. Giving thanks to God is a choice to be positive and to focus on our blessings. It recognizes the hand of God in all the good that is in our lives. Singing praises to God and lifting up His name narrows our attention to the one whose goodness is the moving force that brings these blessings which we enjoy. The suggestion of verse 2 is intriguing. Begin your day declaring the lovingkindness of God and conclude your day declaring His faithfulness. Experiment and experience.

But not everyone will choose this attitude. In contrast, the Psalm names the senseless, the wicked, the workers of iniquity as those who resist the Lord. They take this path and as a result they are those who do not know, do not understand, and who hasten

their own destruction. The wicked spring up like grass (that is soon dead) but "the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree. He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Psalms 93: One interpretation sets this Psalm in the circumstance of Israel's return from exile. God is perceived to be acting decisively on behalf of His people, "The Lord reigns..." What our specific circumstances teach us is that God always reigns. For if He reigns at the time of return from exile, He was also just as sovereign at the time of the beginning of exile. We can join this chorus when the triumphant power of God is on display but such moments teach us that God was never impotent. We may not understand what God is doing but He is always doing. "Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting."

Psalms 95: In this Psalm exultant praise is offered to God but then the worshippers remember and are cautioned by another time when God's people failed to listen to God.

We are by nature, circumstantially focused. Thanksgiving and praise flow more easily when we are having a good day. Troubles and sorrows often have the ability to interrupt the flow of our thankfulness. Psalms 95 recognizes the significance of our

attitude and encourages God's people to take responsibility for their response to the workings of the Lord.

Again, the circumstance may be that of return from exile. The experience was remarkable. The people felt as if they were part of a second exodus. God had again flexed His muscles and delivered His people. The fact of the return had no logical explanation other than that God had kept His promise of just 70 years of captivity. This is the grounds for praise. God is good to His people because He is good and great and unstoppable. Humbly, the returning captives acknowledged the relationship they had with God. "let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

Identifying with the exodus and understanding their relationship with God turns the conversation to a sober remembrance. The first exodus was marred by the wilderness apostasy. The people rebelled by making false gods, rejecting God's provision and by doubting God's care. They were "a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways." The result, "They shall not enter My rest."