

Psalms 100,101

Psalms 100:1-3 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

There is a logical link between these two Psalms. The praise and worship of Psalms 100 will naturally lead to the resolve to choose God's way that we find in Psalms 101.

Psalms 100: Notice that the Psalm begins and ends with a universal theme. It begins, "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, ALL YOU LANDS." It concludes with, "And His truth endures to ALL GENERATIONS." If you have all lands and all generations then this includes everybody. The Psalm then appeals to all to submit to God and to give Him the praise and thanksgiving that is due to Him. The rationale for this is that He is our Creator.

The Psalm begins with an immediate call to action; "Make a joyful shout to the Lord" then, "Serve the Lord with gladness" and "Come before His presence with singing." Each of these actions is qualified in terms of

spirit (joyful, gladness and singing). The actions are also directed toward God who is seen as the central fact of our lives for we are to be engaged in active relationship with Him. This is to be the focus of our existence.

The reason for this of course is that He is our Creator. This reality must be a core certainty of our existence. "Know that the Lord, He is God, It is He who made us..." God's creative investment in this world announces purpose. If we think of our own activity, we do what we do for a reason, and the same is true of the Lord. So what does our Psalm have to say about God's purpose in His creation?

The Psalm calls those who willingly acknowledge God's creative prerogative into a relationship of submission to Him through which His care and benevolence will be experienced. "It is He who has made us and not we ourselves, we are His people and the sheep of His pasture." We are cautioned then to reject the idea that we are masters of our own destiny but to see ourselves as participants in God's purposes who are then subsequently the benefactors of His goodness and grace. To be a sheep of His pasture is to be under His care. For all of this, we learn to give to the Lord

enthusiastic praise. "He is good. His mercy is everlasting. And His truth endures to all generations."

Psalms 101: This Psalm of David begins with singing whose eye is on God's mercy and justice. Confidence in these two aspects of God's character will lead to a resolve to live within these parameters. God is merciful. In spite of my failures, the mercy of God encourages us to bounce back from disappointment with confidence in His goodwill toward me. God is just. Righteousness will be rewarded and wickedness will be judged. So David resolved, "I will behave wisely in a perfect way... I will set nothing wicked before my eyes... I will not know wickedness." These were David's personal resolutions. But he also resolved to govern with God's mercy and justice in view. "The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, him I will not endure. My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a perfect way, he shall serve me." In contrast, "He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence." Loyalty to God for David was taking a stand with God for good and against evil.