

Psalms Chapter 33

Ps 33:1 ¶ "Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. 2 Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings."

Here the psalmist is telling us that we are to rejoice in the Lord and praise the Lord. Why? Because that is becoming to the children of God. Comely has the definition of suitable, or beautiful. Then tracing it down to the root meaning it means a home or temple of God. Thus, we are told in *Ro 10:15* "**How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**" We are all to be preaching the gospel by our walks, as well as talks. As we apply these thoughts to our lives today as Children of God, we understand that we are to rejoice in singing praise to our Saviour and Lord. Why? Because only those who are indeed children of God can truly sing praise, and worship God, in Spirit and Truth.

Well, what about the instruments? God did not command use of instruments, in worship services, in the Old or New Testaments. God gave us voices, which are His creation, to rejoice and praise the name of our Saviour and God. To not use our voices, a God given gift, to praise and worship God, is failure to fulfill the commandment of God. King David did introduce instrumental use in the Old Testament, as we see in this Psalm, but it was not commanded by God.

3 "Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. 4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. 5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD."

Applying this to our lives as children of God today, we are told to sing a new song. Only children of God can truly sing the new song of salvation by God's marvelous grace. Consider your life. Every morning when you awake it is a new day with new blessings from God. We should sing to God, for these blessings in our lives all day long, because God's blessings are ever new, even if it is one of the same blessings we had the day before.

Next, we are told to play skillfully. Play has the definition of *to thrum or beat a tune with the fingers*. Thrum in the Oxford dictionary has the first definition, as a verb and a noun, *of make a continuous rhythmic humming sound*. Our voices make the very best humming sound that can be made, for that is a gift from God to us. It can also mean playing an instrument that makes the kind of a sound that is made by humming. Skillfully has the definition of *to be sound, beautiful, happy, be accepted, benefit, be or make better, seem best, make cheerful, be comely, diligent, do goodness, be or make merry, well pleasing, shew more kindness, make sweet, entreat, be well said*.

As we grasp the meanings of these instructions, we understand that when we sing in Spirit and in Truth, we are to do it with heart felt expression of what we are singing. We are not to just sing with lip service to God and not mean it with all our being, nor sing songs that are unsound in doctrine.

Next, we are told to play skillfully with a loud noise. Loud noise has the definition of *acclamation of joy, jubile, rejoicing, shouting, high joyful sounding*. This tells us that we are not to sing in a hushed tone, nor are we to sing as if we are howling, or hollering, but rather, we are to sing with our full voice in a well-controlled manner to make a joyful noise to the Lord as seen in *Ps 95:1-3; 1 ¶ "O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods."*

6 "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth 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 spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."

In these verses we have a recounting of the power of the Word of God in creation. We are told that all the inhabitants of the earth are to stand in awe of the power of the Word of God. We certainly do not see that happening anywhere in the world except in the New Testament Church, which is indwelt with the saved children of God. We also see that what is conveyed in these verses is also true of the New Testament Church, for the New Testament Church still stands fast, and will exist until the return of Christ to gather it to himself.

10 "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. 12 ¶ Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. 13 The LORD looketh from

heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. **14 From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. 15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works."**

God brings the counsel of the heathen to nought because their counsel is based upon the lies of Satan. Their counsel doesn't measure up to the truth of God. Therefore, the counsel of God among the heathen is nothing. God makes the devices of the people of none effect. All musical instruments are devices made by men, there sound has no effect of worshipping and praising God in a worship service. Likewise, you cannot take the lies of Satan, devices made by men, and devise a way to save yourself to the eternal heaven of God.

God's counsel stands forever, because those chosen by God to be saved into the eternal heaven, were known to God before the world existed. God knew those who would be saved before the flood, those after the flood until the coming of Jesus the first time, and those who have been, and will continue to be saved since Christ established the New Testament Church until his return the second time. These are the blessed nation of the people of the Lord, and the chosen inheritance unto God in eternity.

How is it that God fashioneth the inhabitants of the earth alike? When Adam fell in sin, all the inhabitants of the earth fell in sin with him. God considereth all their works. How? What does it tell us in **Re 20:11-15; 11 ¶ "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** We were all in the category of the dead in trespasses and sins, until the application of God's gift of salvation by the grace was applied to our lives in the new birth. We were removed from the judgement from the books, by the shed blood of Christ, and our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life.

16 "There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. 17 An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; 19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."

We have seen in the Old Testament scriptures that no king is saved by the multitude of his host, nor by having much strength, nor having horses. The salvation of kings is in the hands of the Lord, both in nature and in Spirit. God knows those who fear him with awe and reverence, and whose hope is in the Lord, who can save them eternally. We today are like all of the saints of God before us, we are waiting for the second coming of Jesus, The Christ, to gather us unto himself and carry us away from all sin, as we see in **Ro 8:20-25; 20 "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."** We already have knowledge that we have been saved by God's grace, because that has already happened to us in this life. However, we, like all those before us, look forward to the resurrection of our bodies in the likeness of our Saviour, without sin unto eternal salvation.

Wherefore, **Ps 33:3 "Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. 4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. 5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD."** Let us sing, unto the Lord, a new song, and give thanks for His blessings that are ever new, Hallelujah, Amen!

Sing 138t in The Sacred Harp, 2012 Cooper Edition 1 Behold the glories of the Lamb, Amidst His Father's throne, Prepare new honors for his name, and songs before unknown. 2 Now to the Lamb that once was slain, Be endless blessings paid; Salvation, glory, joy, remain, Forever on thy head. 3 O the Lamb, the living Lamb, The Lamb on Calvary, The Lamb was slain but rose again, To intercede for me.