

## **The Rejuvenating Power of Worship**

### **Psalm 33:1-22**

Introduction: Jesus stressed to the woman at the well that God was seeking worshippers to worship Him in spirit and truth. What we may easily forget is the reason why that is so. It is not because God needs worship; but because we do, in order that we might experience Him and benefit from the experience.

The Psalms in particular are useful in training us to worship God properly. Though the OT worship was offered in a different form from the new, the psalmists instruct us in the unchangeable aspects of worship.

Let study Psalm 33 as we consider “the rejuvenating power of worship”.

### **THE CALL TO WORSHIP GOD (v. 1-3)**

#### ***This is a call to the righteous and the upright (v. 1)***

This doesn't mean that we have to be sinless or perfect before God will accept our worship (If that were the case then no one could truly worship God) ; but it does mean that worship is for those who are truly trying to serve God and please God and live for God (Pr. 15:8; 21:27; 28:9)

Delitzsch offers these observations: “The call contained in this hexastich is addressed to the righteous and upright, who earnestly seek to live a godly and God-pleasing life, and the sole determining rule of whose conduct is the will and good pleasure of God. These alone know God, whose true nature finds in them a clear mirror; so, on their part, they are joyfully to confess what they possess in Him. For it is their duty, and at the same time their honor, to praise Him and make their boast in Him” (Commentary on Psalms).

The OT prophets repeatedly rebuked the Israelites for trying to “worship God” while their lives were filled with wickedness and injustice and oppression (cf. Amos 5:21-24; Mic. 6:6-8; Isa. 1:11-18)

#### ***This is a call to rejoice.***

Worship should be an expression of joy, happiness, and exultation as the verbs indicate. God never intended for worship to be a dry, dusty, dull, boring affair. This very first phrase is a clear indication that these people are not being called to worship because they have to, but because they want to!

The first expression might be translated “shout for joy”. The idea is that the voice reflects a heart of enthusiasm for God, not a mere uninvolved whisper.

#### ***This is a call to rejoice in the Lord.***

Worship is a whole lot more than just feeling good and having a great time. I am convinced that much that is called “worship” today is not centered on God. It is primarily about making the “worshipper” feel good – pleasing him.

Worship is all about the Lord's pleasure, not ours; and it is focused on God. Therefore the psalmist gives us:

### **THE REASONS TO WORSHIP GOD (v. 4-19)**

#### ***His righteous character (v. 4-5)***

**God's righteousness is expressed both in His word and His work. His word is trustworthy and His work reflects the veracity of His spoken revelation. He loves righteousness and justice and His lovingkindness fills the earth (v. 5).**

#### ***His majestic power, v. 6-9***

**God's majestic power is demonstrated in the creation of all things. Purely through the power of the spoken word He brought all things into their orderly existence. The more we learn about the world the more we should fear and stand in awe of Him!**

#### ***His triumphant will, v. 10-12***

**The psalmist moves from God's role as Creator to His Sovereignty as Lord of the world.**

God rules in the kingdoms of men (Dan. 4:25), and He has the ability to frustrate the plans and schemes of nations (Pr. 19:21; 21:30).

God's plans and purposes abide forever (Psa. 33:11; Isa. 46:10-11).

**These statements set forth the sovereign rule of God over all the creation and over what we commonly associate with worldly power. Thus, he observed that the nation that He chooses is truly blessed!**

#### ***His discerning gaze, v. 13-19***

**This very same God who created the heavens with a word, who frustrates the plans of the nations, sees everyone and everything.**

He sees everyone, v. 13.

He sees everything, v. 14

He sees motivations as well as actions, v. 15

**This knowledge of God's omniscience should cause us to place trust in Him for deliverance from evil.**

It is futile ultimately to rely upon the strength of soldiers and horses (v. 16-17).

Instead God's people place their trust in Him, fearing Him and hoping in Him. The psalmist assures his readers that this will bring deliverance to His people! (v. 19). (The expression may be drawn from a siege where famine often resulted in many deaths before the ensuing battle.)

### **THE HOPE IN WORSHIPPING GOD, v. 20-22**

***In the final paragraph the psalmist expresses the rejuvenating hope that comes to those who put their trust in God. Having called the worshippers to***

*worship and having reminded them of why He is worthy of worship, he expresses his own hope in God in response to His nature. That hope is expressed in several ways:*

**We wait for Him!**

**We rejoice in Him!**

**We trust in Him!**

**We hope in Him!**

*Perhaps one of the reasons why worship loses some of its rejuvenating power is because we divorce the worship of God from the rest of our lives. But psalmist wanted us to see that all of our needs, all of our dreams, all of our fears are to be placed in Him. Worship, true worship, will send us away with hope to face both life and eternity.*

**Conclusion:** What the psalmist does is train us in developing a heart for real worship that looks to God to supply our needs and which in turn continues to praise, thank, glorify, and patiently trust in Him.

**Let worship have for you its intended rejuvenating and encouraging power!**