
Church in Campbell Weekly News

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LIFE-STUDY OF THE PSALMS MESSAGE ONE AN INTRODUCTORY WORD

In a recent conference, there were four main points which I would like us to take note of in this introductory word to the Psalms:

- 1) The economy of God is to bring forth an organism for His Divine Trinity.
- 2) The law in the economy of God is to be used by God for exposing the sinful nature and evil deeds of the sinners.
- 3) The grace in the economy of God is God's embodiment for man to receive to be his enjoyment and supply.
- 4) The issue of the experience of grace in the economy of God is the organic Body of Christ, consummating in the New Jerusalem.

I praise the Lord for His sovereign arrangement in allowing us to have this conference with these four main points before we begin our life-study of the Psalms. In the Psalms we will see these four main points.

The first psalm is concerning the law. David did not know the real function of the law. He likened himself, as one who delighted in the law, to a tree growing beside streams of water and flourishing all the time (v. 3). But after Psalm 1, there is Psalm 2 concerning Christ. Then there is Psalm 3. The heading of Psalm 3 says, "A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son." The one who enjoyed the law as the streams of water by which he grew became a kind of exile due to the rebellion of his son. This happened to David because of his murder of Uriah and his taking of Uriah's wife (2 Sam. 12:10-12). The one who enjoyed the law so much in Psalm 1 became an intentional murderer. Does this show that the law works? The law does work, but not in David's way. The law works to expose us. The law exposed David to the uttermost as one who conspired to kill Uriah and rob Uriah of his wife. Does the law work or not? We have to say that the law works, not according to David's concept in Psalm 1, but according to the apostle Paul's teaching in the New Testament. Paul pointed out that the law was something added to the central line of the divine revelation to expose man's sinful nature and wicked deeds (Rom. 3:20b; 5:20a). We need this view of the law in order to understand the Psalms according to the divine concept in the New Testament. We are not in the Old Testament as David was, but we are in the New Testament.

. THE PSALMS BEING:

A. Not a Book of Doctrines or Any Kind of Teachings

The book of Psalms is not of doctrines or of any kind of teachings. The writings of the Psalms are in the form of praises. These praises were not composed by doctrine or understanding of teachings.

B. But a Book of the Expressions of the Sentiments, Feelings, Impressions, and Experiences of Godly Men

The book of Psalms is composed of the expressions of the sentiments, feelings, impressions, and experiences of godly men. This is the very crucial key for us to understand the Psalms. If we do not pick up this key, we have no way to understand this book. Not seeing this key is a big mistake many Christians have made.

The book of Psalms is not a book of stories, but a book of divine revelation through the expressions of the sentiments, feelings, impressions, and experiences of godly men concerning eight things. We need to see what these eight things are; otherwise, we will not be able to understand the Psalms. These eight things are:

- 1) God and the way He is in His dealing with them.
- 2) The law of God as the holy Word with the divine revelation.
- 3) The house of God, the temple, and Mount Zion on which the temple was seated, as the center of God's dwelling place on the earth.
- 4) The holy city of God, Jerusalem, as the encompassing protection of the house of God.
- 5) The holy people of God, Israel, as God's beloved elect among the nations.
- 6) Their love toward God, their fellowship with God, their blessings received of God, their sufferings under God's dealing, and their environment.
- 7) Their captivity.
- 8) Their thanksgivings and praises to Jehovah their God, whom they tasted and enjoyed.

Testimonies and Enjoyment

Praise the Lord, we have started the video-training on the Crystallization Study of the Psalms(1)! We watched the first message entitled, **the Central Thought of the Book of Psalms** – and it was so rich! It will take us weeks to digest and our whole life to experience and enjoy the riches of Christ as presented in the book of the Psalms! One of the first matters that touched me in this message (and this is NOT a review of the whole message...) is that we need to be recovered to a proper praising the Lord. Praise the Lord! The Psalms are filled with praises to the Lord for what He is, what He has done, and what He is doing today! But even more – we need to see that the object of our praise is not God in a general way and not even God for what He has done for us. We simply need to praise the Lord for CHRIST, for what Christ is and has accomplished, and for what God is in Christ to us! Actually, as seen in Psalms 22, Christ in His resurrection preaches and declares the name of the Father to His many brothers and He sings praises in the midst of the congregation! This is what Christ is doing today – from His resurrection and all the way through eternity, Christ praises God and He leads us in praising God! We are now just following Christ to sing praises to the Father!

Also, in our Christian walk the first thing we need to do is open our mouth and sing praises to God! Col. 3:16 tells us that in the new man we let the word dwell in us richly that we may admonish one another with psalms – saints, let's sing psalms one to one another! In Eph. 5 it says that we shouldn't be drunk with wine but filled in spirit by speaking to one another in psalms, teachings, revelation, etc. We need to learn to compose and share psalms to one another, admonish and encourage one another with psalms. When we come together, as revealed in 1 Cor. 14, each one has a psalm! Come to the meeting with a Psalm! We need to be filled with the Spirit and saturated with the Word of God so that we may overflow with psalms and praises. Praising is a big part of the psalms and should be a major part of our Christian life! Praising the Lord is the highest work carried out by God's children (W. Nee). We can say that the highest expression of the saints' spiritual life is their praise to God. Give a ringing shout, and praise the Lord! David prayed to God three times a day, but he praised God seven times! In the Psalms we can touch *the deepest feelings and the highest and greatest*

praises. We need to see the significance of praise right at the beginning of our Christian life, and we need to exercise daily to praise the Lord! Practice, exercise, and learn to praise the Lord! In Psa. 30 the psalmist praises God in the morning with a ringing shout. Praise the Lord while being alone, when you're at the meeting, when you're up, and when you're having problems – learn to PRAISE THE LORD!

Why and how should we praise the Lord? Praise the Lord for what Christ is to us! Praise God not only for His kindness, mercy, love, grace, power – but **praise God for Christ!** Christ is the subject of our praise and, as we see in the Psalms, the highest praise is praising Christ Himself on what He is and what He does! *Christ is the center (the centrality) and the content (the universality) of the book of Psalms and of the Bible – even of God's economy!* Praise the Lord not only because of He did to help you yesterday – but praise Christ for His unsearchable riches! Here are some aspects of Christ in some of the Psalms:

From

<http://www.agodman.com/blog/crystallization-study-of-the-psalms1-praising-the-lord-and-speaking-psalms-to-one-another/>

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for the young people to sanctify their time to pursue the Lord with their companions.
- Pray for us to be an fruitful bearing branch.
- Pray for the growth of the feeling of the Body of Christ.
- Pray for spreading to nearby cities
- For daily exercise in GOW training: prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth and attend Lord's day meeting on time.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.

Announcement

- Morning Revival: Psalms Crystallization Study Week 1
- YP Bible reading : Luke chapter. 20.
- Prayer meeting 7:30PM on Tuesday (9/18) at Brother Tien's house, at 19070 Dagmar Dr., Saratoga
- 9/24 Video training of Psalms Crystallization Study, please register to brothers in your small group, \$75 per seat,