

Morning Sermon – December 10, 2017

“Sing to the LORD!”

Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, “Joy to the World!”

I. See the Right Hand and Holy Arm of the LORD –  
... For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. (Psalm 98:1 NKJ)

1. *Marvelous things could be MANY DIFFERENT THINGS –*  
And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. (John 21:25 NKJ)

2. *The Arm of the LORD is our Lord Jesus –*

A. *Isaiah 53:1-2 The Arm of the LORD is referred to as He –*  
Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He

B. *Isaiah 53:2-3 tell us of His humble beginnings, as soon as He was born He was laid in a manger, He was raised by humble people in a humble place!*

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

C. *Isaiah 53:4-7 speaks of His suffering on our behalf –*

<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

3. *The cross of Jesus Christ is the power of God for our salvation –*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

II. See, and HEAR the saving preaching of the Gospel –  
The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup> He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 98:2-3 NKJ)

1. *The LORD has made known –*

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, (Romans 3:21 NKJ) even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; (Romans 3:22 NKJ)

For the message of the cross... it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)  
to us who are being saved ↯ ↷

A. *He revealed this message in the sight of the nations, Gentiles –*  
So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. (Acts 13:42 NKJ)

"For so the Lord has commanded us: `I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth." (Acts 13:47 NKJ)

B. *Yet God was faithful to the house of Israel –*

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (Rom. 1:16 NKJ)

III. See here the right response to the Gospel, rejoicing and praise –

1. *Note, in this Psalm, we have a glorious song sandwich!*

A. *Psalm 98:1 A <A Psalm.> Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!  
In between the meat of Gospel Truth!*

B. *Psalm 98:4-5 - Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. <sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, <sup>6</sup> With*

trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

2. *See in this the inspiration for the song "Joy to the World" -*

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap *their* hands; Let the hills be joyful together<sup>9</sup> before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity. (Psalm 98:4-9 NKJ)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature  
sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations  
prove The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

A. *Joy to the world! Joy to the earth! Are responses to verse :4, the command to shout joyfully to the LORD! The entire song, "Joy to the World" is a response to the command to sing to the LORD a new song Verse :1*

B. *Let earth receive her King – is a call to all to hear and accept the Good news!*

C. *Let every heart prepare HIM room, almost certainly refers to*

*the facts –*

*(C1) When Jesus came there was no room for Him - And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)*

*(C2) Are hearts are often to full of fool's gold "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21 NKJ)*

**"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24 NKJ)**

D. *And Heaven and Nature sing – Repeat the sounding joy Heaven is probably a reference to Angels, / Nature to the sea roaring, the rivers clapping their hands Rocks and hills and plains*

**<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; <sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap *their* hands; Let the hills be joyful together**

E. *Watts adds the theological reason for this rejoicing, the removal of the Genesis 3, curse, with the removal of SIN! – No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.*

**<sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. (Genesis 3:18 NKJ)**

**<sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21 NKJ)**

*Arnold A. Brevick*