

# Paul Brunning: 10 April (pm)

## The Blessings of Christ's Reign (Psalm 22)

### (Sermon Summary)

The beginning of Psalm 22 describes Christ's death, which is the foundation for our salvation and the building of His kingdom. As we proclaim Christ, we are not teaching about a religious path or philosophy but declaring His finished work. The second half of this Psalm (from v25) looks forward to the future, prophesying the spread of His reign far and wide. Because of what He has accomplished on the Cross, praise is given to the Lord, the message of salvation goes out, and people are gathered in from all the nations of the world.

#### **The blessings of Christ's reign spread across the world**

These blessings extend to the whole world, not just Israel (v25). Outsiders, the poor and the despised are being brought into God's kingdom. (vv 24, 26). The 'poor in spirit' who know that they can't demand anything from God, are spiritually destitute and looking for mercy find that as they humbly seek Christ, he satisfies their hunger and thirst (Isaiah 55). We are called to let our souls delight themselves in His abundance.

The blessings of Christ's reign extend to the ends of the earth and to all the families of nations (v27). This includes us here in Crich! False gods and sins are being put away.

God promised to Abraham that through him, all the families of the earth would be blessed. This has happened through Jesus Christ, the descendant of Abraham. Jesus has all the nations of the earth as His inheritance (Ps. 2). Now He has commissioned us to make disciples of all nations: evangelism and mission are part of God's plan. Let this encourage you as you witness and pray for missionaries.

#### **The blessings of Christ's reign spread through time**

The psalm describes how future generations will worship the Lord (v30). Both rich and poor are included (v29): Christ draws all kinds of people. All people will go down to the dust: life is short, and we will all see Him, either as Saviour or Judge.

This Psalm was written 1000 years before Christ, and another 2000 years have passed since His birth. Countless people have been saved over this time. His kingdom has never been wiped out although there have been

times when it is at low ebb, along with times of revival. Our country is currently in a dire spiritual condition, but the church hasn't been extinguished: the Lord has His people even in places like North Korea. We need to go on declaring Him to old and young. Some will become preachers to the next generation. Young people are still being saved: 75-80 attended the GBM youth camp, and churches in the southeast recently had a successful youth conference. Christ will continue His work of redeeming people until He returns in glory.

The Psalm ends with glorious hope for the future. The blessings that Christ has purchased will certainly spread, because this is the promise and purpose of God. Whatever crises might come, nothing can undo the work of Christ, nothing can put Him back in the tomb and upset His glorious reign. "The Lord has done it" (v31).