



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

July 7th, 2021

“Song of Yehovah’s Great Mercy and
Eternal Truth”

Psalm 117

SUBJECT. — This psalm, which is very little in its letter, is exceedingly large in its spirit; for, bursting beyond all bounds of race or nationality, it calls upon all mankind to praise the name of the Lord. In all probability it was frequently used as a brief hymn suitable for almost every occasion, and especially when the time for worship was short. Perhaps it was also sung at the commencement or at the close of other psalms, just as we now use the doxology. It would have served either to open a service or to conclude it. It is both short and sweet. The same divine Spirit which expatiates in the 119th, here condenses his utterances into two short verses, but yet the same infinite fulness is present and perceptible. It may be worth noting that this is at once the shortest chapter of the Scriptures and the central portion of the whole Bible.

The Treasury of David

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)
VOLUME V, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION
PUBLISHED: 1878



This psalm is short and sweet; I doubt the reason why we sing it so often as we do is for the shortness of it; but, if we rightly understood and considered it, we should sing it oftener for the sweetness of it, especially to us sinners of the Gentiles, on whom it casts a very favourable eye. Here is, I. A solemn call to all nations to praise God, ver. 1. II. Proper matter for that praise suggested, ver. 2. We are soon weary indeed of well-doing if, in singing this psalm, we keep not up those pious and devout affections with which the spiritual sacrifice of praise ought to be kindled and kept burning.

Exposition of the Old and New Testaments

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)
PUBLISHED: 1710



In God's worship it is not always necessary to be long; few words sometimes say what is sufficient, as this short psalm giveth us to understand.

Explanations of the Psalms
David Dickson (c. 1583-1663)
PUBLISHED: 1655



Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 117

Instruction. The apostle Paul instructs us of the eternal truth of God's glory through Gentile salvation by quoting v1 among three Scripture witnesses in Romans 15:11; thus, concluding this doctrinal and instructive epistle with the same truth with which he begins: *"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).

Reflection. The LORD, Yehovah, is the subject of praise in the first verse, as He brings salvation to all nations: *"you Gentiles!"* or *Goyim* (גוים). Yet, it does not exclude the Jews because the Lord, through the psalmist, commands, *"Laud Him, all you peoples!"* or *"Shout in triumphant praise to Him, all peoples"* (Pastor Jon Translation). Though the Jews have been partially blinded to the truth of Jesus Messiah's saving grace because of their hardness of heart (Rom 11:25), every salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ's hand (John 17:2).

Application. The reason for praise to the LORD and for extolling Him is the same for all peoples of the earth, whether Jew or Gentile, it is because His mercy through Christ is great, and that His truth in Christ is everlasting. Because of this hope in Christ for both the Jew and Gentile, Paul's prayer for us is that *"the God of hope fill you [and me] with all joy and peace in believing, that you [and I] may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Rom 15:13).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 117

Remember that Brief Words May Be Powerful Words. You need not have a lot to say to say A LOT to God and for Christ. May our words be few and our heads and hearts faithful to Christ. [vv1-2]

Reflect upon Christ's Triumph for You. Christ's triumph on the cross for us causes our souls to shout in triumphant praise to Him. *"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Rom 8:37). [v1, *Laud Him, all you peoples!*]

Rejoice in Christ's Many and Mighty Mercies. The *"merciful kindnesses"* of God in Christ are great, or *gabbar* (גבר). This means His mercies are numerous and powerful. His mercies prevail over sin, Satan, death, and hell. Jesus is a complete Savior and His steadfast love and truth endures forever. This is great reason to rejoice!

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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