

We continue to look at **Psalm 33** with the heading :

‘LOOKING TO REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS’.

Last month we explored v1-3, where we are encouraged to praise the Lord with our voices, and secondly we can rejoice in the Word of God v4-5.

Let’s now look at the remaining verses.

• **Thirdly we can rejoice in the Lord because we can rejoice in His creation v6-9.**

We can rejoice in God’s creation because by His Word the heavens were made. We can rejoice in God’s creation because by His Word the stars were born. We can rejoice in God’s creation because by His Word the oceans were created and their boundaries set in place. When we meditate on these things immediately it should bring a sense of fear of the Lord into our lives so that we stand in awe at who it is that we know and love and worship. Speaking the universe into existence speaks of a wonderful power and authority that God exudes. A classic example of this is when Jesus was out on the water with the disciples and they were fearful of drowning and Jesus stands up and says “peace be still” to a raging storm. So we can rejoice in God’s creation every morning we wake up and look out the window, as I did this morning and see the clear blue sky, to see the leaves on the trees and to hear the wonderful song of the birds.

PRAISE the Lord for:

- A very fruitful trip to the USA for Carl working with our USA director Andrew. They received a lot of interest from a number of churches and ministries and were able to cover some new ground
- All the wonderful prayer and financial support we regularly receive from so many people. As a ministry we are so grateful
- The opportunity for Carl to join a couple of prison teams while in the USA who regularly engage and share the gospel with prisoners

• **Fourth, we can rejoice in the Lord’s sovereign control v10-15.** In this we see that the Lord reigns over the nations. I can’t help but feel at times when I sit down and watch the news that there seems to be nothing but disharmony and division and disruption around the world. It seems that so many nations are in strife and there is so much corruption and sin that one could ask: how can we rejoice in the Lord. I think it is important for us to recognise that despite all that we see going on around us it doesn’t take away from the Lord’s sovereign control over the nations. I think what we need to recognise is that God allows mankind to experience the consequences of his sinful behaviour. We can also rejoice in the Lord’s sovereign control because His plans do not or can not be changed by man. Once we have confidence in the sovereign providential working of God nothing can change that so we can rest in peace that God has

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everything under His control. So in keeping with all of that I think it is important to recognise that God does bless godly nations, godly people, and godly families as they walk in obedience to Him. By inference this tells us that nothing escapes His attention and that in all of the difficulties that go on around us in terms of the strife of the nations, the strife of the world and the strife that we see in families and relationships, generally the Lord uses all these difficulties and struggles for those of us who know Him, to mould and shape our lives for His glory and His honour.

• **Fifth, we can rejoice in the Lord's deliverance and provision in v16-22.** Human strength and number do not necessarily deliver us. It is interesting that the Psalmist says in v16 "No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength; a horse is a vain hope for safety, neither shall it deliver any by its great strength". So often we as human beings, instead of rejoicing in the Lord's deliverance and provision, put our trust in man and his schemes and provisions which so often fail. But we can rejoice in the Lord's deliverance and provision because those who fear Him treasure His mercy and will know genuine freedom from death and famine. I know there are many places around the world that are experiencing awful famine and drought but somehow or other God is able to provide for those who are struggling. There are things that I don't understand and I don't attempt to understand them other than just recognising that God is

sovereign. It is difficult to see such suffering and pain going on around the world and not to think how God can allow that to happen, but as I put my faith in God for salvation, then I just simply place my faith in Him to give me understanding if He so desires of those things that are beyond my comprehension. Then we see that we can rejoice in the Lord because He delivers and provides for those who are willing to wait upon Him. Sadly for many of us, rather than waiting on the Lord, we would rather scheme up some human method of sorting out our situation. So it really is important for us that as we rejoice in the Lord that we recognise that He delivers and provides for those who hope in Him. My prayer is, like I have had to learn, that we can rejoice in the Lord day by day and moment by moment.

PRAYER needed for:

- The various contacts made while in the USA. Please pray with us that their initial interest will translate into orders. Thus far we have received three new orders for the paper
- Our USA prison edition as funding is required to increase distribution into various prisons
- Impact Carnarvon team (May 27- June 4) as they engage in door to door/street ministry/outreach events working alongside local churches
- Project funding for various areas of ministry with Impact Africa while in South Africa (July). Our goal is \$45,000

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