

**Psalm 149** – Praise to God for His salvation and judgement.

A quick refresh from last month where we started to look at Psalm 149 verses 1-4. Remember it is very important for every Christian to recognise that what we do as a Christian must flow out of our worship relationship with God. I remember a wonderful preacher Dr. Alan Fleece saying “we must never forget that we are first worshippers then workers”. First we need to have a vital deep love relationship with God and then out of that develops effective service for God.

**1. Firstly worship the Lord intelligently v1-2;**  
**2. Worship the Lord fervently v3-4.** Now let’s look at the final verses.

**Worship the Lord gratefully v5.** “*Let the saints be joyful in glory, let them sing aloud on their beds.*” The key thing about worship here is that we need to be so thankful that we can worship the Lord day by day.

#### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

- The safe return of our Impact Broome team and the various opportunities to (i) share Christ one on one (ii) outreach and evangelism around Broome (iii) ministry into various churches over nine days
- The various partner organisations we work with around the world. The paper continues to complement what each of these likeminded ministries are doing
- Another edition of the paper being sent out to various countries
- The seed sown through the use of the paper in and around Broome

I look at what has been going on in Africa in places like Sudan and Chad and in Eastern Europe and Russia and China. It troubles me that somehow or other God has deemed it to be my lot in life in live in Australia where we enjoy such incredible freedom to worship the Lord.

The sad thing is that though we can go to church whenever we want, that often we make it an optional extra. We can read any translation of the Bible that we want to or can get access to Bibles whenever we want to, but we choose not to read it. We have the wonderful joy and privilege of praying and seeking God day by day, moment by moment, but for many Christians it is seen as something that is supplemental rather than fundamental to our Christian walk. Then we have the wonderful opportunity to witness for the Lord of His wonderful goodness and grace and mercy toward us and yet for many of us as Stephen Oldford said “we are like an Arctic river frozen at the mouth.”

Then we also need to keep our worship from becoming routine or mindless

#### **PSALM 149**

- 1 Praise the Lord!  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
And His praise in the  
assembly of saints.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;  
Let the children of Zion  
be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise His name  
with the dance;  
Let them sing praises to Him  
with the timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the Lord takes pleasure  
in His people;  
He will beautify the  
humble with salvation.
- 5 Let the saints be joyful in glory;  
Let them sing aloud on their beds.
- 6 Let the high praises of  
God be in their mouth,  
And a two-edged sword  
in their hand,
- 7 To execute vengeance  
on the nations,  
And punishments on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings with chains,  
And their nobles with  
fetters of iron;
- 9 To execute on them the  
written judgment  
This honor have all His saints.  
Praise the Lord!

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OVER**

because then it becomes meaningless. We need to recognise that our worship is not in just simply producing a shopping list before God in prayer or just doing something as an end in itself e.g. going to church on a Sunday morning as an end in itself. When I became a Christian one of the first things that changed for me was that I was taken from what was going to church for ritualistic purposes to suddenly wanting to go to church that I might indeed have that deepened relationship with God. The differences are worlds apart and the outcomes are obvious.

*Let the high praises of God be in their [my] mouth.*

**PSALM 49:6**

**We need to worship the Lord triumphantly v6-9.** We need to recognise that worship and warfare often go hand in hand. In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat made that clear, but also we see it in Nehemiah chapter 3 when Nehemiah gave instructions to the people to be ready to pray and ready to work. We need to recognise that when God has called us to a task that we can worship the Lord and as we do He keeps on giving us an ongoing vision and passion for Him and out of that bursts forth victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. We need to and must worship the Lord in the midst of the warfare and in essence this is the definition of true worship. If we can't worship the Lord in difficult times chances are we have never really understood what worship is all about. If we find that the moment the going gets tough and we move from worship to whining then we need to revisit how we are worshipping and indeed why?

Then lastly we need tools for building and tools for battling. You need to recognise that whilst we need the tools for building as in the rebuilding of Nehemiah's wall we also need the tools for battling such as the sword of the spirit and the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation and so on. In those final verses it is important for us to recognise that in the difficulties and struggles of life, we need to learn to honour the Lord in all that we do and above all that there is always a word of praise upon our lips.

#### **PRAYER needed for:**

- The follow up on the many contacts made during Impact Broome trip with 4000 papers distributed
- The churches (Broome Anglican + Baptist) we worked with as they continue to outreach into their community
- Each of our writers plus our production team as they look to the Lord for inspiration with the various editions of the paper each month
- The continued increase in distribution and effectiveness of the paper in Australia

A very good friend of mine, Glen Smart passed away to be with the Lord. As I was speaking to his wife Coralie after the funeral I said to her there was one word that always seemed to mark Glen's life and that was the word praise. Glen always had a word of praise for God and for others on his lips and I think the fact that over 400 people attended his funeral was a testimony to how we walked in the victory of praising and worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth.

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