

“Psalms: Week 11”

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025 - MATT BRYANT



Summary - “Psalms: Praise and Worship”

As we continue in our study of Psalms and this week, we take a look at Psalm 106, and in doing so, should see the weight of our sin, the awesomeness of God’s grace and redeeming love for His people, and how His redemption in our lives should lead us to praise His name before others. This psalm opens and closes with praises and thankfulness to the Lord as the writer acknowledges God’s mighty power and righteousness and the fact that He saves, rescues, and redeems His people. The body of this psalm however deals with Israel’s history and the sins that they committed while God was continuing to free them, rescue them, and redeem them. Through this psalm we are able to clearly see not only the depth and darkness of Israel’s sin, but also our own in the many ways that we as God’s people can sin and rebel against the Lord. This Psalm causes us to feel the weight of our sin and our desperate need for rescue and redemption. This amazing grace that we walk in as believers is not something that we take for granted, thus cheapening it to a mindset of, “I can do whatever I want, because after all, my sin is paid for.” No, that would be pride and selfishness continuing to lead our hearts in rebellion against our Savior. Instead, we should see our sin for what it truly is, the anger that is kindled in the Lord because of it, and the fact that this anger is not carried out upon us, but rather has been carried out upon our Savior, our Rescuer, our ultimate Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Yes, our sin is paid for, and this brings us into a place of freedom; however, it should lead us to a place of humility, thankfulness, and praise as we live to serve the One who bought that freedom for us with His own blood and body. A freedom that lasts for eternity. This should lead us to a place of praise and thankfulness, an overwhelming sense of what we have been saved from. It should result in a desire and motivation to proclaim our Savior before others, to always give thanks to the Lord, and to live on mission for Him.

Scripture - Psalm 106 “The Weight of Sin”

Take the time this week to read through Psalm 106 each day. This will take somewhere between 5-10 minutes. As you do so, apply it to your own life. Begin to ask questions such as: Am I praising the Lord and giving thanks to Him because of His steadfast love for me? Ask yourself, “what sins have I committed against Him?” Remember the mighty deeds that He not only did in history, but also in your own life. Ask where you have exchanged the glory of God in your own life for a man made image of something else. Take stock of the idols that you are perhaps worshipping in your life above your worship of the Lord. If you are not yet a believer, ask Him to save you, rescue you from your sin, and bring you into the eternal freedom that He promises through Jesus Christ. If you are a believer, then praise Him for the sin He has rescued you from and the freedom that you now have in and through Christ. As a believer, are you living a life focused on the mission that Christ has given you to carry out?

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study

Psalm 106; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 13:15; James 1:12; 1 John 1:9

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

Key Thoughts

When we first come to faith, initially, we are overwhelmed with the changes happening in our life. We are “on fire” for the Lord. We are in awe of the rescue of God amidst our own sinful situation and brokenness. Somewhere along the line though, if we aren’t careful, we can lose this zeal for the Lord and begin to lose sight of what we were rescued from.

There are times in our Christian life when we take a “rental car” approach to our faith. Often with a rental car we drive it however we want to because it is already paid for. When we live out our faith in this same manner, it cheapens the Gospel message and the work which Christ has done for us on the cross. We begin to once again live more for self than for the Lord.

As Christians we should not compartmentalize our faith into the time that we go to church, go to GROW group, or are doing ministry, and then live the other moments of our life however we want to thinking, “Well, I can do whatever I want because at the end of the day our sins are paid for.”

As Christians, we should be full of praise, thankfulness, and rejoicing because of what the Lord has rescued us from. We should be in awe of His mighty deeds, His righteousness, and what He has freed us from. (vs. 1-5)

This praise, thankfulness, and rejoicing starts with something that we often do not like very much; the confessing of sin. (vs. 6-43).

This confession of sin, which we see the writer of Psalm admitting to over the length of 38 verses, is specific and personal and keeps him humbled before God. He isn’t shifting sin to other people or to a global scale, but is willing to admit that he is a part of the whole problem.

- We must own the fact that we are sinful (our own individual/personal sin)
- We must be willing to confess our sins to God specifically, not just in a general manner of “you know Lord that I have sinned”. Be specific with God.
- We must remember the history of our sin so that we never forget the weight of it and what we have been rescued from.

The goal of confessing is not to suffocate us with guilt and shame. Shame is a weapon of the enemy that basically says, “you are horrible and there is nothing you can do about it.” No, confession is about feeling the weight of our sin and is tied to repentance and this leads to freedom and to life in Christ, not continued shame.

We see the story of Israel’s initial salvation from Egypt. Where they were freed from captivity and brought into freedom with God (vs. 7-12). We too have our initial salvation story in which we are brought from bondage and into freedom in Jesus Christ.

Key Thoughts

The result of salvation in our lives is praise to God (vs. 12). This is the result of becoming a new nation for Israel and the result of becoming a new creation for us as believers in Christ. (see also 2 Corinthians 5:17)

One of the saddest statements in scripture is found in vs. 13, "But they soon forgot His work; they did not wait for His counsel." One pastor once said, "If you want to reach people with the gospel, don't look for your people who have been believers for 20 or 25 years; they've often lost their zeal. Instead, go and find some new believers, because they remember what it means to be lost, and because of this, they are very aware of what it means to be saved."

In all honesty, we are all very, very guilty of walking into the presence of God, spending time with Him, experiencing amazing times of worship with other believers, and then walking out the door, forgetting, and going back to our everyday, regular lives. (v 14-15)

We are also all guilty of the jealousy that comes when we compare what we have to others. (vs. 16-18). Our hearts become bittered because we see someone else get something and we don't.

This forgetting, comparison, and jealousy, can quickly lead to placing our worship on something or someone other than the Lord (idolatry) as we continue to forget all that He has done for us (vs. 19-23). Our hearts become more focused on our preferences than the praise of our Savior.

The people of Israel despised the land that they were called into by the Lord and refused to follow His plan for them to establish the nation of Israel. They fall in the wilderness and become scattered among the nations instead of establishing the nation they are called to. We can do the same when we do not carry forth the mission of Christ to go and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all that Christ commanded. (vs. 24-27; see also Matthew 28:18-20)

As a result of the people of Israel not fulfilling their mission to conquer the lands that God had given them, and establishing the nation of Israel, they end up becoming just like all the pagan nations around them. Instead of being a light to the world, they become like the world. (vs. 28-39)

There is a weight that should come when we reflect on our own sin and rebellion that is against the plans of the Lord. In vs. 40-43 we see the reality of this in the life of Israel.

There is a rescue from this weight and that is found only through the grace, rescuing, saving and redeeming work of God for Israel and is found only for us through Jesus Christ (vs. 44-48). This weight and sin has been paid for by a Savior who has rescued us! This should lead us to praise and to live on mission for Him.



Reflect & Respond

Think back to when you first became a Christian. What was this season like? What were you rescued from? What changed in your life? Who were you willing to tell in your life about what Christ had saved you from? Was there a boldness to you in this, regardless of what your past had been like?

Is there somewhere along the line where you have forgotten what God has done? Where have you forgotten His rescuing work in your life? Are you living today with that same fire and zeal that you had when you first came to believe?

What in your life have you made an idol? Not sure, then ask, "What do I spend my time, my energy, my thoughts, and my money on?" and this will quickly show you. When you are outside the church building, what are you talking about most to other people; what are you "evangelizing"? Are you overwhelmed with God's grace, what He has rescued you from, and the fact that He sent His Son to save you, or, are you more interested in talking about _____ ?

How are you fulfilling the call of Christ in your life to "go and make disciples?" What does this look like for you outside of Sunday morning or Wednesday night church activities?

As believers we have each been given a mission to go and make disciples. As Rich Fork members we voice this mission as "shaping our community by sharing the grace and truth of Jesus Christ." Are we, as a people of God, are we as Rich Fork members, are we as individuals, fulfilling that mission with all of our hearts?

This week, as you reflect upon the truth of God's word, the lost and sinful life that He has rescued you from, and the mission that you have been called into, ask:

- What do I need to confess and repent of?
- How do I continue to remember and live with zeal, with praise and thanksgiving?
- Who do I need to share with?
- Where do I need to serve?
- How do I begin to truly live on the mission that Christ has given me?