

Meeting 1 – Praising and Thanking the Lord Resulting From Our Experience with Christ in Our Life (Psalms 135-136)

1. The situations in the churches today
 - a. We are on borrowed time
 - b. The Lord's desire to come back
 - c. The firstfruits (Rev. 14:1-5)
2. Our need today – capacity in the churches
 - a. To build the church
 - b. To shepherd the saints
 - c. To testify to the world
3. Praising the Lord as a result of our experiences with Him (Psalms 135-136)
 - a. We were chosen by the Lord to praise Him and to serve Him before the foundation of the earth (Ps. 135:1-4; Eph. 1:3-4)
 - b. Praise Him, O you servants of the Lord (Ps. 135:1)
 - c. Experience the greatness of our Lord (Ps. 135:5; 136:1-4)
 - i. He is the Creator of heaven and earth and is our creator (Ps. 135:6-7; 136: 5-9; Zech 12:1)
 - ii. He saved us and is investing in us for full salvation (Ps. 135:8-12; 136:10-20)
 1. From the world (Egypt) through baptism (Red Sea)
 2. From the difficulties (giants) in our individual Christian and church life
 - iii. Bringing us into the good land to give us an inheritance (Ps. 135:12; 136:21-22)
 - iv. Experience and enjoy the Lord as our inheritance
 - d. Appreciating God's mercy and His lovingkindness (Ps. 136)
 - i. We are not special – outcasts, brokenhearted and wounded (Ps. 136:23-25; 147:2-3)

- ii. His lovingkindness is what keeps us in the church today
- e. Praise cannot be taught
 - i. When we see and experience the Lord, how can we not but praise Him
 - ii. If we experience the Lord in our daily life, then our praises will be real and full of substance
- 4. Our silence is from our lack of experience of our living God and our trust in idols (Ps. 135:15-18)
- 5. The Lord will accomplish His purpose – with or without us (Num. 14:22-24)
 - a. Do we want to remain the same? Not meeting in a routine way year after year.
 - b. Following the Lord wherever He goes

Meeting 2 – Being Absolute for Zion (Psalms 137 & 147)

- 1. Our Priority
 - a. Absolute for Zion
 - i. What is the church life?
 - ii. Our hearts must be for Zion – the church is the house of the living God
 - 1. Do not forget Jerusalem
 - 2. Our chief joy
 - 3. Top priority
 - b. Babylon – the imitation harlot
 - i. Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)
 - 1. Man's pride
 - 2. Division
 - ii. Sons of Edom – our self, and the ones closest to us
 - 1. The descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother.
 - 2. The persecution in the church comes from the believers acting in the flesh

3. Christians today are divided because of the work of the flesh
- iii. Daughters of Babylon – the beautiful and attractive things
 1. Outwardly beautiful (Isa. 47:1; Rev. 17:4)
 2. Inwardly wicked (Rev. 14:9; 16:19; 17:4)
- iv. Synagogue of Satan (Rev. 3:9)
2. Cannot compromise
 - a. We cannot be in the flesh and in the Spirit at the same time (Gal. 5:17)
 - b. Not living a double life between our daily life and church life
 - c. The Lord’s warning to the kings with foreign wives
 - d. Cannot receive everyone and everything
 - e. God’s judgment
 - i. Perfect hatred (Ps. 139:21-22)
 - ii. Cut off before it can spread – “Nip it in the bud” (Ps. 137:8-9; Gal. 5:9)
3. The Lord will build Jerusalem – His church (Ps. 147)
 - a. The Lord builds (Ps. 147:2)
 - b. He gathers outcasts, heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds (Ps. 147:2-3)
 - c. The Lord doesn’t want us to use (Ps. 147:10)
 - i. Worldly tools –horsepower
 - ii. Our own strength – legs of a man
 - iii. We should fear the Lord and hope in His loving-kindness (Ps. 147:11)
 - iv. We must have confidence in the living God

Meeting 3 – Gaining confidence in God and Knowing the Thoughts of the Lord (Psalms 138-139)

1. Gaining confidence in the living God (Ps. 138)
 - a. In His presence, lovingkindness, truth, word, salvation, way and victory over the enemy in the daily Christian life and in the church life
 - b. Knowing that He will answer (Ps. 138:3)
 - c. Examples in the Bible
 - i. Moses saw God's plan and was able to lead God's people
 - ii. Joshua and Caleb had a strong spirit.
 - iii. God delivered David when he cried out to Him
 1. Through his experiences of God's deliverance, David gained confidence in the Lord
 2. Though he walked in the midst of trouble, the Lord revived him
 3. Because of David's confidence in the Lord, he praised the Lord with his whole heart
 - d. Teaching alone cannot give us confidence; we need to experience the Lord's victory (Ps. 137:2)
 - i. Know the word and experience Him by calling on His name
 1. If we only have the word (recipe), we would only have teaching
 2. If we only have His name (essence), then our experience is limited
 3. The Lord is rich unto all who call upon Him. We need to call from the depth of our heart
 4. The Lord has magnified His word in accordance to His name – to call on His name we need to know His word
 - ii. Having no confidence in the flesh
2. Having the coming age in view (Ps. 138:4-7)
3. Knowing the thoughts of the Lord (Ps. 138:4; 139:17-18)

- a. God knows us better than we know ourselves (Ps. 139:1-16)
 - i. Search me, O God, and know my heart
 - ii. We also should know the Lord as much as He knows us
 - 1. We should ask the Lord
 - 2. Know what He hates
- b. The Lord would not hide His innermost thoughts to us (Gen. 18:17-19)
 - i. We are children in the light (1 Thess. 5:4-5)
 - ii. God is righteous, and His judgments are righteous
 - iii. The more we experience the Lord, the more we should have the urgency that His coming is near – The Lord is waiting for His Church
 - iv. We must have faith in the living God
- c. The Lord must search our hearts today
 - i. Try us and show us our anxieties
 - ii. Expose any wicked way in us
 - iii. Lead us in the way everlasting

Meeting 4 – Praying with Incense to Satisfy the Father (Psalms 140-144)

- 1. The prayer with incense to satisfy the Father (Ps. 141:2)
 - a. Incense prayer (Rev. 5:8; 8:2-5)
 - i. Golden bowls full of incense
 - ii. Prayer of the saints
 - iii. Ascend to God for His satisfaction
 - iv. Cause God to open the seals to end the age
 - b. Incense
 - i. After the anointing oil for us to be filled
 - ii. The incense to satisfy the Father
 - c. Prayer should be our priestly service to God
 - i. We can minister to the Lord through prayer (Acts 13:1-2)

- ii. All the furniture of the tabernacle is for us
 - iii. Let our prayer be set before God as incense (Ps. 141)
- 2. The battle with God's enemy never stops (Ps. 140)
 - a. Recognizing that all our problems are part of the enemy's strategy
 - b. Proper complaining to the Lord – when the enemy attacks
 - c. Complaint to the Lord about what God's enemy is doing to us (Ps. 142)
 - d. Trained for battle (Ps. 144:1-2)
- 3. Rebuked by the righteous
 - a. To be chastened by the Lord
 - b. Do not be discouraged when we are rebuked by God (Ps. 141:5, 6; Heb. 12:5-7)
- 4. When we pray we need to get an answer from the Lord (Ps. 143:1)
 - a. The best way to care for the young people and new ones
 - i. Ancient way – to cry out to the Lord
 - ii. Not by man's way or methods, or programs
 - iii. Our young people should be as plants grown up, and our daughters may be as pillars (Ps. 144:12)
 - 1. Taking responsibility
 - 2. Normal way of the church life
 - b. Happy are the people whose God is the Lord – this is a description of the proper church life (Ps. 144:13-15)

New Songs

Psalm 144:9, 12-15

132*

- D
1. I will sing a new song to Thee, O God –
A
Happy is that people;
A7
That our sons may be as plants
grown up in their youth –
D
Happy is that people;
And our daughters be as pillars,
sculpt in palace style –
D7 G
Happy is that people;
D
Happy is that people,
A A7 D
Whose God is the Lord.
2. That our barns may be full,
with all manners of grain –
Happy is that people;
That our sheep may bring forth
ten thousands in our fields –
Happy is that people;
And our oxen may be strong
to bear heavy loads –
Happy is that people;
Happy is that people,
Whose God is the Lord.

New Songs

3. That there be no breaking in nor going out –
Happy is that people;
That there be no complaining in our streets –
Happy is that people;
Happy is the church life that's in such a state –
Yea! Happy is that people.
Happy is that people,
Whose God is the Lord.

D A
Happy is the church life,
 D A
That's in such a state –
 G D
Yea! Happy is that people,
 A D
Whose God is the Lord.

New Songs

- 252** 1. ^{"D} Lord, when You came to kindle a heav'nly fire,
^G The zeal for God's house never ceased to burn in
^{A7} Your heart.
^D Searching for man – this is Your heart's desire –
^G That they for God's great plan be set apart!
2. Lord, You have giv'n Yourself to be our portion
The "promise of the Spirit" we have all received.
We live by Christ – this is our consecration;
That all may see Your light and will believe.
3. We do not fear the giants in the good land.
To us they are like bread, for You're with us always.
One with our Lord, we'll follow Your command;
Just say one word and they will flee away.
4. Let's fan the flame to stir the spirit in us.
Before the golden incense altar, Lord, we stand!
Our flesh and self, we've nailed them to the cross
That we'll be pure and holy for Your plan!
5. Lord, as your priests we're servants here to serve You,
To build the church according to Your vision.
To keep your word, we'll faithful be and true;
And all strange fires we will completely shun!
6. We praise You, Lord, we are the generation.
We'll hasten Your return to set Your kingdom here.
This is our hope and earnest expectation:
^G To share the wedding with our Bridegroom dear. ^A ^D

New Songs

Psalm 8

343

1. ¹C G C G
How excellent Your name, O Lord,
C D G
O Ruler of the earth!
C G C G
You've set Your splendor 'bove the heav'ns,
C D G
The saints proclaim Your worth!
C F
Out of the mouth of little ones,
D G
You have established praise;
C F
To silence all Your enemies,
C G C
They'll see to the end of their days.
2. The whole creation manifests
Your wisdom, and Your plan.
The heavens, and the moon, the stars
Are mighty works of Your hand.
But what is man that You should care;
The son of man, You mind?
You've set him over all Your works,
And crowned him with glory divine.
3. O Jesus, Lord, You are that Man;
You came to be a slave,
Obedient to the point of death,
You died mankind to save.
With glory now and honor great,
God crowned You as the King.
Your victory we now proclaim,
O death, where is your sting?

New Songs

4. Your fine humanity and Your death,
Your resurrection pow'r,
We long to share these riches in
Your body every hour.
As Head of all things to the church,
You're worthy of our praise.
To glory, many sons You'll lead –
O Captain, full of grace!

5. Your day of coming soon draws nigh
To rapture us to Your throne;
As virgins we will now prepare
To be Your Bride, Your own.
When You appear in glory bright,
We'll share this as reward!
Then every creature will confess:
You are the King and Lord!

New Songs

Psalm 122; 132:13-14

405

1. ^G Glad was I, when they said unto me,
^C “Let us enter the house of the Lord.”
^G Glad was I, when they said unto me,
^C “Let us enter the house of the Lord.”
^{Bm} Our feet are standing within your gates,
^{G D Em} O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
^{Em} A city built up – fitly joined as one,
^{Am C D D7 G} Where the tribes of the Lord ascend.
2. The testimony of God’s people,
To praise the name of the Lord.
The testimony of God’s people,
In oneness to praise the Lord.
For the Lord has chosen – you He has desired,
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
A resting place which He is yearning for –
His dwelling forevermore.
3. For there the thrones were set for judgment,
The thrones of David’s house.
For there the thrones were set for judgment,
The judgment in God’s own house.
For God’s holy city, pray for peace therein,
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem.
May peace, salvation, and prosperity,
Be within your palaces.

New Songs

4. Because of my dear friends and brethren,
I'll say: "Peace be with you."
Because of my dear friends and brethren,
I'll say: "Peace be with you."
For the sake of God's house, I will seek your good,
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem.
I'll seek the best for you, Jerusalem –
The joy of the whole earth.