

Psalm 118

This Psalm is a processional song for varied voices most likely connected with the Feast of Tabernacles, expressive of high spiritual elation.

The Psalm begins and ends with the same expression, deep gratitude for the mercy that the Creator God extends towards every human being, [verses 1 and 29].

Psalms 118:2-4 [New King James] *“Let Israel now say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’ Let the house of Aaron now say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’ Let those who fear the LORD now say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’”*

The Psalmist calls on all of Israel, all of God’s servants and all who fear the Creator God to thank Him for this never-ending mercy.

As a result of the mercy we should constantly put our trust in the Creator God in every distressful situation, [**Psalms 118:5-9**].

Anything that humans may do for or against us is **not** to be compared to the help and protection that the Creator God can bring to us, [**Psalms 118:10-14**].

The acts of the Creator God on our behalf gives us unlimited reasons for us to praise and thank Him, [Psalms 118:15-18].

The Psalmist is asking the Creator God in heaven to open His ear to His praise and thanksgiving, [Psalms 118:19-21].

Psalms 118:22-24 [New King James] *“The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”*

This is prophetic, and is used by Jesus Christ to being rejected by the majority of people at His first coming, to live, die and be resurrected as their only Saviour, [Acts 4:11-12].

1 Peter 2:4-10 [New King James] *“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”*

Peter expands on these prophetic verses in **Psalm 118**, referring also to the prophecy of **Isaiah 28:16; Isaiah 8:14**.

Psalms 118:25-26 [New King James] *“Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”*

“Save now” expresses the Messianic longing of the people.

Our cry to the Triune God should be for the Second Coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, this time as King of kings and Lord of lords, [Revelation 19:11-16].

Psalms 118:27 [New King James] *“God is the LORD, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.”*

Again this is a Messianic promise that is fulfilled by Jesus Christ, [John 1:4-11; John 8:12; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:8-11].

We are commanded by Jesus Christ to share this light that we have been given with others, [Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 4:6].

“Bind” – this is the Hebrew word “âcar” which also means make ready, put in order and prepare.

Psalms 118:28-29 [New King James] *“You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”*

How do we praise and worship the Creator God in a practical way to show our thanks to Him for the mercy He has extended to us individually?

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and “human” spirit, [Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11].

This we do to show our gratitude for God’s mercy.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Having offered ourselves to the Creator God as a “living sacrifice,” He will send the Holy Spirit to re-educate us, that is, make us ready to receive the gift of eternal life, [Romans 6:23].

Nothing less will be acceptable to the Holy Creator God who lives in the light and is the light.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 [New King James] *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.’”*

Paul urges believers not to form binding relationships with non-believers, because it might weaken their Christian commitment, integrity or standards.

Earlier Paul explained that this did **not** mean isolating oneself from non-believers, [1 Corinthians 5:9-13], this was also part of the final prayer of Jesus Christ for His disciples, [John 17:14-18]. Paul also tells Christians to stay with their non-believing spouses, [1 Corinthians 7:12-16]. Paul was wanting believers to be active in their witness for Jesus Christ to non-believers, but should **not** lock themselves into personal or business relationships that could compromise their faith.

Believers should do everything in their power to avoid situations that could force them to divide their loyalties, [Matthew 6:24].