

# PURSUING PEACE



IN A CHAOTIC WORLD  
PSALM 34

## Finding Peace in Our Praise

Psalm 34:1-3

- Our focus for this series **VERSE 14 – Seek peace and pursue it.**
- Peace is something that may seem unattainable at times in our lives. It is found, not in our circumstances, but in a person. You cannot know peace unless you know Christ.
- Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of Christ.
  - o **“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”** Blaise Paschal
  - o **Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart,**

- Structure of Psalm 34 – Acrostic with the first letter of each verse starting with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet.
- Chiasm – points to the middle theme – Fear the Lord. Have a right understanding of your position in relation to the Lord.

Main Point: **Worship helps to cultivate peace in our lives.**

#### **I. Worship should be continuous**

- a. Hebrew word *tamid* – used in the OT in the context of regular sacrifices to the Lord. It's not the Hebrew word *olam*, which means everlasting. We will worship God for all of eternity in heaven, but this type of worship David is speaking of is concerning worship here on earth that should be done with regularity.
- b. It means that regardless of what is going on around us – we commit to a regular pattern of worship in our lives.
- c. What is worship? And how does it impact peace in our lives? Its attributes are both personal and corporate. We worship through song. We also worship with our service and work.
  - i. It is our reasonable service
  - ii. It is our sacrificial offering
  - iii. It is our communion with God that has a sanctifying effect
- d. Why would we not commit to this as a regular pattern and rhythm to implement in our lives?

- i. We get busy. We have other priorities or obligations. We forget or lose sight of the sanctifying effect of worship. We fall into temptation. We are pulled in other directions.
- ii. Worship should be our excuse for missing everything else.
- e. What about the standards that we set for the next generation? What are we teaching them when we don't prioritize worshipping God.
- f. We have seen the mental health of successive generations deteriorate over time. From GenX to Millennials to Gen Z to Generation Alpha. By most degrees and measures we have seen mental health decline substantially. I think there is correlation here with the use of social media and the internet.
- g. Could there also be a correlation with the decline in church attendance?
- h. Where people used to find their purpose and direction in the church, they are now trying to find that through TikTok and Facebook.

## II. Worship impacts our relationships

- a. VERSE 2 Focus on the two directions of relationships that we should be concerned about.
- b. Vertical relationship**
  - i. This is our relationship with God, and it is the most important. It's from this relationship that everything else flows.
  - ii. When we accept Christ, we become a new creation. The old is passed, and the new has come. We have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that molds and shapes us more into the image of Christ.
  - iii. We are transformed, and we go through the process of sanctification.

- iv. We learn how to love, how to lead, how to do well by cultivating our relationship with the Lord.
- v. How do we think we could have peace while also neglecting our personal relationship with God?
  - 1. Do you boast in Him? Do you pursue Him? Do you pray to Him?  
Do you read about Him? Do you worship Him? Do you tell others about Him?

**c. Horizontal relationships**

- i. These are relationships with the people around us. David says that others will hear of your praise to God, and it will have an effect on them.
- ii. I am not talking about everyone around you. I don't want to concern our time with that. We are not going to please or get along with everyone.
  - 1. Romans 12:18 – As much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- iii. We should be concerned with those relationships that mean the most to us and our circumstances in life. Your spouse, those in your immediate household, those you worship the Lord with, close and trusted friends. Those are all relationships that are usually the most meaningful to us.
- iv. It's also in those relationships that they can see you for who you really are. They see the consistency or inconsistency in your worship. They see how you serve and love the Lord. They see the struggles and successes of your life in ways that others simply can't.

v. The most beneficial way to cultivate these relationships? Serve and worship the Lord together.

1. Your spouse needs to see you worship. Your children and grandchildren need to see you worship. Your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ need to see you worship.

### III. Worship should be done corporately

- a. VERSE 3 – Let us exalt His name together.
- b. There is a shift in worship throughout scripture – In the OT there was a shift to the Temple. It was in a centralized location, and people would come from all over to bring their sacrifices to the Lord.
- c. In the NT there is a shift from the temple to the people of God.
- d. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6
- e. The worship of God centers around the gathering of God's people. The chosen or called out assembly. Greek - *Ekklesia*.
- f. Revelation 21:3 – Behold the tabernacle of God is with man.
- g. There is something special that happens when God's people gather for worship.
- h. Where there is a gathering of God's people who covenant together to worship and serve the Lord, there is a local church.
- i. In our worship – God meets with us. We gather to only lift the name of Jesus, but God also meets our needs as we worship and serve Him.
- j. He cares for you.
- k. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in

heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28 - 30