

Amity Bible Church

“Knowing God and Making Him Known”

Sunday Bible Study

Series: God is _____

July 23, 2017

Text: Psalm 107

Theme: “God is Good”

Central Message:

The central message in this lesson is that God’s people should praise God for His goodness and mercy toward us.

Because of the way that Psalm 107 is organized, we can conclude that it was probably used by the nation of Israel as a worship hymn. There are four stanzas, each containing a reprise (a recurring section) and a chorus. The first stanza begins in verse 4 and ends with the chorus in verse 8. The second stanza begins in verse 9 and ends with the chorus in verse 15. The third stanza begins in verse 16 and ends with the chorus in verse 21, and the final stanza begins with verse 22 and ends with the chorus in verse 31.

We see a clear pattern in the psalm. There is a close connection between the people’s pain and their praise. Whenever the children of God got into trouble, they would cry out to Him (Verses 6, 13, 19, and 28) and He would deliver them from their circumstances (Verses 7, 14, 20, and 29). Each time that God delivered His people, it would be followed by praise.

The principal takeaway for us from this text is that because of God’s goodness, we have reasons to give Him praise. Our text gives us four reasons why we should praise God for his goodness.

Reason #1: We should praise God for His goodness and His mercy because He has continually led us by His powerful hand and has blessed us abundantly. (Psalm 107:7)

If we have been conscious of God's leading in our lives, we know that He is a good leader. Scripture teaches us that the steps of a man or woman are ordered by the Lord.

1. God led His people to the Promise Land as He said He would, but they were afraid and would not go in. God did not abandon His people. He led them in the wilderness for 38 years and then, when He was ready, He led them back to the Land. This time, under the leadership of Joshua, the people claimed the land that God has promised.
2. David said, thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. He was talking about God's leadership in his life.

God wants lead to in the same way...to be our "spiritual GPS". He will allow us to make detours and he will even allow us to take an "off ramp" from time to time, but over and over again he leads us by His powerful hand back to the right path. The Prodigal Son is another good example.

Reason #2: We should praise God for His goodness and His mercy toward us because He has brought us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. (Psalm 107:14)

God has the power to deliver us from any circumstances and because He is good and He jealously looks after us. He may tolerate oppression for a time, but only as it suits His purpose, and in his time, He will bring us out.

1. God visited ten plagues upon the nation of Egypt in order to "persuade" then to let His people go. He deliberately hardened the heart of Pharaoh so that he would not let the people go until he had drunk completely from His cup of judgment, and as a final act of deliverance, Pharaoh and his army were drowned in the Red Sea. God is good, God is powerful and He keeps His promises.

2. When Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail for preaching the gospel, I am certain that at some point they questioned God's goodness. But God cause their chains to literally fall off their arms and He brought them out, again by His powerful and merciful hand.

Reason #3: We should praise God for His goodness and His mercy toward us because He sends His word and heals us of our diseases. (Psalm 107:20)

Jesus is God come in the flesh and he heals almost as if by "spiritual remote control". He simple spoke the word of healing and people were healed. He still heals and gives life by His powerful word. His words are spirit and they are life.

1. In Matthew 8:13, Jesus healed the centurions son with just a word. He also healed a nobleman's son and He did not have to go to his home. He did it with his powerful word.
2. Most of us who have been seriously ill know that healing is private and personal. No one knows what you are going through but the One who is able to heal. When He heals us, it is our own private victory. When we give our testimony, people can rejoice with us, but they don't really know what we have been through, even if they have been through something similar themselves.
3. Deliverance, on the other hand, is public. If you struggle with alcohol or drug addition, most of the people close to you are aware of your struggle because many of them are directly or indirectly affected. When God sends His word to deliver you, everyone around you knows that you have been delivered. Sickness is our own private "hell" and when God, in his goodness, heals us, we have a good reason to give Him praise.

Reason #4: We should praise God for His goodness and His mercy toward us because He calms our storms. (Psalm 107:29)

1. When Jesus was in the boat with His disciples crossing the lake, a fierce storm came up and the disciples were very afraid. They cried out to Jesus and He did not rebuke them for their fear. He spoke to the wind and the waves and the storm grew calm. The disciples were shaken and their only question was,

“what manner of man is this that even the wind and the waves obey?” Jesus not only calmed their physical storm but their emotional storm, as well.

2. Jesus seeks to do the same thing for us. He may not calm our physical storms...we may still have to endure illness or a bad marriage...we may still have to face losing a job or the death of a loved one, but he know that He is present with us in the storm. After all, peace is not the absence of a storm but the presence of the Master. Do you have that peace for your life today? You can find it in Jesus Christ. No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.