



November 7, 2021

Psalm 98:1-9

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

² The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn -- shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; ⁹ let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

COMMENTARY

98:1. This first stanza is a call to sing with exuberance and celebration a new song to God. This means to offer fresh praise because of some new act of his grace. The reason for this call is clear: He has done wonderful things. This refers to his saving acts

on behalf of his people, divinely intervening with both eternal and temporal salvation. No sinner is beyond God's saving power. No situation is beyond his rescuing power. With his right hand and his holy arm, he has worked salvation. God's hand and arm symbolize his great strength and power in his saving work. Because he is holy, there is no other way for unholy man to find acceptance with him except through his salvation.

98:2. God is a saving God whose very nature is to save. Therefore, he has made his salvation known, even to the nations, a salvation that reveals his righteousness. In regard to temporal salvation from earthly trials, he is righteous, rewarding the godly and punishing the ungodly. Regarding eternal salvation, he provided the righteousness that the ungodly sinner needs to be reconciled to God through his Son, Jesus Christ.

98:3. He has remembered his loyal, steadfast, and unalterable love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel. God's commitment to save his chosen people is unchanging and eternal. All the ends of the earth have seen God's salvation. He is the Savior not only of those in Israel who believe but of all peoples around the world who trust him. Far from every person being saved, rather, this teaches that God's salvation reaches out to all peoples. The wicked will perish (Ps. 1:6). God is worthy of praise because he is a powerful, holy, righteous, loving, faithful Savior forever.

98:4-6a. The psalmist addressed all people on the earth and called every creature to shout for joy to the Lord. There is only one true God, and all the earth must worship him. They must forsake their pagan gods and dumb idols. Here is the highest purpose of evangelism—that there would be increased numbers of worshippers of the Lord. Pardon is secondary; praise is primary. Specifically, God should be praised with music. The psalmist called for loud, lively music to be given with the harp and the sound of singing, as well as with trumpets and the ram's horn. Such jubilant song should be given in the praise of God's name.

98:6b. Shout... before the Lord, the King is a summons to worship issued to all peoples of the earth. Give glory to God. There is no god like heaven's King.

98:7-8. This last stanza calls all creation to make music to praise God, the righteous Judge. Let the sea resound, and everything in it. The ocean and all marine life within it were created for God's glory. The dry land and all who live in it are beckoned to praise. The rivers are to clap their hands unto the Lord as they carry his praise across the continents, rejoicing and celebrating in God. The mountains that tower over the land are to sing together for joy. Let every feature of the earth clap and sing for joy before the Lord.

98:9. God will come to judge the earth with righteousness and equity. God will have the last word in every matter and deal with every offense. God will decisively judge wickedness and reward all righteousness. This looks ahead prophetically to the future coming of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the One to whom he has committed all

judgment (Acts 17:31). The call to praise God is, in reality, the call to praise his Son (Ps. 2:7,12). May Jesus Christ be praised!

MAIN POINT

God is worthy of worship with our whole lives.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.



Worship Community Service

The mission statement of FBC Summit is **“leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known.”** Our three keys to accomplishing this are **worship**, **community**, and **service**. That is what the three leaves of the church logo represent.

Today’s small group discussion will be focused on **worship** – connecting with God. This is accomplished through corporate and personal worship. When we worship God, we give Him glory and invite His presence into our daily lives.

What images come to mind when you hear the word “worship”?

Why do you think we often view worship as something we do at specific times rather than an aspect of our being?

When thinking of worship, you might naturally think of a Sunday morning service, joining together as a church body and singing praises to God. It is easy to think of worship as something we do at specific times during the week. However, the reality is that we all worship throughout the entire week. We were made to worship God, but because of the Fall, we tend to worship things others than Him. We worship the things that hold the most value in our lives. The Bible makes it clear over and over again that God is the only One worthy of our worship.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 98:1-3.

How do these verses point to God as our Savior?

How did God act as the Savior of His people throughout the Old Testament?

How has He acted as our Savior in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

How should God's faithfulness give us confidence in both His ability and desire to act as Savior for His people?

The writer began this psalm by proclaiming the wonders that God has performed for His people. Throughout the Old Testament, God rescued His people time and time again through events such as the Exodus or restoration from exile. God has shown that He is always faithful despite the continual failures of His people. God's work as our Savior is based solely on His character, and not our merit to receive rescue.

- HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 98:4-6.

How do these verses point to God as Sovereign King of the universe?

What reasons have we been given to shout for joy and sing to the Lord?

What triumph of God do we have to celebrate now? What future triumph can we celebrate in advance?

The psalmist called for the whole earth to shout to the Lord. God is worthy of worship from every part of His creation. As the psalmist pointed out in the verses that follow, this includes even nature itself. We are called to worship God with our whole lives. This does not mean that we should stop everything we normally do and spend the whole day in a musical worship service. Rather, we should live our whole lives in a way that seeks to honor God.

- HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 98:7-9.

How do these verses point to God as Judge over all the earth?

How do these verses emphasize that God is worthy of worship from all of His creation?

How has Jesus made it good news that God is the final Judge over our lives?

Why should this reality also give us an urgency in sharing the gospel?

The psalmist ended by stating that God will judge the world righteously. As those who have rejected God in our sin, this is terrifying news in our flesh. However, for those who have trusted in Jesus, we have the sure hope that God will judge us based on the perfect work of Christ, rather than our own. This should create in us an urgency to share the gospel with others, as we recognize that all who are separated from God will face His wrath for sin at His judgment.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What things do you have to shout to the Lord for?

How does cultivating a heart of thanksgiving lead to further worship in our lives?

How should joining in worship with other believers impact our relationship with one another?

Who is God calling you to share the gospel with now? What do you need to do?

PRAYER

Thank God that He is the Savior of the world, the Sovereign King of the universe, and the Righteous Judge of all. Ask that He would give you a greater urgency in sharing this truth with those who are far from Him.