

**May 24, 2026**

**Psalm 33 NIV 1984**

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. <sup>5</sup> The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. <sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. <sup>10</sup> The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. <sup>11</sup> But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. <sup>13</sup> From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth- <sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. <sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. <sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 10:1-3, 11

Hebrews 10:12-14



## Worship and Trust Our Great God

### Psalm 33

**BIG IDEA:** Because God demonstrates both his sovereignty over all the world and his unfailing love towards us, then he is worthy of our worship and our trust.

### OUTLINE

#### I. Worship God

- Who we worship
- How we worship

#### II. Worship God Because It is Fitting

- Sovereign over creation
- Sovereign over the nations
- Morally good

#### III. Trust God

- Not men
- Trust in God alone
  1. Salvation
  2. Everyday living

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. Do you know someone — or have you been someone — who stopped letting themselves get excited about things because disappointment had become too familiar? Where do you think that kind of self-protection comes from?
2. Read vv. 1–5 and 21. The psalmist doesn’t just invite worship — he commands it, with instruments, singing, and loud shouting, and he does so in public. What is the reason driving that command? What about that kind of exuberant praise excites you, and what challenges you?
3. Read vv. 6–9. The psalmist grounds God’s trustworthiness in the raw power of his word — stars, seas, and everything in existence came to be simply because he spoke. We live in a world that bombards us with competing voices all claiming to be reliable. When have you felt the exhaustion of not knowing what or whom to believe? What is the biggest obstacle that keeps you from settling your full weight on God’s word as the sure foundation?
4. Read vv. 10–12. Right now, powerful people all over the world are making decisions that will affect you and the people you love. Yet the psalmist says every one of those decision makers is ultimately in God’s hands — think about Pharaoh. What unshakeable hope do these verses offer? And practically, how does that hope change the way you process the news, or the way you pray for someone you love who is navigating circumstances beyond their control?
5. Read vv. 13–19. The psalmist marvels that the God who created the stars and rules the nations has his eye on you — not as a distant observer, but as a loving Father committed to your care. In Christ, we know more fully what David could only hope for. Think of someone in your life navigating a real trial right now. What would you want them to see in these verses — and what from your own experience of God’s faithful love could you bring alongside it?
6. Read vv. 20–22. There are times you don’t feel like praising God. Theologians suggest that you should go through the motions anyway — lift your hands, speak the words — and trust that your heart may follow. Do you find that idea freeing or uncomfortable, and why? Where in your life right now do you need to choose rejoicing as an act of faith before it becomes a feeling? Consider committing Psalm 33:21 to memory this week as a first step.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Psalm 33 a hymn of praise to the God who made all things, who rules all things for his own purposes, and who has chosen a people to be his own for the sake of the whole world. The texts in Genesis that convey these notions underlie the psalm's ideas. The thought flows from the call to praise God, to several reasons for praise, to a closing filled with glad and peaceful hope.

-ESV Study Bible

***Praise to Jesus*** – Praise God who is worthy of our trust. His word is sure, certain, settled, always right, and never in doubt. His word is always the final word. When he speaks, it happens. Praise the Lord who made the heavens by His word, so strong it called all the stars in the heavens to come into existence. He commands the water and it obeys him, he gathers it like a farmer gathers grain. There is a God in heaven whose counsel stands forever, and his plans are established through all generations!

***Repent through Jesus*** –Father in Heaven, forgive us for the moments when we trust in ourselves rather than calling out to You – when we let the flood of media and news drive us to fear rather than to the assurance that the One who spoke creation into existence orders the cosmos, the storms, the nations, and their rulers by His sovereign will. Lord, we repent and rejoice in Your presence, Your steadfast love, and Your abundant grace.

***Consecration for Jesus*** –Because we have a God who is utterly trustworthy – whose Word is living and active, whose voice commands the waters – and because through Jesus Christ His righteousness is fully accounted to us, we have a sure foundation for every storm and trial. Therefore, let us rejoice in the Lord, fix our minds and hearts on Christ, and go proclaiming His greatness to all whom He brings our way.

## FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

These questions are written to aid parents in leading family devotions with their children.

1. What do verses 1-3 command us to do? How are we to do what is commanded? (The Psalmist commands us to worship the LORD. We are to worship Him with “joy,” with “lyre” and “harp,” “skillfully,” and “with loud shouts.”)
2. What reasons are given in verses 4-5 for our worship of the LORD? (We are to worship Him for His Word that is “upright” or true. We are to worship Him for His “faithfulness” as well.)
3. What reasons are given in verses 6-9 to worship the LORD? (The Psalmist wrote of how He created everything by speaking.)
4. What reasons do you have to worship God? Make a list of at least three reasons to praise God and use them to praise God.
5. This psalm mentions those who fear God. What does it mean to fear the LORD? (Make sure that your children understand that this type of fear is not like the fear of snakes, spiders, or bears. This type of fear is a realization of how big and powerful God is, and therefore we are to show Him reverence and respect.)
6. How is the LORD described in verses 10-22? (He is the One who saves and redeems His people. He is pictured in verse 14 as “enthroned” as a King. The psalmist also mentioned His “steadfast love”, which is His everlasting covenant love for His people.)

Scriptures for further study:

Genesis 1: 3

Psalms 19

Hebrews 11: 3

John 1:1-4

Colossians 1:15-20

## FOR STUDENTS

1. The psalmist doesn't just invite praise — he commands it, loudly and publicly. What is your honest reaction to that kind of exuberant, out-loud worship? What does your comfort level with it reveal about what you actually believe about God?
2. The psalmist says God's word is upright, faithful, right, and that the earth is full of his steadfast love. We live in a world that constantly tells us not to trust any single source. What is the biggest obstacle that keeps you from actually resting your full weight on what God says?
3. God spoke, and stars appeared. He gathered the oceans like a farmer collects grain. When you look at the created world, whether that's the scale of the universe or something close and small, where have you felt the weight of God's power most personally? How does that change the way you approach him?
4. Right now, there are powerful people making decisions that will shape your life in ways you can't control. The psalmist says every single one of those people is in God's hands. What does that actually do to your anxiety about the world, or does it? Be honest. What would it look like to pray differently about the things in the news or in your own life that feel out of control?
5. The God who rules the nations and counts the stars also has his eye on you, not as a distant observer, but as a Father attentive to every detail of your life. Where do you find that hardest to believe? What would change in a specific relationship or struggle you're carrying right now if you actually believed it?
6. There are times when praise doesn't come naturally, when you don't feel it, and the words feel hollow. The psalm ends not with a feeling but with a choice: 'we wait,' 'our heart is glad,' 'we trust.' Where in your life right now do you need to choose praise before it becomes a feeling? What would one concrete step toward that look like this week?

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. The Psalmist begins (vv.1-3) with the most important thing: worship.

Question: Do you see worshipping God as the highest priority and purpose of your life?

Question: In what ways do these first three verses give us helpful instruction on how we should go about our corporate worship?

2. Our worship of God is stimulated by considering his great power over creation.

Question: Think about some examples in your own life of seeing something awe-inspiring in creation and it made you realize how awesome God is. The Psalmist points to the stars and to the oceans. How about you?

3. The Psalmist tells us that the God who is sovereign over the created world is also sovereign over the world of men.

Question: How does this encourage you or change your attitude about the world events we read about in our daily news feeds?

4. Our worship of God is also stimulated by our consideration of God's goodness as well as his greatness.

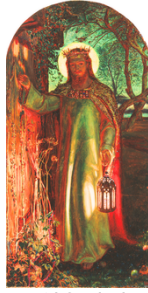
Question: Re-read the Psalm, this time identifying all the many ways the Psalmist underscores God's excellent moral qualities.

5. The Psalm begins with a call to worship and ends on a note of trust.

Question: How does worshipping God lead us to more confident trust in God?

6. Given all the ways the Psalmist underlines the greatness and goodness of God, how could we not trust God? First of all, have you put your trust in God alone for your salvation? And are there other (lesser) areas in your life right now that you also need to trust him for?

# The Blessed Life: A Study of the Psalms



*"The Light of the World" (1851-1853) by William Holman Hunt*

## **Psalms Introduction**

The Book of Psalms is the sacred place where the living God meets His people in the most intimate and personal of ways. He invites them to know Him not merely as an idea, but as their refuge, portion, shepherd, and King. From the opening doorway of blessedness in Psalm 1 to the climactic Hallelujahs of Psalm 150, the Psalter reveals that the truly happy life is one rooted in the person and work of Almighty God, whose steadfast love holds His people through every season of the soul. As the Psalter moves from anguish to adoration, from darkness to dawn, it becomes a mirror of the Christian life itself. It teaches us to pray honestly, to hope stubbornly, and to sing faithfully, even when night seems long. In the deepest valleys, the Psalms give voice to the church's groan; on the highest heights, they train the church's doxology. And in every line, every cry, and every hallelujah, Christ Himself comes near, revealing the light of the world in the dark night of the soul and leading His people into the blessedness that only His grace can give.

– Pastor Bill

## **About the artwork and artist.**

The Light of the World, 1851-1853, is an iconic allegorical painting by William Holman Hunt. The painting depicts Jesus Christ as a regal figure in flowing robes, wearing a crown of thorns, holding a glowing lantern, and preparing to knock on a weed-overgrown wooden door with no external handle. This illustrates Revelation 3:20 from the Bible: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." The artist William Holman Hunt is showing us that Jesus is the divine door to the living God who meets His people in the most intimate and personal ways. The closed, overgrown door → representing the human soul or "obstinately shut mind" that has long ignored spiritual calling. There is no handle on the outside → the door can only be opened from within, emphasizing free will and personal invitation to faith. The lantern → Christ as the light of the world (John 8:12), illuminating darkness and offering salvation. The work marked Hunt's deepening Christian faith (from earlier agnosticism) and became one of the most reproduced and devotional images of the Victorian era, inspiring oratorios, hymns, and widespread popular piety. It's often called a visual sermon on personal salvation.