

## March 2018

"When I was a boy growing up in Scotland, we regularly sang and memorized many of the Psalms at school.

Learning from the Psalms forms a framework for understanding who God is so that when we read passages like "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!" or "Come into His presence with singing!" or "Give thanks to him; bless his name!" (which are from Psalm 100), we have greater insight into what these words truly mean.

The Psalms are rich with history and offer a window back into the Old Testament practice of singing them in the temple. These ancient poems, put to music, were part of synagogue worship when the Lord Jesus was a teenager. The Psalms formed the lyrics to the songs Jesus sang, the prayers He prayed, and even the final cry He called out from the cross.

When we follow the pattern that Jesus gave us by singing and praying from the Psalms, we gain a sense of our roots and can see ourselves at the end of the long lineage of God's people. It's a tradition that unites us with a great chorus of witnesses from throughout the generations who are also heading toward that day when we'll form one voice with angels around the throne.

There is great joy in singing these songs with a loud voice when we gather in worship. Regardless of the quality of our tone, our singing is evidence of a Spirit-filled life. When the love of God fills our hearts, that love pours out through song, and our participation is a matter of spiritual importance. If you ever find yourself reluctant to sing out with strong measure, let me encourage you to consider the invitation found in the first verse of Psalm 100 and to be bold in your praise by worshipping the Lord with gladness in the awareness that He alone is God and He alone is good. Incidentally, I find it tremendously helpful to read from the Psalms when I read the newspaper these days. It helps both before and after so that I maintain a sense of balance when it's hard to make sense of all that is happening around me. If you read a Psalm a day, it will take you 150 days, which, if you start now, will about take you to your summer vacation. If you live in a climate like here in Cleveland, where these winter months are cold and dark, the Psalms offer an abundance of warmth and light for the soul.

With my love in the Lord Jesus, Alistair Begg"

### Five Minutes in the Word

"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations." *Psalm 100*

"Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the LORD is to be praised. The LORD is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, Who is enthroned on high, Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in heaven and in the earth? He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the needy from the ash heap, To make them sit with princes, With the princes of His people. He makes the barren woman abide in the house As a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!" *Psalm 113*

"Praise the LORD, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples! For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!" *Psalm 117*

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night. The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever." *Psalm 121*

#### Front Entrance Greeters This Month:

4<sup>th</sup> – Connie Diehl & Debbie McIntire

11<sup>th</sup> – Harriett Cheek & Mary Kimrey

18<sup>th</sup> – Larry & Debbie Balk

25<sup>th</sup> – Sara McGee & Margaret Watson

#### Annex Greeters This Month:

4<sup>th</sup> – Randy & Tish Burchell

11<sup>th</sup> – Jason & Brenna Rich

18<sup>th</sup> – Vicky West & Vanetta Keller

25<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Lindsey Kithcart

#### Nurse Rotation This Month:

4<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Fillpot

11<sup>th</sup> – Dixie Vodry

18<sup>th</sup> – Connie Diehl & Debbie McIntire

25<sup>th</sup> – Meghann Case