

1st Anniversary Celebration! Ps 105:1-6

We've come a long way, and God has done an amazing thing among us, hasn't he?
Seems like just yesterday that we were handing out invitations to our first service
Spent some time this week reading Psalms of thanksgiving and praise
Because the Psalms like nothing else, help us give expression to the feelings of our soul
They help us find the words to express our heart to God

I believe Ps 105 captures that about as good as any – Read vs 1-6 for you (**Ps 105:1-6**)
V6 – That's us; *We* are the offspring of Abraham, God's chosen ones
Because Paul says *those of faith are the sons of Abraham* (Gal 3:7)
Great picture of rejoicing, for a great day of celebration – for us

And in every celebration, we should . . .

Thank God for the past (v1, 5)

1 – *Give thanks to the Lord*; 5 – *Remember the wondrous works that he has done*

We have much to be thankful for . . .

People who were/are – Compelled, Committed, and Contagious
Abundant financial provision – **Offering bag** (This is all I could find, but 75% off!)
Place to worship; More and more people who come each week
Capable, committed, hard-working staff; Godly elders to humbly lead us

One of the biggest things of the past that we can thank God for, is *changed lives*

Emails (without using names)

2 Examples of decisions for Christ this week (Ali, Foreman)

People stand – thank God for your changed life

- Doing religious thing on/off all your life – walked in and sense the presence of God
- Committed your life to Christ after coming to Harvest
It's about a relationship, not a religion
- Re-committed your life to Christ after coming to Harvest

That's something to be thankful for – God has done a great work that we need to remember and thank him for

Not only that, but we should . . .

Worship God in the present (v2-3)

A celebration without worship is just wrong

If we don't give him the credit; exalt him; praise him for all that he is doing – problem

Psalmist describes this as . . .

Singing *praises to him* (2)

Reveling in who he is – *Glory in his holy name* (3)

Rejoicing in your heart! (3)

The more we do that, the more we will . . .

Tell of all his wondrous works (2); *Make known his deeds among the peoples* (1)

Spread the Word – the more we do, the more we'll worship

Guard yourself against . . .

• *Don't get complacent*

“We're off to a great start; Reached critical mass” – relax, sip tea, eat bon-bons
Need to Spread the Word – People will rarely come to church on their own . . .
Or just because we're doing something important
Have to tell them

• *Don't live in the past*

The danger with any great work of the Lord, is that we focus so much on the past, that we forget about the present

We're so enamored with the rearview mirror, longing for the good ole' days, that we fail to put the ambulance in drive and pick up the dying

• *Don't live in the future*

I've heard people say – “God must have something really big in store for us”

As if this is just practice for the real thing

This is the real thing! There's going to be more and more of it
But that doesn't diminish in any way what God is doing now

Worship God in the present

• *Avoid the “frozen-chosen” mentality*

“God's doing a great thing; Plenty of money, opportunity, people; This is all we need”

“Let's just stay in the high school forever, and when it's full, take a number, get in line”

This church is not just about those sitting here today; Or the missions trip, or prison trip

It's *also* about those who will come in the future; Ministry multiplication in the future

It's about those who God has in mind to come next week, month, year, 10 years

Worship God in the present – by singing his praise, rejoicing, and Spreading the Word

Finally, we should . . .

Trust God for the future (v 4)

God's not finished; We've had an awesome year, yes, but this is just the beginning

Psalmist tells us to . . .

Call on God – *Call upon his name* (1)

Seek him (4) – look to him, trust him

Seek his strength (4) – because he's all powerful; apart from him we can do nothing

Seek his presence (4) – with his presence comes his favor and blessing

Seek him continually (4) – now and always

Because *unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain*. (Ps 127:1)

Anybody want to sign up for the “labor in vain” program

God is far from finished, and we *are* going to trust him for the future

For more soft hearts and changed lives

More people to influence; More partners to share in the work of ministry

Place of our own to do it in; More of his abundant provision to accomplish it

Read Hymn – *To God Be The Glory* (Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915)

3rd verse – applies to our first year as a church

Summary

God has done great things this past year – thank him

God is doing great things right now – worship him

God will continue to do great things in the future – trust him