

GOD'S PAVILION  
Part XVI  
Psalm 100:1-5

Introduction: God's transcending purpose, emanating from His throne, is that the church should exist as the most relevant and impacting force in the world today. There are formidable, hostile, and contrary forces operating against the church, such as humanism, false cults, worldliness, secularism, etc. However, nothing has ever been able to inhibit or thwart God's will in the progression of the church. We are sequacious creatures of destiny in God's ingenious plan, and we must fulfill our assigned purpose as He has designed it. Our impervious devotion to Christ makes it imperative that we spread the life-transforming news of the Gospel to the world and penetrate our generation for Him. We should pray daily, and tenaciously go about reaping the harvest of souls.

A. God's pavilion

1. Praise defeats the enemy

- a) Let's revisit *Psalm 8:1-2*. In *verse 1*, David asserts that the name of the Lord has been given to us as a weapon against the evil spirits. "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name..." He is the Most-High God.
- b) In the second verse, he shows us how to shut the devil up. We must compare this with *Matthew 21:16*. Jesus, in quoting from *Psalm 8:2*, says, "...you have perfected praise." Jesus interpreted what David was trying to say. Peter gives us the same idea in *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2*. The ordained strength of God's people in battle is their *perfected praise*.
- c) Notice the use of the word *mouth* in this verse. All spiritual weapons have only one launching pad, and that is the *mouth*. The *mouth* is the center of all spiritual warfare, and here the weapons of God are launched out of the *mouth* of "*babes and nursing infants*."
- d) Praise is the garment of the spirit. *Isaiah 61:3*. Jesus quotes the prophecy in *Luke 4:18*, and then in *verse 21*, He says, "...today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." In *verse 3 of Isaiah 61*, we find God sending Jesus and all believers to minister the truth of "...*beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*..."
- e) Heaviness in contemporary language is *depression*. It is a principality, a stronghold of the enemy. It is a spirit that grips the mind of people and keeps them on the negative side of everything. It is a spirit that binds, discourages, and frustrates, and I believe we can dub it an evil spirit.
- f) *Praise* is a spiritual garment. It is something we must put on. This will free us from spiritual bondage. Remember that *praise* is an act of your will. The same way you decide each day what clothes you will wear, you must decide to put on the garment of praise.
- g) *Praise* leads the believer into the *triumph* of Christ. *Psalm 106:47*. Notice that we are to *triumph* in the praise of God. There is great difference between victory and triumph. Victory is the accomplishment of the defeat of the enemy. It is the silencing of the enemy. Triumph involves more than victory. Victory makes triumph possible, but triumph is a celebration of the victory already won. *Colossians 2:15*. It means He made their power of no effect and He stripped Satan of all his powers, and Jesus triumphed over him.
- h) Paul enforces the idea of the triumph of Christ over Satan in *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:14*. This triumph that Jesus accomplished by stripping Satan of all his powers has been transferred by Christ to the church. A modern translation of this verse has it this way: "*it makes us a continuing pageant of triumph in Christ*." Jesus won the victory; we, however, have been invited to share in the *triumph or celebration*.

Conclusion: You have heard of the term "*the church triumphant*." That means we are to continue to celebrate the victory that has already been won. Each service should reverberate with a praise celebration because of the victory that Jesus has already won. Whatever we need has already been paid for in full. We must simply learn to appropriate the promises and allow them to become a reality in our lives.