

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XXIV  
*Psalm 150*

Introduction: David in his exuberance avidly desires that everyone and everything praise the Lord. Ernest F. Scott, in his book *"The Nature of the Early Church,"* said, "If the mind of our time is growing dull to the meaning of Christianity, the reason may be largely this, that in our worship there is so little of the fire, that active manifestation of the Spirit, which was present in the early church and which belongs to the intrinsic nature of our religion." A church breathes through its worship system. Someone said, *"The vitality of a local church is linked to its devotion. God's people thrive on meaningful worship and it in turn produces spiritual people."* *Philippians 3:3.* The apostle Paul instructs us to be solicitous in our worship of the Lord. *Ephesians 5:18-20.* Meaningful, ebullient, and dynamic worship is an integral part of the life-force in healthy churches.

### I. God's magnificent idea

#### A. The church is to celebrate what Christ *has* done.

1. *Colossians 2:15.* The Amplified says, "[God] *disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].*" Jesus stripped the evil powers and defeated them.
2. *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:14.* The Amplified says, "*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere.*"
3. A triumph was the highest honor that could be bestowed upon any successful Roman general. If he had defeated an arch enemy of Rome, the senate would vote him a triumph, and that was a celebration of victory. The general was placed in a special triumphant chariot pulled by two horses and led through the streets of Rome. People would line the streets and applaud the general as he passed by. Behind the chariot were the evidences of his victories. The rulers of the conquered nations were lined up as prisoners of war and led in chains behind the chariot. Rank after rank marched the defeated army generals, captains, majors, and lieutenants. The idea was to create visible evidence of what the man had won.
4. Paul uses the triumph analogy to make vivid our victory which Christ has won for us. Notice that *Colossians 2:15* says that He "...*disarmed ... the powers that were ranged against us...*" They are being led by the chariot of Jesus as evidence of their defeat. They have been stripped of their armor.
5. As a result, we don't pray for God to give us the victory, but we praise God that we are a part of the victory celebration. The battle is already won, past tense. Our praise ties us into the celebration of the victory that has been won. *Galatians 2:20.*
6. The triumph directly leads to our praise. Our praise moves us into a position of triumph. We are not fighting the battle when we praise, but we are praising God that the battle already has been won. What a key!
7. We are in the chariot with Jesus. We get into the chariot when we celebrate His victory.
8. Praise is a celebration of victory. Disease is defeated! Financial oppression is defeated! Demonic oppression is defeated! Bondage has been defeated. Addiction has been defeated! We have been freed from Satan's hold on our life! *John 8:32, 36.*
9. We celebrate our freedom as we ride in the chariot with Jesus. We stop crying and fretting and begging and pleading. We change the order of our faith and begin to celebrate. We begin to testify, "*I already have what God said I could have.*"
10. Praising God for the victory He has already won opens up the door of new revelation and further growth for us in the Spirit. *Psalm 106:47.* We are to triumph in the praise of God.

Conclusion: What a difference it would make in our lives if we would accept that god has already done what He said He would do. Our victory is complete. Come out from underneath that shroud of darkness and see the light of His deliverance.