

Psalm 96:1-13 ESV

# Right or Wrong

Services: Sunday, 10/22 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 10/23 at 7 PM

Church Year: 20<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost / 21<sup>st</sup> Sun. after Trinity – 2017

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on **Psalm 96** and **the topic of worship**. What does it mean to worship? It means to *praise* the LORD! **We do so for four reasons:** Because of **1: who** He is, **2: what** He has done, **3: what** He is doing now, and **4: what** He will do in the future!

From the Bible we know that Psalm 96 was used for at least two very happy events: (1) When David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and (2) to celebrate the temple having been rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity.

Today, as we focus on Psalm 96, let us think about the LORD and the countless blessings we have received from Him; then, *let us worship Him!*

## 1. **Praise for God's Greatness:**

- a. Sing to Him: **<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name... // Why should we sing to the LORD? Because of who He is: The LORD God Almighty – *the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer!* Also, “*all the earth*” is invited to sing, which includes *all people* and *every component of His creation!***
- b. Tell the nations: **...tell of his salvation from day to day. <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! // Once we **know** the LORD, we are so blessed; then, *aware of the blessings***

*we have received* – forgiveness, spiritual life, eternal salvation, and so much more – *we want others to have those same blessings!* These are even **MORE REASONS** to tell others about the LORD:

- i. He is great: <sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**  
 // The LORD is great, *infinitely greater than all other beings*; therefore, everyone should ✓ praise Him, ✓ adore Him, and ✓ worship Him! **Furthermore**, He is to be feared! Why?  
 Because: **1:** He has life and death in His hands, **2:** He gives and He takes away, **3:** He has the power to condemn and He has the power to save!
- ii. He is worthy: <sup>5</sup> **For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.** <sup>6</sup> **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.** // Trust! Where is yours? **Many** people seem to trust in worthless idols – *which are not worthy of our trust*, but only a **few** have their trust in the LORD! Since He *made the heavens*, let us *recognize His worth and give Him our trust!*

## 2. **Call for All Nations to Worship at the Temple:**

- a. Assemble with others: <sup>7</sup> **Ascribe [Give] to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe [give] to the LORD glory and strength!** <sup>8</sup> **Ascribe [give] to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!** <sup>9</sup> **Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!** // When we assemble together to receive God's precious gifts of Word and Sacrament:

- i. We are acknowledging His great strength!
  - ii. We are honoring Him as our Great God!
  - iii. We are giving Him thanks, by returning a portion of what He has given to us!
  - iv. We are wearing His gift of righteousness!
  - v. We are revering Him with believing hearts!
- b. Tell the nations: <sup>10</sup> **Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity [fairness, impartiality].”** // Having received the LORD’s great blessings, we are instructed to tell others that **1:** the Lord is in control, **2:** no one can overcome Him, and **3:** He will come to judge with fairness, *thus in this manner:* To declare **innocent** *all who know Jesus*, but to declare **guilty** *all who have rejected Jesus!*

### 3. **Call for All Creation to Worship:**

- a. Heaven, earth, sea, field, etc.: <sup>11</sup> **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; <sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it!** // Think about the creation itself: It *was very good* but then, because of no fault of its own, it *was thoroughly corrupted*. Since the sea and the field are called to rejoice, **HOW MUCH MORE** should people – redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus – rejoice?
- b. Tell others about judgment and joy: **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy <sup>13</sup> before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.** // **“In our world, too many people see**

faith in God as a relic of the past with little to say about life today. People turn away from the true God in idolatrous pursuits of money and success; they trust in technology or revel in pleasure. / Do we give up? No! First... Join with others in worshiping the splendor and majesty of the Creator. Then, speak of His salvation in Jesus day after day, until the resurrected Savior returns to judge all nations in faithfulness.”<sup>1</sup> Jesus’ judgment will not necessarily be bad; *He will determine who is guilty and who is innocent*, thus, who rejected His finished work and who – *by grace through faith* – received the benefits!

**Conclusion:** When people choose to not worship, *they show their blindness to the LORD and His blessings* 😞; therefore, as ones who know Jesus as our Savior, **let us gladly worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

Let us pray: Dear LORD, grant us a proper view of Your greatness and our sinfulness; then move us to ▶rejoice in Your gift of salvation, ▶rightly worship You, and ▶tell Your truth to others! Amen!

### Follow Up Questions:

1. Are you aware of the intimate connection between *the Almighty God* and *your countless blessings*? Y N
2. Is the LORD worthy of your worship? Y N
3. Will you faithfully worship the LORD? Y N

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<sup>1</sup> Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) (p. 941). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.