

The Good Life - Psalm 92
Devotional Notes – Pastor Joe Davis
Union Baptist Church – 4/30/2017

Today, throughout our extended worship time, I want to share with you some direction from God on how we can live what I'd like to call, "the good life." And I'll tell you that this "good life" I'm going to share with you today is very different from what the world would define as "the good life." If you have a Bible, turn with me if you would to Psalm 92.

Verses 1 to 3: Four Good Things to Do in Life

Psalm 92:1-3

**1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
3 to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.**

In these verses we learn about 4 things that are **good** for us to do as we seek to love God and love others:

- 1) Give thanks to the Lord;
- 2) Sing praises to God's name;
- 3) Declare his steadfast love in the morning
- 4) Declare his faithfulness by night.

Use instruments, voices, melody and harmony to do these things. We're even told to do it with dancing and crashing cymbals in Psalm 150!

We see in these verses that giving thanks and singing praises (interaction with God) and declaring God's steadfast love and faithfulness (interaction with others) are central to our daily relationship with God and even our very purpose in him.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

If we're not doing these things throughout our daily lives, it would be good to ask why? And **what needs to change** in our lives, so that we are giving thanks and praising God continually, interacting with him throughout whatever we're doing each day, and declaring him to others with both our lives and words?

Verses 4 to 5 – God's at Work and His Works Make Us Glad When We're Aware of Them:

Psalm 92:4-5

***4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
5 How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!***

These verses tell us that God is on the move, working all around us and in us. Three times in these 2 verses we see reference to God's work. They tell us that he's intimately involved in every part of our lives. In fact, his very Spirit is living within those of us who've trusted in Christ, filling us up with God's energy and power. He's also working through all the things, good and bad, that happen all around us, accomplishing his will in the midst of them and working all things for good in the lives of those who love him and are called by him. And did you know that right now, he's upholding the entire universe by the word of his power (Hebrews 1:3)?

Are you aware of and watching for God's work all around you and in you? Because according to these verses, when we become aware of all the ways God is working around us, communicating his love toward us, giving us his strength and wisdom, and so much more, we're filled with joy. He makes us glad! Don't you want that in your life? Many passages of Scripture teach us that we can even have

joy in the middle of very difficult circumstances. And as we become more aware of God's work all around us and in us, we will also have lots of reasons to give thanks and praise him, and lots of examples of his works to give to others as we declare him.

Verses 6 to 9 – Never Envy the Apparent Success of the Wicked

Psalm 92:6-9

***6 The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:
7 that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;
8 but you, O Lord, are on high forever.
9 For behold, your enemies, O Lord,
for behold, your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.***

Our enemy the devil would like nothing better than to keep us in bitterness, envy, disappointment, and feeling like we've been given the short end of the stick. Life is hard and oftentimes people who are not living godly lives seem successful and seem to be getting lots of earthly blessings. People quite often get what they think they want through lying and cheating and thinking only of themselves.

But God teaches us not to be stupid or foolish and think that the temporary successes of ungodly living are of any value in the eternal scheme of things. Not only is there an underlying emptiness in all things the world has to offer, there is also an undeniable guilt and inner troubling of conscience that affects all people who obtain worldly success through ungodly means, whether they admit it or not. And most sobering of all, those who live apart from God pursuing what the world has to offer instead of him, are doomed to destruction forever. Only in Christ are we freed from that end. Don't ever envy those living life apart from God, out of relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Verses 10 to 11 – God’s Certain Salvation in a Difficult Life

Psalm 92:10-11

***10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have poured over me fresh oil.***

***11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.***

If we look closely at these verses, we notice some evidence that life is difficult even when you’re following God and walking in his ways. We shouldn’t expect that by following God we’re going to be spared all the difficulties of a cursed world that’s operating under the influence of the devil. Notice that the writer of this psalm had enemies and evil assailants. If King David wrote this psalm, we know that even after he was told he would one day be king, he experienced years of living in caves and being pursued by armies who wanted to destroy him. And yet, God walked with him through all those difficult years and gave him everything he needed to endure, even have joy in the midst of them, and eventually walk into the kingdom God had prepared for him. God took care of David and made certain he would eventually rise above all his enemies and experience salvation through God’s powerful work on his behalf. And yet there would be many struggles and faith testers along the way. The same will be true for us as we walk with God and trust in him.

Verses 12 to 15 – The Benefits of a Thankful, Praising, Declaring Life Lived in Trust and Obedience

Psalm 92:12-15

***12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.***

***13 They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God.***

***14 They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,***

***15 to declare that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.***

In these last 3 verses, we see the amazing benefits of thankful, praising, declaring life lived in trust and obedience. In the middle of difficult challenges and attacks from the enemy, the righteous experience the amazing benefits and blessings of walking with God:

- 1) They flourish like the palm tree (they're beautiful and can endure storms, bending instead of breaking);
- 2) They grow like a cedar in Lebanon (These giant, beautiful, evergreen trees grow in mountainous regions, at altitudes of 3,300-6,500 feet. The trees can attain a height of 100 feet and the trunk may reach 6 feet in diameter.);
- 3) They are planted in none other than the house of the Lord (the Lord himself cares for them, waters them and protects them);
- 4) They flourish in the courts of our God (They don't just eke out an existence...they flourish, and even in the middle of hard times and difficulties);
- 5) They still bear fruit even their old age;
- 6) They are always full of sap and green.

And what is our call as we grow and flourish in the courts of the Lord...in his presence? Our call, our sacrifice of worship in thankfulness for God's work in our lives, is to declare how great God is; that he is our rock, our foundation, the source of our health and growth and joy; and that he is perfect in all of his ways, completely good and righteous and holy, holy, holy! This is the true good life, my friends, and it's only found in moment-by-moment relationship with our great God through Jesus Christ. It's only found when we learn to live life in his courts, thanking him, praising him and declaring him continually as he works powerfully in our lives and gives us everything we need through all the challenges we face in life!