

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

How is John able to connect Jesus Christ with the term “Word”?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

How does the creation prove that His words come to pass?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

How are the Lord’s words contrasted with the words of wicked kings?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

What are some examples of how we trust in the words of those around us rather than the Lord’s words?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ John 1:1-5

Song #159 ~ Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Revelation 12:1-17

Song #218 ~ All I Have is Christ

Scripture Reading: Revelation 13:1-18

Prayer

Sermon ~ Psalm 33:1-22

Prayer

Lord’s Supper

Song #108 ~ Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer

Psalm 32:11

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

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Text: Psalm 33:1-22

Theme: When God speaks, His words come to pass.

Introduction: This Psalm praises the word of the Lord. His words are true and upright (4). By His powerful word, the heavens and earth were created (6). In John's Gospel, the Word personifies Jesus Christ (John 1:1). John uses this unique title to refer to Christ because He is the revelation of the Father. As we look at this Psalm, we find Christ as the ultimate revelation or Word of the Father.

I. When God speaks, His words come to pass (1-22; cf. 9).

A. Rejoice because His words are good (1-5; cf. 4).

1. The words of the Lord deserve praise (1-5).

Explanation: The 6 opening statements (1-3) are commands telling us to praise the Lord. Not only should we sing praise, but the Psalmist includes the lyre and harp.

Explanation: But why should we sing praise? Because His word is right (4) and just (5). Micah 3:9 combines these two words—justice and upright or straight. The leaders in Israel were the opposite of upright and just. They took bribes and perverted justice (Micah 3:11). In contrast, the Lord rules in justice.

B. The words of the Lord are powerful (6-12).

1. By His words He created the world (6-9).

Explanation: The Psalmist puts in poetic form the first chapter in Genesis. Instead of blowing out the lights with His breath, He created the light. How big must the storehouses have been in order to hold all the waters (7)?

Application: When we come face-to-face with the power of God's words, we can only respond with fear and trembling (cf. Exod. 20:18-21).

2. The word of the Lord stand forever while the plans of the wicked nations fall (10-12).

Explanation: The Psalmist is clearly alluding to Psalm 2 (although he uses different words). The Lord frustrates the plans of the nations who are in opposition towards Him (10; Ps. 2:4).

Explanation: But what about the nation whose God is the Lord (12)? Some use verses like this as an appeal to cause wicked nations to turn to God. This is clearly not what the Psalmist is referring to. Instead, he is contrasting the wicked nations who oppose the Lord with the covenant nation of Israel. In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter identifies believers as a "holy nation."

C. The words of the Lord are faithful and trustworthy (13-22).

1. In contrast, the words of kings fail (13-17).

Explanation: Israel often trusted in other armies to rescue them. For example, King Zedekiah sought help against Babylon from the surrounding nations (Jer. 27:3-5). Yet, God warned the nations that He would give Jerusalem to His servant, Nebuchadnezzar. Yet, Egypt came to help Jerusalem only to be destroyed by Babylon.

Application: The kings of Israel often trusted foreign kings instead of trusting in the Lord. They saw the mighty armies and the chariots and chose to rely on the words of foreign kings and disregard the words of the Lord.

2. Since His word is faithful, wait on Him (18-22).

Explanation: 3 times in these verses the Psalmist mentions waiting on the Lord (18, 20, 22). In fact, waiting on His faithfulness is parallel to fearing Him (18). The reason we wait on Him is because He is our help and shield (20).

Conclusion: Although Psalm 33 is not explicitly referring to the Lord, it does point to Christ as the pinnacle of revelation from the Father. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.