



GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

Psalm 33

November 13, 2022
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Today, I want to introduce you to a hymn that is a good example representing the "purest form" of praise to God, expressing who he is and what he does. Psalm 33 emphasizes the power and trustworthiness of God's Word. This psalm and psalm 32 connects the God of creation as the God of redemption.

READ, Psalm 33:1-22

*"Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. **2** Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings **3** Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. **4** For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. **5** He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. **6** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. **7** He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. **8** Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! **9** For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. **10** The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. **11** The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. **12** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! **13** The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; **14** from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, **15** he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. **16** The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. **17** The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. **18** Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, **19** that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. **20** Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. **21** For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. **22** Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you."*

- Our PRAISE to God should always be in harmony with the WORD of God.

God's Word is...

1. TRUE and Worth Counting On (v. 4-5)

2. The MEANS of Creation (v. 6-9)

- He is Lord over NATURE.

*"And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" **Mark 4:41***

3. ETERNAL and Immoveable (v. 10-11)

- He's Lord over HISTORY and TIME.

*"The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." **50** Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. **51** As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. **52** So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." **53** The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." **John 4:46-54***

4. REVEALER of Hearts (v. 15-17)

*"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." **Psalms 119:11***

5. The GUIDE to Salvation (v. 18-22)

*"The name "Lord" exclusively belongs to the person of Christ only in so far as it represents a degree midway between God and us." **Calvin's Book of Institutes***

*"for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." **1 Corinthians 8:6***

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead **YOU WILL BE SAVED. The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.

Do these “New Songs” (Psalm 33:3) bring a fresh praise to God or to Man?

Is proper theology important? Are these songs written about the true Jesus, the One true God, His interpretation of His Word? Be careful about any songs written by musical artists that are members of **Bethel Music, Elevation Worship, Maverick City Music, Jesus Culture ...** including their ministry leaders, founders, and pastors such as Bill Johnson, Derek Johnson, Steven Furtick, Chandler Moore, Brandon Lake.

Bethel Church is a charismatic movement from the Assemblies of God and became a nondenominational church. <https://bethelmusic.com/about/> “**Bethel Music** is a worship *movement* that exists to lead people’s hearts into profound experiences with God’s presence that fuels personal, regional and global revival.” **Our Mission** — “To carry the *culture of Heaven* to the nations through worship and to see the global expansion of God’s Kingdom through His *manifest presence*.”

This church has written songs about a different Jesus, a different Holy Spirit and a different Father and gospel. We would not be worshipping and bring an acceptable sacrifice/offering of worship through these songs. The Johnsons are frequently criticized for teachings, which often veers from the suspect to the heretical: <https://www.forthegospel.org/read/should-your-church-sing-jesus-culture-bethel-music>

1. A prime example is Bill Johnson’s “Jesus Christ is perfect theology,” which claims that it is always God’s will to heal someone. (i.e. Isaiah 53:5 taken literally)
2. Kenosis Theory as correct theology: Christ completely emptied his deity when he became Jesus on earth. Was not fully God but was a man in good standing with God and able to do all signs and miracles and so can we as humans in good standing with God (opposite of the Hypostatic Union, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-hypostatic-union>)
3. God’s Word is Jesus speaking to us now... the Bible is secondary and what we hear from the spirit is primary to our faith
4. Second outpouring of the holy spirit for believers on earth is a private revelation
5. God is moving in new ways to justify new manifestations
6. Call things into existence
7. Manipulate time, space and sound
8. Angelic encounters, Beni Johnson also teaches some peculiarly unorthodox views of angelology, such as that there are “different kinds of angels: messenger angels, healing angels, fiery angels” who have “fallen asleep.”
9. NEW AGE Religion / New Apostolic Reformation ([The Prosperity Gospel vs the New Apostolic Reformation \(NAR\). With Joel Osteen, TD Jakes, Joyce Meyer, Voddie Baucham, John MacArthur, Bill Johnson, Bethel Church, Paula White, Gino Jennings, Justin Peters, and Che Ahn](#))
10. Christ-alignment & card readings “fortune telling” as prophecy
11. Bethel Supernatural School of Ministry = School of Prophecy and Spiritual gifting (teaching people who are learning how to be “filled” with these gifts and be trained to use them)
12. Some members of Bethel—including senior pastor Beni Johnson—have allegedly engaged in the practice of “grave sucking” or “grave soaking”—lying on a person’s grave to “soak up” the deceased’s “anointing.”
13. Bethel Church claims to frequently encounter unexplained phenomena both during their services and also in their everyday lives, such as falling gold dust and “angel” feathers. (“The feathers, gold dust, etc. are not things we do,” Johnson says. “They happen.”) They also claim to see a “glory cloud,” the appearance of dust/smoke in their services.
14. Bethel churches frequently promote and teach and preach from *The Passion Translation* which abandons “all interest in textual accuracy, playing fast and loose with the original languages, and inserting so much new material into the text that it is at least 50% longer than the original.”

15. **Bethel** and other churches like it is the "seven mountains mandate," a **belief** that **Christ** will only return to Earth when true believers bring God into seven spheres: religion, family, education, government, media, arts, and business.

Since the pressure and push back from other theologians, Bethel Church has to a degree “recanted” what has been said, but not everything. **Rediscover Bethel** is a video series that addresses common questions and misconceptions about Bethel Church in Redding, California, specifically regarding our theological beliefs, teachings, and practices. (<https://www.bethel.com/rediscover-bethel>)

Joel Osteen & Elevation Worship described as part of the American Gospel, Moralistic - Therapeutic Theism “how to be a better person and a better life” and does not adhere to the full gospel of Christ. Osteen’s teaching is rooted in [Pentecostalism](#), and he teaches that physical healing and wellness were provided in Christ’s atonement. “Jesus came that we might have a more abundant life. He came to carry our weaknesses, our sickness, our pain, so that we can walk in total freedom, peace, power and purpose” (from Lakewood Church’s official website).

Osteen’s message is his promotion of name-it-claim-it or [word-faith theology](#): “We have to conceive it on the inside before we’re ever going to receive it on the outside,” Osteen writes. “If you don’t think you can have something good, then you never will. The barrier is in your mind. . . . Your own wrong thinking can keep you from God’s best. . . . To experience [God’s] immeasurable favor, you must rid yourself of that small-minded thinking and start expecting God’s blessings, start anticipating promotion and supernatural increase. You must conceive it in your heart before you can receive it. In other words, you must make increase in your own thinking, then God will bring those things to pass” (from *Your Best Life Now*, chapter 1). There is nothing biblical about such teaching. There is no power inherent in positive thinking, and we do not create our own realities. God is not our servant, standing by and waiting for us to fire up our imaginations so He can lavish us with material goods. Jesus told His followers to “give up everything you have” ([Luke 14:33](#)), not to seek to get more.

Hillsong Church

- Pentecostal Megachurch that is affiliated with the Australian Christian Churches, a branch of the Assembly of Gods and part of the Prosperity Gospel
- Brian Houston, "We believe God wants to heal and transform us so that we can live healthy and blessed lives in order to help others more effectively." This falls in line with the teaching that “God always wills to heal.” Bless = healthy; God desire is to enrich you financially. ([Brian Houston resigned as Pastor of Hillsong](#))
- The Hillsong Church has been criticized recently for its leaders’ reticence to take a position on homosexuality. ([Clarified that Homosexuality is a sinful act against God’s word](#))

Southern Baptist leader, Albert Mohler, stated, "[[Hillsong is](#)] a prosperity movement for the millennials, in which the polyester and middle-class associations of Oral Roberts (TV prosperity gospel founder) have given way to ripped jeans and sophisticated rock music..." “What has made Hillsong distinctive is a minimization of the actual content of the Gospel, and a far more diffuse presentation of spirituality.”

As with many ministries, there are positive and negative facets to Hillsong. Are there people being saved through the Hillsong Church? Yes, and we praise God for that. Can a Christian worship the Lord with Hillsong-produced music? Absolutely. Can a person be carried away by emotion and misled into the false idea that God always wants us to be healthy and rich? Unfortunately, yes.

*“Do not despise prophecies, **21** but test everything; hold fast what is good. **22** Abstain from every form of evil. **23** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:20-23