



April 5, 2011 - Psalm 100:2

Hi everyone,

I am loving this sunshine and very glad about it! Not sure what the weather is like in your area, but knowing the Lord is giving you reason to be glad as well. I hope you got off to a great start on verse 1 and that you have found yourself **"shouting to the Lord"** throughout this last week. It is just right to live before the Lord in worship in that way. We will continue with this same theme as we look at verse 2.

In the NASB Psalm 100:2 reads,

"Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with joyful singing."

This week's verse provides some more very clear direction for us as servants of the Most High God. How wonderful it is to be a part of a kingdom where joy is the expected dynamic and flow for the interchange between the Master and his servants. As we study God's Word we find the kingdom of God is not like this world. This verse will show us one very clear difference. Because most of us dwell in democracy, it can be difficult to live in the mindset of servant/Master. And yet...in the kingdom of God, that is our position. As believers we need to train our minds and hearts to see ourselves as servants of the Most High God.

So, as His servants, we are given clear direction. We are to **"Serve the Lord with gladness."** The word **"serve"** in verse 2 is translated from the Hebrew word "abad" which means to labor and do work. In our culture, work is often equated with dread and drudgery. But the kingdom of God is different. We are told to **"Serve the Lord with gladness."** The word **"gladness"** in verse 2 is translated from the Hebrew word "simchah" which means pleasure, joy and cheerfulness. No dread. No drudgery. We work for the Lord with gladness. Gladness is the result of something. Just as the sunshine has made me glad today, I have so many reasons to be glad as I serve God but I know that it is easy to forget them and just go about my tasks. Just serving, getting the job done, but not really with joy and gladness. Maybe that is why someone wrote a hymn long ago called "Count Your Blessings!" Doing so, will help us remember.

We are also told in verse 2 to **"Come before Him with joyful singing."** Here is yet another clear

direction. For all you non-singers out there, don't get caught up on that word "singing." If you look at the Hebrew, it is simply another word for "shouting." See, in many ways verses 1 and 2 of Psalm 100 simply repeat each other. The idea of both is that as we approach God, we come before Him with a glad and joyful heart, crying out to Him, shouting out to Him with our very lives, so grateful and joyful to serve an amazing Master.

All of this sounds nice and spiritually poetic for us as Christians. But I must say that over the years the Lord has often gently rebuked my attitude before Him. I know that I am not alone. How easy it is for us to slip into an irritable, complaining attitude as we approach the Lord and serve Him. Complaining should not characterize us as servants of the Most High God. The world may live like that but we live in a different kind of kingdom. So..."**Serve the Lord with gladness and come before Him with joyful singing**" today. It is right to worship in this way!

An Extra Boost from Verse 2 This Week:

Not sure how to get started with that glad heart? Maybe we should all take a lesson from that long ago hymn writer, Johnson Oatman, and count our blessings. In 60 seconds write down as many things as you can which describe your personal reasons to be glad in Christ Jesus. Read over it each day before you work on memorizing verse 2. My list is going to start with the sunshine I am seeing today!

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