



Sunday, March 7, 2021

Pastor Tim Van Loh

Intro to Psalm 33

Praise can be a bit of an ambiguous term. It seems too often these days praising, for Christians, is limited in scope to simply the time of singing in a worship service. But the term “praise” is more foundationally ascribing to someone certain positive characteristics that their actions merit. A fan praises the skill and ability of their favorite athlete or sports team. A husband praises the beauty of his wife. The teacher praises the student who does well on their exams. In all these contexts, praise is simply ascribing to someone a characteristic that they merit.

This should be how we treat God. What has God done that merits our praise? As Pastor Tim noted, He has created all things. If the Bible can say as a passing thought, “He also created the stars,” then certainly this is a God of power and majesty. If the Bible says He has numbered the hairs on our heads, then we should praise Him for His care and attention to detail. Likewise, He is not only Creator, but also our Savior. In Revelation, He is described as worthy of all praise because He has redeemed people from every tribe and nation and tongue for Himself. Thus, we should praise Him for His mercy.

Context

Quite significantly, Psalm 33 follows Psalm 32. That may not sound significant, but the clear parallel language between 32:11 and 33:1 helps us understand that there is something that the writer has been talking about in Psalm 32 that will make sense of Psalm 33. This is not true for all of the psalms, but it is for many. Traditionally, we think of the psalms as simply a collection of Israel’s best songs (and it is, in one sense). But it is also arranged in such a way that many of the psalms are put together to make a greater theological point or point of application.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Psalm 33

“Praise Looks Good on You”

Main Idea: Your best life is a praising life.

I. The Call to Praise (v. 1-3)

II. The Cause for Praise (v. 4-19)

III. The Congregation of Praise (v. 20-22)

Discuss

- 1) What do you think most people would think is their “best life”?
- 2) How does Psalm 32 help us make sense of Psalm 33?
- 3) What most often gets in the way of you praising God?
- 4) Pastor Tim talked about different cultural expressions of praise. How does this psalm help us understand and appreciate the value that different cultures bring to praising the one true God?
- 5) How does praising God help us remember our proper place in His created order?