

EVERYTHING HE DOES

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On the eve of Election Day, at the end of a tempestuous and divisive election cycle, we need a strong reminder of the sovereign goodness of our God.

One way is to surrender ourselves to His grace, as we have done through the reflection of the communion ceremony.

Another way is to watch a timeless video, “That’s My King,” excerpted from a sermon by Dr. S.M. Lockridge. You may find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE>

Yet a third, even more accessible, way is to examine Psalm 33.

The lyrics of that song (for that is what the Psalms are, a collection of lyrics for worship) begin with a call to worship, which has ever been both the prelude to and the result of a glimpse of God’s sovereign majesty.

A Call to Worship

Psalm 33:1 Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord; it is fitting for the pure to praise Him. ² Praise the Lord with melodies on the lyre; make music for Him on the ten-stringed harp. ³ Sing a new song of praise to Him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.

This is a call to the godly, to the pure. Lest you think this is a showstopper that leaves you out, “godly” and “pure” are not descriptions of consistently perfect behavior, but of the “leaning of your heart.”

If your inconsistent behaviors, which are so thoroughly human, send you back to the arms of God in repentance and renewed petitions for His gracious help, then you qualify.

If your broken promises break your heart and cause you to cry out to God, you qualify.

If your outbursts of selfish pride embarrass you to your soul and send you back to the foot of the cross of Jesus, then you qualify.

If you love the Lord Jesus more than life itself, and can’t get Him out of your mind, then you qualify.

If the thought of the mercy God has shown you brings tears to your eyes and a smile to your lips, then you qualify.

SING to the Lord! It is fitting, appropriate, and proper for you to do so.

Verses 3 and 4 not only approve the use of musical instruments, but urge us to develop musical skills for the pleasure of God. Whether you make rhythm with your hands or a drum, strum the strings of a guitar or tap the keys of a piano, do it with skill—learn to do it well.

Notice that this music is primarily “for Him.” You and others may also enjoy it, but sing it and play it to please Him. He is your “audience of One.”

A “new song of praise” may be fresh, or refreshed, or spontaneous, but it expresses that special quality of newness: it is sung with emotion (joy).

What is the motivation for such singing? Why do we sing a new song? About what are we so joyous?

Everything He Does

Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything He does. ⁵ He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.

His words! Hold true.

His actions! Are trustworthy.

His love! Never runs out. Is always and everywhere available.

We can trust everything He does! Everything He does! Everything He does!

Just look at what God has done:

Our Mighty Creator

Psalm 33:6 The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born.

⁷ He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.

⁸ Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command.

His words. Powerful! Creative! Expansive!

His actions. Distinguishing land and sea. Setting appropriate boundaries.

How should we respond to such beautiful power?

Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of Him.

God commands such power. He exerts such authority. He displays such might. Sing to the Lord, all the earth! For everything He does.

Firm Forever

Psalm 33:10 The Lord frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. ¹¹ But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken.

People think they are “top dogs” in the world. We can tame wild animals, and harness the power of sun, wind, and water for our use. We innovate technology to improve our standard of living. We restore our lives from disease and lengthen our life span.

But we still cannot keep spiders out of the corners of our homes. We cannot keep fruit flies from invading our kitchens. We cannot keep termites from damaging our houses. We cannot keep mold from staining our walls. We cannot prevent earthquakes or tornadoes or floods. And we cannot stop graft or abuse or murder.

Yet, none of those things can prevent God from achieving His ultimate plan. He frustrates our plans and schemes, but we cannot frustrate His. The will of the Lord be done. On earth as it is in heaven.

Even if heaven and earth pass away, God's words will not pass away, and they will not remain fruitless. They will accomplish the purpose for which He sent them. His Kingdom is unshakable. Everything He does is steadfast!

A Chosen People

Psalm 33:12 What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people He has chosen as His inheritance.

When our security is in God, we are secure.

When our joy is in the Lord, we are happy.

When our hope is in the Lord's wise government, we are at peace.

God has chosen a people—not an ethnic race, not a political party, not a national citizenry, but a people formed out of every tribe and language around the globe, who listen to His words, and trust in His Son, and follow His Spirit. We are His inheritance! We are what He hopes for! We are what He dreams of!

Some think it is extremely arrogant to imagine that we are the center of such a vast universe—there must be other civilizations, other intelligent beings, somewhere. Therefore, they refuse the merciful kindness of God.

Indeed, if we had dreamed this up on our own, they would be right. But it God dreamed this up—and revealed it through His Son, Jesus, in the most unimaginable way—then it is arrogant to reject God’s plan and imagine that we know what this vast universe comprises.

He Understands

Psalm 33:13 The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. ¹⁴ From His throne He observes all who live on the earth. ¹⁵ He made their hearts, so He understands everything they do.

He made us. He understands us. He knows how we are wired. And when the wires in our hearts get crossed, God understands our reactions—“*everything we do*”—and extends to us grace and patience, and knows how to mend us.

Everything we do. Everything we do.

Everything He does is for us!

Don’t Count On Them

Psalm 33:16 The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. ¹⁷ Don’t count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you.

The ways and the works of men—their bulwarks and machinery and political or military might—cannot save us. They are never enough. Never enough.

It is wise to prepare ourselves and protect ourselves, but it is foolish to think that that is enough. Others are also preparing to outwit us and overcome us. We need more than we alone can provide. We need a Protector. We need a Savior. We need God’s help.

“But the Lord...”

Keeping Watch

Psalm 33:18 But the Lord watches over those who fear Him, those who rely on His unfailing love. ¹⁹ He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.

God watches over those who fear Him—who trust in Him, who depend on Him. God watches over us. In everything He does.

His love never fails—never comes to an end, is inexhaustible. We can rely on this. And those who rely on His love will find Him faithful.

He rescues. He saves. He protects. He keeps alive.

Tragedy may strike. We are mortal. But when we have been born again and are alive in Christ, no tragedy (not even death itself) can separate us from God's love. If we die, we shall yet live.

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this?"* (John 11:25-26).

God is trustworthy. In everything He does.

The psalmist concludes with an affirmation and a prayer:

Where Is Your Hope?

Psalm 33:20 We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. ²¹ In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.

²² Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in You alone.

We **PUT OUR HOPE** in the Lord. Hope is not something that rises from the ground like mist in the morning. Don't wish for it. USE it. Hope is in you (even if you don't feel it at the moment) and you WILL put it somewhere.

You may put your hope in bad news ("It's getting worse! It's going to happen to me! There's nothing I can do!"). When you put your hope in bad news, we call that WORRY. It generates anxiety and leads to mental confusion and emotional paralysis.

Or you may put your hope in good news—the Good News that has been given to us in the person of Jesus Christ. When you put your hope in good news, we call that FAITH. It generates peace and leads to mental clarity and emotional well-being.

God becomes—through your faith—your Helper and your Shield. Help and protection are what we need. This leads to JOY.

You can trust in His *"holy name"*—which represents His motivation and His objective, and everything He does.

"The word of the Lord HOLDS TRUE, and we can trust everything He does."

A Prayer to Pray

The psalmist concludes with a prayer, in which he does not ask for some specific action or result (like, "Fix this," or "Heal me," or "Set it straight.") but rather a condition, a cocoon, an enveloping state of affairs: Surround us with Your love (however it manifests, and whatever it accomplishes).

Let's adopt the psalmist's prayer and make it our own this morning!

Try it on for size. Say the first part with me. ***Let Your unfailing love surround us, Lord.***

Say it again, slowly, thinking about each word you speak. ***Let - Your - unfailing - love - surround - us, - Lord.***

Now try the second part. ***For our hope is in You alone.***

Slowly. ***For - our - hope - is - in - You - alone.***

Let's put them together. ***Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.***

Now open your hands, palms up, and pray it. ***Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.***

Now, if you would (if you can), LIFT your open hands toward heaven as you pray it. ***Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.***

One final time together, make it a whispered prayer, just between you and the Lord. ***Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.***

Amen.