

LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR

Scripture: Psalms 134:1-3

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Introduction:

- A. The author of this Psalm is not known more than to say we know that God's Holy Spirit used some human author.
 - B. Many think it was written by King Hezekiah following the renewal of temple worship.
 - C. It may refer to a time when the services at the temple had ended and the worshippers were bidding good night to those priests who were to watch over the temple of God during the night.
 - D. The word "bless" is the key word of each of the three verses, thus "bless" is the key word of the whole Psalm.
 1. Bless means to speak well of, to praise, to celebrate with praise.
 2. Bless also means to invoke divine care for, to confer prosperity or happiness upon, to protect, to preserve.
 3. The first meaning is the one found in verses 1, 2.
 4. The second meaning is the thought expressed in verse 3.
- I. LEARN THAT GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD RECOGNIZE GOD FOR WHO HE REALLY IS. v.3
- A. He is the Creator of all ... heaven and earth? yes. BUT more than that. He is Creator of all.
 1. Gen. 1:1-31
 2. Job 38:1-7
 - B. He is the Sustainer of His creation. Col. 1:16, 17
 - C. More than our Creator, He is our Redeemer, our Keeper, our Provider, our Judge.
 - D. God is the One who really cares for us, the One who prospers us, the One who can rejoice us.
- II. LEARN THAT PEOPLE OF GOD SHOULD ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BLESS THE LORD GOD. vs. 1, 2
- A. Here is a command from the writer. "You behold, You bless the Lord."
 1. The command is to "all ye servants of the Lord."
 2. It is specifically to those who watch in the night. These were the temple guards.
 3. God's servants, members of His churches, are commanded to watch over His churches in this time of darkness.
 - B. Where are we to bless the Lord?
 1. Israel in God's sanctuary; the house of the Lord.
 2. The New Testament church is referred to as the House of God; That is where we can best bless the Lord.
 - C. How? With clean hands.
 1. The lifting up of hands in Israel was to symbolize clean hands.
 2. If we are to praise God, to speak well of Him, it must be with clean lives.
- III. LEARN THAT GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD CALL ON GOD TO BLESS EACH OTHER. v.3
- A. Bless as used in v.3 means to confer prosperity and/or happiness upon ... It means to protect and to care for.
 - B. Here the writer calls upon the Lord who made heaven and earth to bless others ... very likely those who were left behind to guard the temple of God...

Conclusion:

It seems to me that this short Psalm carries two great messages to each of us.

1. Praise the Lord through speaking well of Him and living to honor Him.
2. Petition our God continually to bless our brethren, our neighbors, even before we ask Him to bless us.