

## LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE

Scripture: Psalms 133:1-3

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This Psalm was written by David, very likely following the healing of the division in Israel which had followed the death of King Saul. For seven long years God's anointed king, David, had ruled over only two of the tribes of Israel, Judah and Benjamin. The other 10 tribes were ruled over by Ishboshth. What a great time it must have been when all 12 tribes once again joined in worship and service.
- B. This Psalm was very likely used again in the days of King Hezekiah. Israel and Judah were once again brought together to worship in Jerusalem after 100s of years of separation following the death of King Solomon.
- C. How sweet it must have been for all of Israel to again agree upon Whom to worship and when and how to worship God.

I. LEARN WHAT IT MEANS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY.

- A. Brethren speaks of people of the same family.
  - 1. The 12 tribes of Israel were brothers.
  - 2. All who are saved are in the same family... the family of God.
  - 3. All who are in the same church are also brethren.
- B. Dwell means to be settled down in a house.
  - 1. It means not moving about.
  - 2. Not looking for a place to go.
- C. Together means in the same house.
  - 1. Israel is referred to as the house of God, God dwell with them and in them.
  - 2. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is called the house of God ... here God dwells in them and with them.
- D. Unity means oneness, continuity, without deviation--no divisions--solidarity.
- E. In our time all this means that all the members of this church are truly brothers in the great family of God, and that we are settled down together in this local spiritual house of God and that we are one in spirit and in fellowship and in purpose.
- F. This further means that all who are members of New Testament churches are together in spirit and in truth.
  - 1. While each tribe of Israel has its own physical location, all tribes were bound together in spirit and in truth. Each worshipped the same God according to His word.
  - 2. New Testament church people should all be in agreement -- in spirit and in truth.
    - a. Jesus organized and commissioned His witness to the world of lost sinners.
    - b. He commands all who are saved to make a public commitment to Him by professions and baptism and to be active maturing members of one of His churches.
    - c. Denominational separation is not of God anymore than the divisions between Israel and Judah was of God.
    - d. To dwell together in unity means that truth is honored by all who make up a New Testament Church.

II. LEARN THAT IT IS GOOD AND PLEASANT FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY.

- A. Good
  - 1. Because it would do away with all divisions in the Christian community.
  - 2. Because there would be one GREAT Christian witness to the world of lost people.
  - 3. Because the present confusion over the way of salvation and service to God would not exist.
  - 4. Because much time--energy--money--would be channeled into the positive work of winning the lost to Jesus.
- B. Pleasant

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1. Because God would be pleased. The Lord wants all His people to be "One even as He and the Father are one."
2. Because all Christians would enjoy their salvation and service to the fullest.
3. Because much of the friction and heartbreak within families would be relieved.

### III. LEARN WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES TO BRETHERN DWELLING TOGETHER IN UNITY.

- A. There are two major causes.
  1. The devil
  2. Man's freedom of choice ... his will.
- B. The devil is God's arch-enemy and has for his goal the separation of God's creation from God.
- C. Man was given a will because maximum glory can only come to God when a person chooses to obey God of his own free will.
- D. The devil approached the woman and deceived her into exercising her will in disobeying God. Adam soon followed.
- E. Satan has never let up. He continues to battle for the will of man. In every age, he has caused man to fail God.
- F. Now, in this church age,
  1. If all the saved had listened to God and followed His commandments, there would be only one kind of church -- one holding to the faith once delivered to the saints.
  2. The stubborn will of men has caused the church Jesus organized to fragment into 1000s of religions, both Christian and non-Christian. .. all claiming to be the true way to God.
- G. For most of this century, religious leaders have tried to bring about unity in the Christian community... world and National Council of Churches; Ecumenicism, now Promise Keepers.
  1. All seek unity based on compromise.
  2. To compromise TRUTH is to compromise GOD.
  3. James 3:17 "first pure, then peaceable."