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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



## Trust in God and Give Him Praise

Sunday, November 18, 2018

Bob Bradley

I have one little thought here this evening. I know it has been a long week. I know we have had a lot going on around here. I know this next week, the following week, and the week after that and three weeks beyond that is not going to be any slower, but I won't talk long tonight, the Lord being our helper. We just want a few things here that we want to talk about tonight.

I thought many times, we live in very troublesome times. We live in times of sorrow. We live in times of distress. We live in very dangerous times. Paul told Timothy that in the end time the times would be perilous and men would be lovers of themselves more than lovers of God, boasters, proud, blasphemers, high-minded, and the list goes on and on.

However, I am glad for something. Even though we live in those kinds of times, we have help. We have help and we have strength. We have someone that loves us. Do you know what that is going to do? If we will just be faithful to Him, He is going to take us through all of them. We need Him. We have powerful enemies that is trying to destroy the church of Jesus Christ.

As I read today, and as I studied down through the week; I read about one of the organizations that does statistics having to do with Christianity worldwide. This organization in their statistics say that 200,000,000 Christians worldwide are being persecuted just because they are Christians. Not because they are this nationality or that nationality, but simply because they profess and confess that they are Christians, that they love Jesus Christ they are persecuted. Also, in that study they made this statement and it is an astounding statement. I don't have any way to prove it or disprove it. They say every five minutes somewhere in the world a Christian is killed because of their testimony. When you think about that—I know we are blessed here. We don't give any thought to that here in America. We don't give any thought about being persecuted or about standing trial because we are Christians, or being beheaded or killed. It goes on worldwide. Again, we need help. As we face the enemies that we face, as we face spiritual wickedness in high places, as Paul talked about. Do you know what we need? We need help. The enemies that we face are more powerful than we are. They are stronger than we are.

I want to talk tonight about—let's read from Jeremiah 33.

Jeremiah 33:10 Thus saith the LORD; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say *shall be* desolate without man and without beast, *even* in the

cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast,

Jeremiah 33:11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD *is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: *and* of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah is talking about the time of the exile. Jeremiah, if you read the story, we know that he was thrown into jail. We know that he was thrown in prison because of his preaching. We know that the king did not like his preaching. We know that the king did not like what Jeremiah had to say, so they threw him into prison. Anyway, while he is there, God is going to speak to him. Jeremiah is prophesying and telling the people and telling the king and all those in Judah that they are going to go to the land of Babylon. God is going to carry them away to the land of Babylon for 70 years. That did not go over well with the king. Also, that upset some people that were there. However, Jeremiah continued to preach. He continued to tell people that it was time to repent and if they did not repent then this is what was going to happen.

It came to the place that it was too late to repent. It had come to the place that God had said this is what is going to happen. We know that is exactly what had happened. We know that Nebuchadnezzar came. The children of the southern kingdom were carried to Babylon. We know that they were going to be there for 70 years. However, while they were there...

I thought about when he came. I thought about when he came and what he did to the city. It was a beautiful city, a beautiful place. If you read much about the temple that Solomon built, and all the splendor of that place and all the beauty of that place that Solomon built; it was an absolute beautiful place. It would have been a beautiful place with all kinds of gold and silver. It was probably worth untold billions of dollars in today's economy. The timbers that they brought in from a long way and stones, some of them weighed up to 200 tons that they used in building the temple. So, it would have been a beautiful place.

However, do you know what had happened? We know that it was torn down. We know that when Nebuchadnezzar came, it took him 20 years to do this, but in 586 BC, we know that he tore the place down. We know that it was burnt with fire. We know that people were killed and destroyed. They died and their homes taken. They were carried away to a land that they did not know, a land that they did not speak the language, a land that they knew nothing about. However, they are there because of their sin.

As Jeremiah was talking here, there was no sound. There was going to be a time that was not going to be any sound in the city. There was not going to be any men or women. There was not going to be the sound of a wedding going on or the bride or

bridegroom. It was going to be a place that was going to be totally silent. Do you know what he is going to say here also? That was going to change. Even though they were in a place, even though they were hundred of miles away from home, even though Jeremiah is writing to people here that is in exile; he wants them to know...

It may be quiet now. You may be oppressed now. You may be living in a place that you don't want to be living in now. The enemies may have you now. However, there is coming a day that things are going to change. Aren't you glad that is true today. Aren't you glad that we have a hope today that goes beyond this veil of sorrow and tears that we live in here.

This is not our home. This place is not our home. The battles and the things we face today, one day, thank God, are going to be over. Praise the Lord for that.

The writer here is saying things are going to change. They are not always going to be the same as they are now. Things are going to change.

Listen. The church today is being persecuted. Christian people today are being persecuted. Do you know what? It is not always going to be this way. Things are going to change.

As I studied on that today, these verses came to my mind. Even in times of distress, even in times of anguish, even in times that the storm clouds are hovering over our heads; do you know what we should be doing? We should be praising Almighty God. We should be praising Almighty God.

As I looked read this today and as I looked at what Jeremiah had to so say and I did a little bit of studying; do you know what I found out? That is exactly what the psalmist was going to say. He is going to say here in Psalms 118—we are going to cover a few verses here in Psalm 118—but that is exactly what this writer of Psalms 118 is going to say.

He is actually, if I understand things right, he is talking here about the events that were going to take place and did take place after the children of Israel came back into the land. They came back into the land in 537 BC. They started on the temple. They worked on it a while. The enemies raised up over here. They quit for 15 or 20 years. We know that in 515 they built the temple and things were fine for a while.

However, they did not have any wall around the whole place. We know that when we read the story and read about history.

We know that there was a guy who purposed in his heart. God spoke unto him when he heard about all the things and all the devastation that was going on back in the land—his name was Nehemiah, by the way—do you know what he heard? When he heard about all the devastation and the sadness and all that was going on back in the land of Israel, it troubled his heart. Do you know what he does? We know that he goes to the king and says, "Hey I want to go back. I want to go check what is going on over there."

Do you know what he does? We know that he gets the right of way to go. Not only does he get to go but he comes back. He comes back with enough money and enough help. Do you know what he does? He rebuilds the wall that is around the city of Jerusalem. We know when you read the story that it took him 52 days to do that. This was a task that if God had not been in it; it would have taken a lot longer than that.

I thought about what went on, if you read the story, while he is working. The Bible will tell us that they fought, they laid brick and worked with one and carried a weapon with the other hand. Some people worked. Some people watched. Do you know why? It was because the enemy was all around them. The enemy was trying to stop them from working for the God of heaven and for fortifying the city.

We are living in a day and time today where the enemy is trying to stop the church of Jesus Christ. On every hand, the enemies are there. To these people—Tobiah was there. We know that some of these other guys were there. They were the ones that were leading the charge trying to stop the work.

Listen. You cannot defeat the church of Jesus Christ. You may be able to defeat some people. There may be people defecting today like we have never seen before. They may be throwing in the towel. However, you will never defeat the church of Jesus Christ. Do you know why? Because Jesus said the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. That is true. That is a good thought there.

Here they are. They come back. While they are building the wall there are enemies everywhere. Sanballat, Tobiah and the Arabians and all these guys were surrounding the city. There were probably 6, 8, 10 or 12 acres inside the wall. Here it was and the enemies were everywhere. Everywhere they looked there was an enemy.

It seems like today, everywhere we look there is an enemy. Everywhere we look, if we look this way, we see enemies. If we look that way we see enemies. If we look this way, we see enemies. If we look behind us, we see enemies. Do you know what? I have taken a different approach. I want to look up. Do you know why? Because I know my Savior is listening and I know that He is watching. Do you know what we need to be doing today? Even though we are living in times, even though we live in wicked times—the psalmist here, he says here in the first verse of 118...

[Psalms 118:1](#) O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

Do you know what you and I need to be doing today? Even though we live in wicked times, and even though our hearts and sometimes it feels like our insides are going to come out because of all the sin and wickedness that is going; we need to be praising Almighty God. Do you know why? He's been good to you and me. He has rescued you and me. He has saved our families. He has provided food, raiment and shelter. He has done some great things for you and me. Not only that but also, He has given us the hope of eternal life. He has made us a promise that one day, He is going to come

and get us and take us home to be with Him. Do you know what we don't have to worry about? We don't have to worry about the lake of fire if we are saved. We don't have to worry about being condemned with the world if we are saved. We need to be praising God and thanking God for He is good. Everything about Him is good. Nothing about God is not good.

Not only does it say that but also, it says...

[Psalms118:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.](#)

God's mercy—when you look up the word in the Hebrew means unfailing covenant love. That is what this word mercy means in the Hebrew. God's faithfulness, and God's mercifulness, and God's lovingkindness towards you and me; do you know what we have got? When you read about Psalms 118, it was a song that they sang in their worship. It was something that when they came to the temple of Almighty God they would sing this song. Do you know what the writer here wants them to do? When they come through the door, he wants them to praise Almighty God because He is good and that His mercy, His lovingkindness endures forever.

Do you know what I know I have to worry about? There are times that God will never love me because there will never be a time that God will never love me. There will never be a time that God's lovingkindness won't be upon this world. I'm so glad that we have a Savior that is faithful and true. Aren't you? We are blessed.

The psalmist said, when you come through the door praise God. Amen! That is good instruction for you and me. We don't come here to praise one another. We don't come here to kill time. I hope you don't. We don't come here to boast about ourselves. I hope we don't do that. We come here to worship Almighty God. We serve Him out here but we worship Him here. Amen! We worship Him because He is good.

[Psalms118:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.](#)

Do you give thanks to God? I hope that you do. Because if you don't the will is going to dry up. If God has blessed you, and He has if you are sitting here tonight and you are listening to me tonight; you need to be praising God for where you are at. You need to be praising God for what God has done for you and all those around you.

[Psalms118:2 Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.](#)

Again, he wants all of Israel to praise the God of heaven because of God's lovingkindness toward us.

If we would take an examination of our hearts and our lives and see who that we really are and where God has brought us from, I don't know why anybody would not want to praise the God of heaven from where He has brought us from. Listen. There is none of us any good. We have nothing to offer Almighty God as someone said earlier. Our

righteousness unto Him is just as filthy rags. I'm glad that He looks beyond the flesh. I'm so very glad that He did not save us because of what we could offer Him. He saved us because we asked Him, but He saves us simply because He loves us. Amen! He loves us. He cares about us.

[Psalms118:3 Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.](#)

The house of Aaron, do you know what they were? They were the priests from the house and lineage of Aaron. They were the priests. That is where all the priests came from. The priests that worked in the temple area. Those that when you brought your offerings then, you would give them unto the priests and the Levites; they would inspect them. They were the ones that would take the offering and offer it unto Almighty God. Do you know what he is saying here?

[Psalms118:3 Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.](#)

Not only all of Israel, but let all the house of Aaron praise the Lord for His mercy endures forever. Do you know what? The house of Aaron was a blessed people. They had a special relationship with God and in the temple.

Do you know what you and I are? The Bible calls us peculiar people. What that means is that we are God's own purchased possession. When Jesus died on Calvary, He died. He shed His precious blood so that He could purchase you and me. When you and I repented of our sin then He purchased us and paid a price for us and now we belong to Him. Do you know what we are today? We are His sons and daughters. Do you know what we should be doing? We should be praising God because the God of heaven has blessed us in such a great way because of who we are. We don't have anything to offer God. Nothing at all. If you think you do, you are wrong. God does not need not one thing you have got. God will be God tomorrow whether you are here or not. Amen! Whether we are here or not here, God is still yet God. That is not going to change. Amen!

[Psalms118:4 Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever.](#)

We talked about fear just for a moment this morning. We talked about fear and reverence. We talked about how there is no doubt that Noah feared and revered Almighty God. We know that when we read the book of Hebrews that when God spoke to Noah, the Bible says he moved with fear. What that means is that he was not afraid of him like some wild beast or anything. But he revered Almighty God. He stood at awe at God's power. Do you know what we need to do today? We need to understand that it is God today that has power, not only to destroy this body but to cast us into the lake of fire. It is God today that has the kind of power. Do you know what we need to do? We need to stand at awe of Him today. We need to understand. We need to praise Him. We need to thank Him because His mercy endures forever. His lovingkindness, His mercy endures forever. There will never be a time that it will stop.

These people were going through all kinds of anguish and persecution. Everywhere they looked all around the wall, the enemy was lined up. They were everywhere. Everywhere that they looked there stood an enemy. They were on the inside. The writer is saying here let's praise God. Let's worship Almighty God, even in times of distress, even in times of sorrow, even when the enemy is surrounding let us praise God. Let us trust Him.

[Psalms 118:5](#) I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.

In whatever times in life, in times of distress, in times of anguish, in times when it looks like there is no way out for us and we can't fix the problem; do you know what the writer is saying? Do you know what the people that were inside the wall on this time in Jerusalem were saying? Hey, we are going to praise the Lord. We are going to trust the God of heaven. We are going to trust Him.

Listen to me. There are times in life that is all we can do. There are times in life, and sometimes in life that is all we can do is trust the Lord.

I was trying to talk to a boy that his wife is in Lexington tonight. She has some serious issues. You try to encourage them. All you can do young man is trust God. I can't fix the problem. The doctors may not be able to fix the problem. You can't fix the problem. However, you can trust the Lord. You can simply trust Him, and know that He is aware of your situation and problem.

These people were surrounded on every side. They probably were outnumbered 10, 20, 30 to 1 inside this city. Do you know what they were going to do? They were going to trust the Lord. Do you know what he had done? He had set these people free. They had been in slavery. They had been in Babylon. They had been over there 70 years and God had set them free. He had brought them back. Why in the world shouldn't they praise Him? Because He set them free.

Listen. God set you and me free. Free from sin. Free from death. Why don't we want to praise Him? Why don't we want to praise Him?

I say this a lot. We can go to a ballgame and we can scream till we can't talk, but we come to church and we can't praise the God of heaven, someone that has rescued us from the lake of fire. I don't understand that. That's okay. Maybe you can understand that, but I don't understand that. I don't understand why we can't praise the Lord. Do you know what? There is a day coming.

He says He put us in a large place. He has liberated us from our sin. He liberated these folks from the slavery and from being in Babylon. He liberated them from that. He set them free from that. Again, do you know what He has done? He has set us free also.

[Psalms 118:6](#) The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms118:7 The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

Get that. The Lord is on my side.

When we were kids, do you know what we used to do? We would go out in the neighborhood and we would—boys and girls—we would all get together and we would choose sides. We would play ball and do different things. Sometimes we would choose sides and throw rocks at one another. But we would choose sides on playing sports.

But do you know what it says here? The Lord is on my side. Do you know what the writer here understood? Do you know what the people inside the wall knew? The Lord was on their side.

Psalms118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms118:7 The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

When I know the Lord is on my side, there is nothing for me to be afraid of. There is nothing for you to be afraid of when the Lord is on our side.

Psalms118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms118:7 The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

What can man do to me? I'm going to trust the Lord. I'm going to put my total confidence in Him. What can man do unto me? The enemies are strong and they are everywhere. However, when we trust the Lord, and when we know that He is on our side; men can't hurt us any. They can throw stones at us. They can say all kinds of evil things about us. They can kill us but they are not going to eat us. They can kill us. That is just a quick trip to heaven. Do you know what he says here?

Psalms118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms118:7 The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

Do you know what that means? God is going to help me. God is going to help you through whatever you are facing; the anguish, and the problems and the sorrows and all the things that you are facing. God will help you if you will just put your trust in Him.

Psalms118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms118:7 The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

Psalms118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Do you know what people will do? People will always let you down. People will always let you down. It was people that got the nation here in trouble. It was actually their spiritual leaders that got them in trouble. It was because they had walked away from God and quit teaching people about God and living in sin. That is what got them in trouble. They no doubt, had confidence in their leaders. Amen! They were trusting their leaders.

Do you know what we need to do? We need to put our faith in Almighty God. We need to put our faith in God. It is good to have confidence in people that is living right, doing right, being right. Listen. Just because we have a Bible in our hand and have a name tag that says we are somebody, does not mean that we are somebody.

If you don't know Jesus Christ tonight, it is my prayer that you will give your heart to Him. He loves you. He cares about you. Jesus Christ went to the cross, suffered, bled and died so that you can be saved.

When we live in our sins, we are in a dangerous place.

Just like these people were inside this wall with all the enemies around them surrounding them. They were in a very dangerous place. Do you know what they did? They trusted the Lord. Do you know what God did? God gave them victory. God saved them and God took care of them.

Do you know what God will do tonight? If you are unsaved and you will just simply put your faith and trust in Him; He will forgive you this evening. He will forgive you. He will cleanse you. He will save and one day, you will be able to go to heaven with us.

Come and pray—