
What's So Great About The Church?

Psalm 48

What would you say if a friend, neighbor or co-worker asks you, "What's so great about your church?" Some of you would probably say the children's ministry, the worship ministry, the fellowship ministry, the prayer ministry and even the teaching/preaching ministry. But is there something more foundational to the church's greatness than just the things we enjoy about it?

Psalm 48 is a reminder to us of what is truly great about the church. It teaches us that ***because God is present in the church like nowhere else, we must learn to treasure the blessings that His presence provides.*** In our text, we will learn that the church has a great God; a great salvation; and a great story it must tell. Let's look at those three truths this morning. In the first place,

**1. *Because God is present in the church like nowhere else, we must learn to _____
_____above all things (vv.1-3)***

The phrase, "city of our God" refers to Jerusalem which is the royal city of ancient Israel (Deut. 12:11). It's the place where David brought the ark of the covenant, which represented God's special and unique presence among his people (2 Sam. 6:12). That's the city of God, and the Psalmist calls it His holy mountain (Psalm 122:4) because that's where David first tabernacle. It is also called in "beautiful" and "the joy of the whole earth." What makes it holy, beautiful and the joy of the whole earth is due to the fact that God dwells there with His people (Psa. 27:4; Isa. 33:17; cf. Psa. 96:6; 50:2). God's glory is among His covenant people (Exo. 40:34, 1 Kings 8:11). The church is God's people upon whom His presence now dwells (Gal. 4:26; Heb.12:22,23). What makes the church great is the presence of our great God.

**2. *Because God is present in the church like nowhere else, we must seek the _____
_____provides (vv. 4-8)***

In verse 3, we read that God is in this place and therefore the city of God stands as a fortress, our security in the face of adversity and attack. He is present and His powerful presence will deliver us. Verses 4-8 describe the enemies of God's people coming together (cf. Psa. 2) but they are no able to prevail against God and His people. he Psalm uses two metaphors to describe their fear: the anguish of a woman in childbirth (v.6) and like ships on the Mediterranean Sea, broken up by an east wind (v.7). The ships of Tarshish represent the strongest and largest ships (1 Kings 10:22). But when God raises a powerful wind, these ships are like matchsticks, tossed and broken up by the sea (Ezek. 27:25-27; Rev. 18:17-20).

**3. *Because God is present in the church like nowhere else, we must proclaim _____
_____faithfulness (vv. 9-14)***

God's people were thinking of how God had demonstrated His love in saving them from destruction. Our experience of God's salvation and love should go from us to the ends of the earth. The Scriptures make clear that if we have experienced God's salvation, then we are to spread God's praise and glory to the ends of the earth (1 Chro. 16:23, Psa. 35:9; 96:2, cf. Isa. 25:9; 52:10). We are called to tell the story of His salvation and when we proclaim the gospel, we must not neglect to tell of God's righteousness. God's salvation means that we will praise Him forever because He promised to guide us forever.
