

Preaching Christ in a Post-Modern World

Notes on Lecture 14 Expounding Christ: Christ in the Psalms

By Edmund Clowney

The Psalms are the praises of the redeemed centred on Christ.

A song is a covenant witness. In Deut 31:19 God gives to his people the songs they are to sing. Songs are not simply a response to God but a God-given ordination. The people were to memorise them.

Jesus is presented as the living Christ singing in the midst of the congregation (Hebrews 2 quoting Psalm 22:22). We sing with Jesus our singing saviour.

Structure of Psalm 22

v1-2 the cry of lamentation
v3-5 the confession of trust
v6-8 another lamentation
v9-11 another confession of trust
v12-18 another lamentation
v19-21 cry for deliverance
v22-24 confession of deliverance
v25-31 praise for deliverance

The suffering servant sings from the depths to the heights.

In Psalms 2 and 24 the royal King sings.

The song of Christ is seen as the song among the Gentiles (Rom 15:9). Jesus sings a missionary song among the nations (Psalm 96).

The NT authors gained their theology from the OT. They were people absorbed in OT doctrine.

We need to practise doxological evangelism: being witnesses of Christ with a heart of worship.

We sing with Christ because he is a singing saviour, and we sing to him because he is worthy.

Psalm 96: the Lord is our maker, ruler, and saviour. The song of Moses becomes the song of the lamb. All songs are fulfilled in Christ.

We sing because of his person and works.

Psalm 90 shows that the praise of Jesus Christ is delighting in the beauty of God.

- 1) The beauty of majesty is the overpowering beauty of God.
- 2) The beauty of design in the tabernacle.
- 3) The beauty of delighting in what is enjoyable.

Jesus Christ comes to be made almost inhuman through his sufferings in order that we might become beautiful to God.

102 out of the 150 Psalms are alluded to in the NT.

In Psalm 51 David confesses with agony his sin. David pleads for forgiveness based on God's covenant promises. God's justice (by which he promises to show mercy to Israel) is David's real hope. Christ is the Lord of the covenant in the OT as well as the NT.

1 Peter 3:15- "sanctify the Lord as Christ in your hearts". How do you do this? By declaring his holiness and exalting him in the eyes of others.