**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, November 13, 2020**

Good afternoon!

Psalm 33:1 says “Sing for joy in the Lord...” One Sunday, a few years back, after worship services, while we were on our way home in the car, I stopped at a traffic light behind another vehicle that had a bumper sticker on it that read “I Love My Wife.” I leaned over to Margie who was next to me in the front seat, rubbed her shoulder, and said in a low voice, “I love my wife.” She said half-jokingly with a smile on her face, “that’s easy for you to say to me quietly, but what about the rest of the world, do they know this?” So, I rolled down the window, and in the middle of all of the waiting traffic I sang out in a loud voice, I LOVE MY WIFE! With that Liz and Allison, who were in the back seat said, dad what are you doing, why are you yelling at all those people in the other cars? I said you’ll understand when you're married!

In Psalm 33:1, King David starts the Psalm by saying, Sing for joy in the Lord! Folks, whether it is a spouse you love deeply or a friend you love dearly, but most certainly the God in heaven we do love totally, the psalmist says, we need to Sing for joy in the Lord! We need to be starting every day by singing I LOVE MY GOD!

Now the reasons for this are found in the following verses in this Psalm. There are three:

1. We have a faithful partnership with a perfect and all-powerful God. Psalm 33:4 says, “For the word of the Lord is right and true.” Folks, the word of the Lord is always right and always true! Let me just say as we go out into the world, don’t worry so much about being politically correct or how far you are to the right or to the left. What matters the most is not so much about being conservative or liberal, but only being scriptural! When you are, by using the word of God as your standard, you are always correct, for the word of God is true and right every time! Also, He is faithful in all He does.” God’s promises never fail! Hebrews 6:18 says that it is impossible for God to lie! We serve a faithful unchangeable God! Malachi 3:6 says, “For I the Lord do not change.” And just in case you need some credentials or proof as to who is doing the promising, check out His power. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.” v.6 God says, by My word alone I spoke the universe into existence! All the stars that you see and beyond came about by the breath of My mouth! Brothers and sisters, we are part of an unshakable kingdom! (Hebrews 12:28) It is no wonder that we can sing for joy to the Lord and say I LOVE MY GOD!

2. We have firm promises from God Himself concerning His plans and purposes. Psalm 33:10-11 says, “The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.” It’s time to be reminded that God is bigger than any hurricane in the ocean, tornado on the ground, any terrorism in the works, or any movements in the streets! God is bigger than all evil actions against His people. In the end, God’s plans and purposes stand firm and forever! Now, He never promised that there would be no suffering or pain or heartache and death in this life to deal with. Lord knows that we have seen plenty of this in our lives. But we have a promise from God that although all things may not always be good, that they will always work out for our spiritual good for all those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28. We have firm promises concerning His plans and purposes, and that’s why verse 12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance.” Folks, we live in a nation that has the motto, “In God We Trust!” I know that we are not a perfect nation, no nation is, no church is, but pray for our country, pray for our president, pray for our people, pray for our churches and pray for ourselves! Pray, that we can be a people that live up to not only our country’s goal but what should be ours as Christians as well, IN GOD WE TRUST! Because “No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.” v.16. Only with God is victory assured! It is no wonder that we can sing for joy to the Lord and say I LOVE MY GOD!

3. We have the Father’s protection, providing a path to Paradise. “But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love... we wait in hope for the Lord... In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name... Your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.” Listen, I’m glad He is watching over me, I need it! You probably feel the same way! He says, for those who fear Him, hope in Him, rejoice in your heart about Him and trust His holy name, we will not only experience His unfailing love, but that unfailing love will provide a way back home to be with Him in paradise someday! It is no wonder that we can sing for joy to the Lord and say I LOVE MY GOD!

Have a great weekend,

Mike