

## Psalm 100 “Do you gladly worship God?”

**“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
(2) Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

**(3) Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**(4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**(5) For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”**

**In 1989, I found these timely tidbits:**

**“There is one thing for which you should be grateful—only you and God have the facts about yourself.”**

**“Even though we cannot have all we want, we ought to be thankful we don’t get what we deserve.”**

**“We ought to be thankful for living in a country where folks can say what they think without thinking.”<sup>1</sup>**

**This Thanksgiving (2019) we all want happiness and for others to be grateful.**

- **Few people find full contentment.**
- **Psalm 100 guides us in finding full joy.**

Porris Wittel was a dock worker in Gillingham, England. For 47 years he hated his alarm clock. For 47 years that clock jangled him awake. The happiest day of his life would be the day that he didn’t have to get up and go to work when the alarm went off. On the day of his retirement he got his revenge. He took his alarm clock to work and he flattened it in an 80-ton hydraulic press.<sup>2</sup>



**Can you imagine Porris’s shouts of joy that day?**

<sup>1</sup> Above from *Pulpit Helps*, November 1989

<sup>2</sup> From sermon “I don’t have time for a banquet,” *Dynamic Preaching*, p 9, November -1990

Another guy thought he’d finally found joy.

As a very old man, he lay dying on his bed. Near death's final knock, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookie wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength and lifted himself from the bed.

Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands.

With labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death’s agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven.

There, spread on the kitchen table, were literally hundreds of chocolate chip cookies.



Was it heaven?  
Or was it one final act of  
love from his devoted wife,  
seeing to it that he left this  
world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table. The aged and withered hand, shaking, made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table. Suddenly his wife smacked him with a spatula.

'Stay out of those,' she said, 'they're for the funeral.'

**Life sometimes suddenly slaps joy away.**

**Many of us never learn joy’s secrets.**

**Joy often escapes intelligent, gifted, educated folks.**

Joy doesn’t unexpectedly fall into one’s lap.

Joy requires groundwork and preparation.

**Jon Johnston wrote about a major league all-star game in the 1980s. One player, says Johnston, didn’t find joy playing that game.**

**"Here was a fellow who had been selected by the fans. A coveted honor . . . There he was on camera before tens of millions of TV viewers wearing a ragtag outfit . . . He forgot—yes forgot—to bring his uniform. Still desiring to play, he went to work putting together a makeshift arrangement.**

**“He bought a shirt from a replica shop. Wrote his number on the back with a felt-tip marker. Borrowed socks from a player on another team. And purchased his cap at the airport.”<sup>3</sup>**

This star athlete didn’t prepare for a moment few get the opportunity to experience.



**Do you know joy’s secrets?**

**Our text reads:**

**“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”**

Unless we learn and apply some truths about these phrases, joy might elude us. The words **“joy”** or **“joyful”** in our text translate the Hebrew word, **“todah.”**

---

<sup>3</sup> *WALLS OR BRIDGES*, Jon Johnston, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1988

The first two Hebrew words of Psalm 100 are pronounced: “mitzmor lahtodah.”

**You often hear the word “todah” in Israel. “Todah” means “thanks” or “thanksgiving.”**

As one scholar noted: “In Old Testament Hebrew, thanksgiving is something you ‘declare publicly.’”<sup>4</sup>

**The Old Testament uses “todah” of:**

- A) confession of human sin;**
- B) public confession of God and his works. It’s not just kneeling at your bed at night, looking up, and whispering thanks for food, shelter, and protection.**

**We should certainly thank God for food, shelter, etc.**

**True joy—real thanksgiving, involves more than simply expressing thanks. In the presence of others, true joy tells God:**

- A) “Lord, I confess my arrogant blundering; I don’t deserve your love.”**

---

<sup>4</sup> *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, Lawrence O. Richards

**B) “Lord your good works abound everywhere and I am so grateful to you.”**

True joy recalls and tells examples of God’s grace, greatness and power.

As of 11-24-19 Norma and I will be married 64 years, five months and three days.

Imagine that every night before we go to sleep, I whisper all the good things she did for me that day—laundry, great meals, doing the dishes, making the bed, shopping, feeding the animals, tending the flowers, paying the bills, preparing greeting and get-well cards for you all, etc.

She looks great and acts lovingly.

That would be good for both of us, if I review every kind act, and thank her.

Suppose I regularly express my gratitude to Norma, but I never say anything to you or in public about her, and never bring her with me.

You’d wonder about our relationship.

“If Bob has a wife, isn’t it strange that he never talks about her!”

1. That’s an important reason we joyfully, openly thank God for all he gives us. Unless we publicly acknowledge all God does for us; we aren’t honoring God, who alone deserves tribute.

When people hear us speak, do they conclude that we know how good God is? Do they hear us speak of God’s grace? Do you publicly thank God? Or do you use his name in other ways? “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”

2. Here’s a second secret of joy. We’re all looking for something or someone who will lift us and give us a boost.

That’s what many people look for in elections. Folks want hope and joy in their lives.

Here’s a truth many folks lack.

No human being ever rises above the object he/she worships.

We never get better or bigger than the person or thing we idolize.

If we think any politician, sports hero, professor, preacher, or friend can bring lasting joy, we should prepare for disappointment.

God created everything.

He alone is eternal; only He has perfect wisdom and complete knowledge.



**Many people believe God exists, but God doesn't preside over their lives.**

Only you and God know the answers to the following questions:

**Do his principles and his love control your decisions and actions?**

**For you, does serving God take precedence over all other factors?**

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your

minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”<sup>5</sup>

**Folks often think money provides the ultimate boost.**

Worshiping God comes second to dollars.

**Money can't save anyone; it can't lift anyone, but folks still worship it.**

**As his personal attendant and chauffeur, I spent quality time in the 1950s with one of the country's wealthiest men.**

**He built a huge corporation.**

He owned more than one mansion.

**I began working for him and his wife in their 32 room mansion.**

**They often spoke of their ranch.**

---

<sup>5</sup> Colossians 3:1-5 NIV.

Until I drove them to it, I pictured the ranch as a rustic place in the country.

**The ranch made their city mansion look puny.**

This gentleman traveled the world.

Few things were beyond his financial reach.

**Nearing the close of his life, he shared many of his disappointments with me.**

He didn't have much joy; several matters frustrated him; he lacked nearly all hope.

**From my decades of life-end-talks with folks of all ages and social classes, some truths ring clear.**

I've heard countless laments of those who neglected their families to pursue money.

**Never have I heard anyone express regret for spending time with his/her family.**



Neither have I heard anyone sorry for time spent worshiping, honoring and thanking God.

**Some become bitter because they think that God gave them a bad hand in life's shuffle:**

**“Why didn't the Lord give us advantages others enjoy?”**

**True gratitude confesses unworthiness. We consider and thank God for what he has given us; we do not focus on what we lack.**

**Did you know that in English, the word “thank” is past tense of “think”?**

Those who give thought to what they have already received become thankful.

**Thoughtful people give thanks always.**



**If God tested our hearts for gratitude today, would yours heart test positive for thinking thankfulness?**

**Consider these incomparable advantages God gives us.**

**A) God's Word in the Bible provides a free gold mine of wisdom, how-to-do-it, and how-not-to-do-it life advice.**

No institution of higher learning comes close to providing what God's Word gives.

**B) Jesus, the star, of the Word, showed us a perfect how-to-do-it example.**

He epitomized love, honesty, forgiveness, and humility.

He provides a loving community of people (the church) to encourage us.

**C) The Holy Spirit remains to counsel and help every believer until Jesus returns to bring perfect justice.**

**D) Because Jesus came back from the dead, he gives us living hope beyond this life of testing.**

**"Shout for joy to the LORD,  
all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
"Know that the LORD is God. It is  
he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people,  
the sheep of his pasture.  
"Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him  
and praise his name."  
**GOD IS GOOD****

Bob Blair  
PO Box 176  
Cleghorn, IA 51014

[www.robertblairbooks.com](http://www.robertblairbooks.com)