

# AN OUTLINE FOR WORSHIP

## PSALM 33

### MAIN IDEA

*There are forms of worship that celebrate who god is and what he does on our behalf.*

### I. A CALL TO WORSHIP (VS 1-3)

***SINGING JOYFULLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY IS A NICE WAY TO OPEN UP A WORSHIP SERVICE.***

- A. WHO SHOULD WORSHIP (1)
- B. HOW SHOULD WE WORSHIP (2)
- C. WHOM SHOULD WE WORSHIP (3)

### II. WORSHIP THE CREATOR (VS 4-11)

***SINCE WE OWE OUR VERY EXISTENCE TO GOD, WE OUGHT TO WORSHIP HIM.***

- A. GOD CREATES OUT OF LOVE (4-5)
- B. THE TRINITY CREATES (6-9)
- C. GOD CREATES WITH PURPOSE (10-11)

### III. WORSHIP THE SAVIOR (VS 12-19)

***GOD CONTINUES TO WATCH OVER HIS CREATION.***

- A. GOD'S INHERITANCE (12)
- B. GOD'S WATCHFUL EYE (13-15)
- C. GOD'S SALVATION (16-19)

### IV. BENEDICTION IN WORSHIP (VS 20-22)

***WE CONCLUDE WORSHIP BY ASKING FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS.***

- A. GOD'S GRACE (20)
- B. GOD'S LOVE (21-22)

# An Outline for Worship

## Psalm 33

Previously in our study through the Psalms, we have defined worship as our response to God for what He has done and what He is doing. Worship could take the form of confession, repentance, reconciliation, praise, and all sorts of other forms. This morning, we're looking at worship as a response to Who God is and what He does for us. This type of worship is centered on praise.

This morning's Psalm gives an outline for this type of a praise centered worship service. I'm not sure how many of you really understand what it takes to put together a worship service each week. The pastor has to study and prepare for a sermon. The worship leader has to pick songs and prayers that match the sermon and the worship team has to be able to sing the songs.

I'm not saying who it is, but one of your children came up to the worship team and said, "Why do you always gather in a circle before the service and pray?"

Happy that the congregation was actually paying attention to the service, one of the worship team said, "We are asking God to help us do a good job with the singing and preaching."

The kid just shook his head, walked away muttering, "Well then, how come He doesn't do it?"

Let me assure you, we are trying our best. This morning's text is about worship. The main idea is this. **THERE ARE FORMS OF WORSHIP THAT CELEBRATE WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE DOES ON OUR BEHALF.** In other words, this should be the type of service where people clap their hands, stamp their feet, and shout hallelujah.

Before we get into the text, you'll notice that there is no title on this Psalm. Many scholars think that because there is no title on this Psalm, that it is part of the preceding Psalm; Psalm 32. I'm not sure we have to do that. There are other psalms that don't have titles and so I'd rather leave it just simply be; that this particular psalm is untitled.

Next, most of the verbs are in the plural which signifies that this psalm is meant to be used in corporate worship. I'm going to point this out in our study through the text but I want to highlight it here. The word we have been translating loving-kindness, *ḥesed*, appears at three critical points in the Psalm. It makes an appearance in verses 5, 18, and 22.

## I. A CALL TO WORSHIP (VS 1-3)

Let's now get into the worship service. In verses 1-3 we encounter a call to worship. **SINGING JOYFULLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY IS A NICE WAY TO OPEN UP A WORSHIP SERVICE.** Since this Psalm is a Psalm of Praise, it is fitting that the service open up with praise.

Verse 1 informs us of who should worship. The righteous and the upright are exhorted to sing to and praise God. They are described as the righteous and upright. It's interesting to note that these two words will be used to describe the nature and character of God. One of the things that happens to believers is that God the Holy Spirit continuously makes us and molds us into the image of Jesus Christ. That work will finally be completed when we get to heaven and see Jesus

face to face. We call this process of forming as sanctification. The Holy Spirit makes us more holy day by day. That's why the Old Testament refers to believers as holy ones and the New Testament refers to believers as saints. If you have confessed Jesus as Lord, and if you have invited Him into your heart as Lord, then you are a believer; you are a saint and invited to worship God.

Verse 2 shows us how we should worship. There are many churches that argue about what kind of music should be used in worship. Some people use traditional hymns, some use contemporary praise songs, some use both, and some don't use instruments at all. When I was growing up, churches used to argue about using guitars and drums in church. The traditionalists said that only the piano and organ were instruments dignified enough to be used in the church. But as you have noticed throughout the psalms; guitars, drums, horns, and cymbals are all used. In verse 2 stringed instruments are described. I have heard people praise God on all types of instruments and all types of music.

Verse 3 makes it clear Who we should worship. The verse encourages us to "Sing to Him a new song". *Him* in verse 3 refers to the LORD mentioned in verses 1 and 2. That word LORD is in all capital letters and refers to God's personal Name, YAHWEH. He is the God of the Hebrews but as will be pointed out later, He is the God of all that exists. There is no other God.

In this type of worship service, we who belong to God in faith are to come singing and making joyful music. Before leaving this verse, I'd like to address two issues. First of all, we are to come Him with a new song. God does new things in our lives every day. Therefore, we should have a new song in our minds every day. Think about this. In the past, when I have asked people to give a testimony, they would go back to the day they were saved. They would be giving a testimony about something that happened over 20 years ago. Each of us should be able to give a testimony on the spot concerning what God is doing right now in our lives. This takes some real time in prayer each day to even notice what God is doing. It takes thought to be ready to give a testimony. The Apostle Peter put it this way:

*15... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

*1 Peter 3:15-16 / The New International Version*

God is doing great things in our lives every day. Let's take time to think about these things and be able to name them. We should have a new song every morning just like God's blessings are new every morning.

Secondly we are to play and sing skillfully. Pastors shouldn't come up here on Sunday morning and preach a sermon he or she has not studied and carefully prepared. Worship leaders and team members should come up and play and sing the best they can. When we do things in church we need to remember we are doing these things for God. SINGING JOYFULLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY IS A NICE WAY TO OPEN UP A WORSHIP SERVICE.

## II. WORSHIP THE CREATOR (VS 4-11)

Verses 4-11 describe the congregation worshipping God as the creator. SINCE WE OWE OUR VERY EXISTENCE TO GOD, WE OUGHT TO WORSHIP HIM. This section answers the question, “Why should we worship God?”

Verses 4-5 reminds us that God creates out of love. St. Augustine used to say that it was out of the overflow of love within the Trinity that spilled out over into creation. In other words, God was so filled with love that He created us to share that love with Him. These two verses describe the nature and character of God. Verse one described believers as righteous and upright. We also said that believers are being made into the image of Christ. Here we see that righteousness, justice, faithfulness, and loving-kindness are all descriptions of Who God is. There’s that incredible word that describes unfailing loving-kindness, *Hesed*. This is Who God is. The Apostle John said, “God is love.” Why do we worship God? Because He is righteous, just, true, faithful, and loving. Who would not want to worship a God like this?

Verses 6-9 remind us that the entire Trinity was involved in creation. The word Trinity is never used in the Bible. It is a word theologians created in order to describe the nature of God. We believe God exists in three persons of one essence. This concept has been hammered out from the beginning of the church as early as the first century. First let me read from the very beginning of our Bibles:

*<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.*

*Genesis 1:1-3 / New Living Translation*

In these verses we see that God created all that exists. God the Father spoke, God the Holy Spirit hovered, and the living Word God the Son created. The Trinity was present and active in creation. Listen to how the Apostle John started out his Gospel:

- 1 In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*
- 2 He existed in the beginning with God.*
- 3 God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.*
- 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.*
- 5 The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

*John 1:1-5 / New Living Translation*

There is no other way to describe creation except how Augustine described it as the overflow of love within the Godhead. Let me quickly summarize the phrases in these four verses. In verse 6 the phrase, “By the word of YAHWEH the heavens were made.” The word for breath in the phrase,

“By the breath of His mouth,” is the same word for Spirit used in the Genesis passage. In verse 9 we see the phrase, “For He spoke and it came to be.”

Before leaving these verses, I want to point out the inclusive offer of God to all of humanity. The message creation speaks to every person is that there is a good, righteous, and loving God Who created this beautiful earth populated with complex beings. All the people of the earth have a chance to revere God. There are many passages that mention the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together from which theologians formulate the doctrine of the Trinity. Let me just point out one more:

*18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

*Matthew 28:18-20 / New Living Translation*

As we have been saying, God didn't create because He was bored. He created out of love. Verses 10-11 demonstrate that God creates with purpose. God created us in His image so that we could love Him and love one another. From eternity past and for all eternity future God has made this purpose of love clear. Even though people have tried to distort our purpose by chasing after wealth, power, and pleasure; God's purposes remain firm. Look at our culture today. We are a people that are self-absorbed, self-centered, self-focused, and selfish. God created us to praise, worship, and serve Him through loving one another and caring for creation. God created everything else in creation to help us fulfill our purpose of loving Him and loving one another. Instead we continue to exploit one another and rape creation. I guess these two verses speak to our depravity. God is a righteous, just, faithful, and loving God. He is not a people pleaser. He will stick firm and be unbending towards the purpose of creation. It never changes.

The only way we can find true satisfaction in life is to live and fulfill the purposes God created us to fulfill. SINCE WE OWE OUR VERY EXISTENCE TO GOD, WE OUGHT TO WORSHIP HIM. We worship God because He is the creator of the universe. Further, He is the sustainer of the universe.

### III. WORSHIP THE SAVIOR (VS 12-19)

Verses 12-19 urge us to worship the Savior. GOD CONTINUES TO WATCH OVER HIS CREATION. Jesus made it clear that the Kingdom of God was open to all who come to Him in faith. That door is still open. Even though God's chosen people are the Jews; the point is that His will is to reach all people with His love. Verse 12 describes God's inheritance. This verse is really loaded with theology. In the first line of verse 12 the poet uses the word nation to describe a group of people. The word he uses is usually used to describe nations other than the Jews. It is the word goy. When Jews referred to people as goy or goyim, it was usually derogatory. They were insinuating that these people were pagans. At any rate, in its most generous usage, it simply referred to people outside the Jewish nations. We have come to translate that word Gentiles.

In the second line of this verse, the people refers usually to God's people; the Jews. The word is Am. This usually refers to the chosen people of God; Israel. The first line says, “Blessed are the goyim whose God is YAHWEH. This is a clear offer to anyone who wants to become a child of God

to simply come in faith. This door was thrown wide open in the early church. Listen to what the Apostle Peter said at the Jerusalem Council:

*7 At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: "Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. 8 God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith.*

*Acts 15:7-9 / New Living Translation*

God wants all people to come to Him in faith. Let's think about how much God wants that to happen. Jesus said:

*16 For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16 / New Living Translation*

God sent His One and Only Son Jesus to come, suffer, and die so that we could become one of His children. Now let's look at the second line of this verse again. God chose His people for His inheritance. Let me remind you, this is the word Am that is used to describe God's people. These are God's chosen people. We are in the Christmas season. Let's look the inheritance God has for His chosen people. Jesus is God's chosen Messiah. What was His inheritance? He left heaven, set aside all His God privileges, was tortured, humiliated, and executed. Gabriel went to Mary and said, "You are God's favored and chosen." What was her inheritance? She had to go home and try to explain to her parents, her family, and her friends how it is that she is pregnant. She had to watch her beloved son be ridiculed, humiliated, tortured, and killed. How could a mother endure that? That was her inheritance.

Let's not forget the Apostles. Jesus informed them that they did not choose Him; He chose them. What was their inheritance? They were scared out of their minds the whole time they were with Jesus and they too were persecuted and most of them were executed. In the Old Testament, when God approached you and ordained you a prophet; you could kiss your life goodbye.

What is the inheritance of God's chosen people? We are chosen to suffer in order to bring the Gospel to the world. We inherit the mission of Jesus. We are called to tell people about God's love, lead them wholeness and freedom, and bring God's offer of salvation to this lost and hurting world. That's our inheritance; suffering. I don't want to leave it there because it doesn't appear that the Apostles felt sorry for themselves. They considered it a privilege to suffer for Christ.

I don't want to leave the story there. To be sure, they are all in heaven celebrating and God Himself has become their inheritance. I'm sure there are a lot of shouts of hallelujah in heaven. There are no more tears and no more suffering.

Verses 13-15 comfort us with the thought that we are under God's watchful eye. These verses remind us that nothing that happens to us ever catches God by surprise. He is always with us. Look at verse 14. God watches us from His dwelling place. God's position was over us. Jesus took on human flesh and came to dwell among us. Jesus was God dwelling with us. The Holy Spirit



came and His dwelling place is in us. God's dwelling place now is our hearts. The Holy Spirit forms our hearts. He puts the desire in our hearts to obey God and then He empowers us to do it.

Verses 16-19 sing of God's salvation. We have said in our study through the Psalms that the word for salvation is the same root word that forms Jesus' Name Yeshua. We are simply fooling ourselves if we start to think we are successful because we are intelligent, wise, and hardworking. If God chose to look away from us for a second; we would be ruined. All our intelligence, wisdom, and hard work would vanish in an instance. If we have any measure of success; it is only because of the grace of God. We are invited to be humble and to be confident only because of God's unfailing love for us. There's that word *Hesed* again. God creates us, He provides for us, protects us, and guides us. These are all things to sing about and shout hallelujah about. GOD CONTINUES TO WATCH OVER HIS CREATION.

#### IV. BENEDICTION IN WORSHIP (VS 20-22)

Verses 20-22 bring a close to the worship service with benediction as worship. WE CONCLUDE WORSHIP BY ASKING FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS. At the end of each worship service, we ask God to continue to bless us and keep us. We ask Him for continued blessings. Verse 20 pictures us asking for God's grace. We can live without fear because our hope is in God and we know He will help us. I just want to point out this verse as a correction to some bad theology I have seen. People try to say women are to be subservient to men because Genesis 2:18 says this:

*18 Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him'.*

*Genesis 2:18 / New Living Translation*

The contention is that since God created Eve to be Adam's helper, she is subservient to him. I'd like to point out that this word for help in the phrase "our help" is the same word referring to Eve. Would anyone dare say that when we refer to God as our helper that He in any way is subservient to us? If anything the helper is superior in this case. To use Genesis 2:18 to say that women are to be subservient to men in any way is hogwash.

We can see all through this Psalm that God has created us out of grace and saves us by grace. Why does He bestow grace on us? As verses 21-22 point out; it's because of God's love that He blesses us. We can rejoice and be secure because we know that God loves us with *Hesed*; His incredible unfailing loving-kindness. Isn't that what we ask for in most benedictions; that God bless us, keep us, give us peace, shower grace upon us, and continually journey with us through life? It is fitting that we end the service with a benediction. WE CONCLUDE WORSHIP BY ASKING FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS.

I don't think I could express it in any other way that God demonstrating His love for us by sending Jesus and the angels responding with the phrase, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth. THERE ARE FORMS OF WORSHIP THAT CELEBRATE WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE DOES ON OUR BEHALF.

## Lectio Divina - Psalm 33 (The New International Version)

- 1 Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- 2 Praise the Lord with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- 3 Sing to him a new song;  
play skillfully, and shout for joy.
- 4 For the word of the Lord is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.
- 5 The Lord loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- 7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord;  
let all the people of the world revere him.
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- 10 The Lord foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- 11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.
- 13 From heaven the Lord looks down  
and sees all humankind;
- 14 from his dwelling place he watches  
all who live on earth—
- 15 he who forms the hearts of all,  
who considers everything they do.
- 16 No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
- 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
- 18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
- 19 to deliver them from death  
and keep them alive in famine.
- 20 We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.
- 22 May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,  
even as we put our hope in you.