

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Harvest Celebration- Psalm 112 by Kathy Mathew w/c Sunday 4th October 2020

Psalm 112 is one of a group of Psalms known as the Hallelujah Psalms. Hallelujah meaning “praise the Lord” and these words occur repeatedly at the beginning and the end of each psalm. This psalm and the previous Psalm 111 are often paired together as they are both acrostic poems with each line beginning with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The theme of Psalm 111 declares that all that God makes is good and the advantages of trusting and having faith in Him. Psalm 112 talks of the blessings which come to a person who has faith in God and follows His commands. It is Psalm 112 which we are looking at this week.

The opening verse of the psalm in the NIV “Blessed is the man that **fears** the Lord” can be translated as “**happy**” or “**content**” is the man who **honours** and **respects** the Lord. In today’s culture, the idea of fear is usually connected with the instinct to run or retaliate. The Hebrew word actually encompasses the wider meaning- of being in awe, showing reverence and honour. If we revere God and gladly obey him and do His will then He will reward us with success, prosperity and freedom from fear knowing that God will take care of us. Generosity to those in need will be honoured. Good deeds will never be forgotten and we will be blessed. In contrast v.10 makes clear that the desires of “wicked” men will not be realised. Their desire is wholly to the world and flesh and they will perish.

Question 1.

In these verses we learn that God blesses those who obey him. What does it mean to be blessed? What are some of the specific ways that God says he will bless us? Do you feel that God has already blessed you in any of these ways? If so which ones?

Question 2.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Mark 12:30-31 and Colossians 3:23

These passages from scripture describe some of the ways that we can obey and please God e.g. to love him and love others, to use our gifts, to work hard as if we were working for the Lord and to honour him with our wealth by giving. Some of these commands are easier to obey than others. Which one of these areas do you feel that you struggle with the most? Which areas are easier for you?

Question 3.

Just because we live our lives obeying God does not mean that we will never get problems or loss or worry. But we do know that by walking through these times with God is so much better than not.

- (i) Do you have an area of your life that you know you can give more to?
- (ii) What blessings do you feel that God might give you for giving more?
- (iii) How can we challenge others around us to give more?

So what is the relevance of Psalm 112 to our Harvest celebration?

In Psalm 111 we learn of the greatness of God, His goodness and our delight in His works. So at this time as we focus on creation and God’s provision for all our needs, so in Psalm 112, we are invited to partner with God and then to work together to respect and protect our world, to give freely and generously to those who have insufficient and in so doing to achieve the right living, the right priorities and right truth in this world.