

Psalm 100  
Theme for 2012  
PS1201

January 1, 2012 am  
2012: Worship Theme

## “GLADNESS IN GOD’S HOUSE”

**INTRODUCTION:** This Sunday is the beginning of 2012...

1. A Year of Worship for Christ Covenant Church
2. In our Purpose Statement as a Church, the elders have set forth four priorities for us...

*Christ Covenant Church is a reformed congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America committed to making Disciples who worship God, grow in community, love Others and serve the world. (Purpose Statement)*

- a. Purpose: *To make disciples*
  - b. Four pillars of discipleship
    - i. *Worship God*
    - ii. *Grow in Community*
    - iii. *Care for Others*
    - iv. *Serve the World*
  - c. **Four practices that do not come naturally to us**
3. Each year we major or focus on one of these pillars of discipleship, following a 4 year rotation...
    - a. In 2007: *A Year of Hope* (introduction of purpose statement)
    - b. In 2008: *A Year of Welcome and Worship* (worshiping God)
    - c. In 2009: *Generations in Community* (growing in community)
    - d. In 2010: *Loving Like Christ* (caring for others)
    - e. In 2011: *The Hope Within Us* (serve the world)
    - f. Now in 2012: “*Gladness in God’s House*”
      - i. Theme Verse: **Psalm 122:1**  
*I was glad when they said to me,  
Let us go to the house of the LORD!”* (Psalm 122:1)
      - ii. *The Joy of the Worshiping Community*
      - iii. Understanding how worship permeates all of life for a true believer
  4. Here is a preview of our sermon series:
    - a. In the morning worship services...
      - i. *Our Daily Bread* (The Daily Psalms)
      - ii. *The Pilgrim Songs* (Songs of Ascents)
      - iii. *The Worshiping Community* (Titus)

- iv. *How We Worship* (Elements of Worship)
  - v. *Angels in the Architecture* (Advent with Angels)
- b. In the evening worship series...
- i. *The Book of Revelation* (key book about worship)
  - ii. *The Joys of Common Grace* (proverbs of Agur)
  - iii. *Living in the City of Man* (eternal perspective on elections)
  - iv. *Our Home in Heaven* (a study of heaven)
  - v. *Your Work Matters to God* (spiritual value of work)
5. Recurring Themes: *Joy and Thanksgiving in God and His Church*
6. **Question:** *Will this “get old” every 4 years cycling through the same themes?*
7. **Answer:** *Not really.* The Cumulative effect of the Great Commission applied to the Body Life of the Church...
- a. Again: *4 things unnatural to us*
    - i. Worship (self-idolatry)
    - ii. Community (selfishness)
    - iii. Caring (self-concern)
    - iv. Service (self-assertion)
  - b. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* (Matthew 28:19)
  - c. *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.* (Acts 2:42-47)
  - d. **Interesting fact:** You will find these four emphases again and again in the Apostolic Epistles of the New Testament.
  - e. Themes in the **Psalms, Proverbs, Pastoral Epistles, Revelation...**
  - f. ...the very things we are preaching through this year!
8. So, please turn to **Psalm 100** and follow me as I set out for you the Theme of 2012 at Christ Covenant Church...
- a. **Gladness in God's House**
  - b. *I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”* (Ps. 122:1)

- c. A verse we'll look at in 10 weeks when we get to the *Pilgrim Psalms* (Pss. 120-134)
- d. **For now, turn to Psalm 100...**

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

*Come into his presence with singing!*

*Know that the LORD, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,*

*and his courts with praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*For the LORD is good;*

*his steadfast love endures forever,*

*and his faithfulness to all generations.* (Psalm 100)

9. Psalm 100 is a very unique Psalm; one of the best known, most loved and frequently used Psalms in the history of the Church:

- a. Traditionally known as “*Jubilate*”
- b. From the Latin verb “*O, be Joyful*” (first words of the Psalm in Latin)
- c. A Psalm recited in the synagogues daily except for the Sabbath and Feast Days
- d. A Psalm recited in the daily prayers of the monastic life
- e. Part of the *Morning Prayer* of the Anglican Church
- f. **John R. W. Stott:** *The Canticles and Selected Psalms* (p. 40).

*The Jubilate is another ancient canticle. Its use illustrates the continuity which the New Testament Church enjoys with the Old. It was sung by the Israelites first in the temple, and then in the daily synagogue services. The medieval Church sang it in the service called Lauds; and Church of England Christians often sing it today during Morning Prayer. It was added to the Prayer Book in 1552 as an alternative to the Benedictus.*

- g. We know Psalm 100 as the *Puritan Anthem*:

- i. “*Old Hundredth*” by **William Kethe** (1561)

- ii. A friend of **John Knox** who paraphrased the Psalms so they could be sung in metric.

*All people that on earth do dwell,*

*sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.*

*Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;*

*come ye before him and rejoice.*

*Know that the Lord is God indeed;*

*without our aid he did us make;*

*we are his folk, he doth us feed,*

*and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise;  
 approach with joy his courts unto;  
 praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
 for it is seemly so to do.*

*For why! the Lord our God is good;  
 his mercy is forever sure;  
 his truth at all times firmly stood,  
 and shall from age to age endure.* (Hymn #20)

10. Psalm 100 holds a unique place in the Psalter:

- a. It is found in *Book 4* of the Psalms – a collection of Psalms for public worship.
- b. **Derek Kidner:** *Psalms 75-150; TOTC; p. 327.*

*Although the psalms of this collection are not linked by name with the temple choirs, as were most of those in Books II and III, most of them are psalms for public worship and they have given the Christian church a number of its canticles and hymns. Unless one assigns a cultic origin to everything in the Psalter, one can say that in general the psalms of Book I (1-41) tend to be personal, those of Books II and III (42-89) to be national, and those of Books IV and V (90-150) liturgical, i.e., concerned with the regular corporate praise of God.*

- c. Psalm 100 was written for *Sunday Church Worship* – a call to corporate worship.
- d. **Elmer A. Leslie:** *Psalms: Translated and Interpreted in the Light of Hebrew Life and Worship; p. 191.*

*This beloved psalm is a liturgy of entrance for the procession of pilgrims into the sanctuary bringing their thank offerings to the Lord. The psalm is in the form of a liturgical hymn and is rendered antiphonally by the procession of pilgrims and the priestly choir. As the pilgrims enter the outer court of the Temple, they sing a summons to praise. It is a summons to the worshipers themselves, but also a summons to all the citizens of Israel, conceived of as the Lord's land. They are to raise the glad cultic shout unto God, worshiping Him in the mood of rejoicing and with the resounding cry of singing voices.*

11. The Psalter is what **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** called “The Prayerbook of the Bible”

- a. Inspired hymns and prayers for personal (home), corporate (church), and national (public) worship
- b. The Psalms have shaped the Worship of God's People for almost 4,000 years!
- c. Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant have all alike held the Psalms central to their corporate and daily worship.
- d. **Rowland E. Prothero:** *The Psalms in Human Life; p. 142.*

*From the treasure-house of the Psalter, whether in the ancient Latin version, or in vernacular prose, or in rough thyme wedded to simple music, Roman Catholics and Protestants alike drew inspiration. The Psalms clave to the memories, and rooted themselves in the hearts of the people. But the application of their language to the conduct and actions of individuals of every shade of religious opinion does not exhaust the value of the Psalter. There remains its collective influence when employed in common worship. Whatever changes were made in forms*

*of services, the Psalms retained their place. The general use of the same book united men who, in character and feeling, time and place, race and language, were widely separated.*

12. Psalm 100 is unique. It is the **only** Psalm out of 150 Psalms with this lovely title: “A Psalm for Giving Thanks.”

13. **James Montgomery Boice:** *Psalms: Volume 2; p. 810.*

*Psalm 100 is the only psalm that is explicitly identified as “a psalm for giving thanks.” And what a psalm it is! It is the very quintessence of thanksgiving. Christians have clearly felt this throughout many generations of church history, because numerous poets have rendered it in verse and it has been sung to several well-known tunes. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the great Baptist preacher of the nineteenth century, declared, “Nothing can be more sublime this side of heaven than the singing of this noble Psalm by a vast congregation.”*

14. I would like you to think of Psalm 100 as “*The Psalm for the Parking Lot*”

- a. To hang on your rear-view mirror in your automobiles...
- b. To memorize and to recite as a call to your heart to enter the Church in the spirit of thanksgiving...
- c. To remind you of why you come to Church on Sunday.

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

*Come into his presence with singing!*

*Know that the LORD, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,*

*and his courts with praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*For the LORD is good;*

*his steadfast love endures forever,*

*and his faithfulness to all generations.*

(Psalm 100)

15. A lovely Psalm with two stanzas

- a. Two *calls to worship*
- b. Two *reasons* why we worship
- c. **A Psalm for giving thanks**
- d. Two worshipful commands...

I. ENTER INTO GOD’S JOYFUL PRESENCE (Psalm 100:1-3)

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

*Come into his presence with singing!*

*Know that the LORD, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

(Psalm 100:1-3)

A. The Call to Joy in Worship (100:1-2)

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

*Come into his presence with singing!* (Ps. 100:1-2)

1. All of creation is beckoned to “*make a joyful noise*”, i.e., to lift up sounds of praise and joy to God for the life we have –
  - a. The joy of being alive in God’s Creation
  - b. **Illustration:** *The sounds of the woodland in the dawning of the day as the creatures arise to meet and greet their Maker for another day.*
  - c. **In fact:** Creation does this twice each day: at Sunrise and at Sunset.
  - d. Little wonder then that until urbanization removed creation from the center of daily life and turned its orientation to a work schedule, the Church practiced the *Morning Prayer* and the *Evening Prayer*.
  - e. Oh! For that rhythm of life to return to society!
  - f. For **redeemed people** the “joyful noise” is our Psalms and hymns and songs of praise and thanksgiving.
 

*...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... (Eph. 5:19-20)*
2. **Key Phrase:** “*Serve (worship) the Lord with gladness*”
3. **A. F. Kirkpatrick:** “The homage of worship takes the place of the homage of submission, and now the nations can draw near with joy instead of fear.” (*The Book of Psalms; p. 588*)
4. Serve the Lord with **gladness** (i.e., Joy)
  - ...not duty nor drudgery
  - ...not as your “Sunday obligation”
  - ...not as a critical consumer
  - ...not as a suspicious observer
  - ...not as a detached “long-time visitor”
  - ...but as *a joyful member of this community of faith*
5. **This may surprise you:** What God wants from you is this...

- a. *That you enjoy Him...delight in Him*
  - b. *Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?*  
A. *Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (WSC #1)*
  - c. *Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)*
6. **Illustration:** As I get older I realize how important it is to *delight* in those whom you love.
- a. I truly wish I had done this earlier and more often in my life.
  - b. *Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth... (Prov. 5:18)*
  - c. To enjoy my children, my siblings, my parents
  - d. To take joy in the congregations I have served
  - e. To delight myself daily in Jesus Christ, in my life with God, in my place in the Church
7. **What robs us of this joy?** *A nagging sense of duty:*
- a. The duty to be married to one woman (man) that causes a critical and complaintive spirit.
  - b. The duty to rear kids and provide for them that makes you alternately be hard on them and then spoil them
  - c. The duty to obey parents that produced disrespect and rebellion
  - d. The duty to serve the church that produces a joyless burden for their souls
8. **All that joyless, burdensome, tiring duty robs us of the joy of delighting in God and our loved ones!**
- a. *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1 John 5:1-4)*
  - b. “His commandments are not burdensome” ...
  - c. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11)*
  - d. *“If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,  
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,  
and call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,*

*or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;  
then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 58:13-14)*

9. There is a *vast difference* between these two souls sitting in the parking lot on Sunday mornings...
  - a. The one says: *“Oh boy, I am here to fulfill my Sunday obligation and to give God the worship He is due.”*
  - b. The other says, *“How wonderful! I have the joyful privilege to join with others to show God how much I love Him and how much I enjoy Him in every way!”*
  - c. **Which heart do you think will give God the true worship He will enjoy!**
10. **May I suggest to you that this be Application #1 for 2012?** *That you purpose to enjoy the ones you love, beginning with God on Sunday mornings. And...on Sunday evenings. For I find God twice as delightful Sunday evening as I do on Sunday morning. And so the 99% of those who come on Sunday evenings!*
11. How to do this? *“Come into His presence with singing.”*
  - a. **Jane and I** have several songs that are “Our Songs”
    - i. *“I Love You Just the Way You Are” (Billy Joel)*
    - ii. *“Have I Told You Lately” (Rod Stewart)*
    - iii. *“Longer Than” (Dan Fogelberg)*
    - iv. *“A Groovy Kind of Love” (Phil Collins)*
    - v. *“If I Loved You” (Rogers and Hammerstein)*
  - b. Songs of our life-experiences together
  - c. The Psalter and our Hymnal are full of hundreds of “love songs” about our life-long love for God...
  - d. ...and His eternal love for us!
  - e. **Singing Songs to God is essential to Christianity**
  - f. **John R. W. Stott:** *The Canticles and Selected Psalms; p. 9.*

*Christian worship would be almost inconceivable without singing. During the service of Morning Prayer, for instance, the average Anglican congregation sings at least seven times – three hymns, three canticles, and a psalm. The familiarity of this fact should not conceal its significance. Singing is a distinctive feature of Christian worship, as W. M. Clow has shown. Asserting that the need for forgiveness is essentially a Christian emphasis, he goes on: “The clearest proof of this is the simplest. It lies in the hymns of Christian worship. A Buddhist temple never resounds with a cry of praise. Mohammedan worshippers never sing. Their prayers are, at the highest, prayers of submission and of request. They seldom reach the gladder note of thanksgiving. They*

*are never jubilant with the song of the forgiven.” Christians are redeemed people of God. Their hearts should be so brimful of praise to the God who has stooped to seek and to save them, that it spills out of their mouths in singing. Indeed, one of the sure signs of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is “singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart” (Eph. 5:18, 19, R.S.V).*

12. Why do we find worship so difficult? Why do we not enjoy God more? Why are we even reluctant to sing love songs to God?

13. **The Psalmist tells us** in the next verse...

B. Three Reasons for Joy in Worship (100:3)

1. *Know that the LORD, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:3)*

2. Three things the Psalmist wants us to “*know*” (remember)

3. **Reason #1:** God is God and you are not

a. *“Know that the Lord, He is God...”*

b. i.e., God is Lord and He is responsible to enrich your life, provide for your kids, care for your parents, bless the church...not you.

c. As long as you are trying to be God of your life, you’ll never be able to delight in God and worship with joy!

d. *God is God and you don't need to be so!*

4. **Reason #2:** God made us, and we did not make ourselves

a. *“It is He who made us, and we are His.” (ESV)*

b. A literal translation of the Hebrew

c. **NASB** is better (*“It is He who made us and not we ourselves”*) since it gives the gist of this wording.

d. God is the Creator, and we did not evolve into self-made, self-improved, self-determined people.

e. As long as we are trying to assert our independence from our Creator, we’ll never find joy in worship.

f. **James Montgomery Boice:** *Psalms: Volume 2; p. 813.*

*What happens to us when we do not know God as Creator? We imagine that we are our own creators. Sometimes we do this scientifically. This is what lies behind the surprising persistent appeal of evolution, a theory that has very little if any true evidence in its support. The appeal of evolution is that it does away with the need for God. It explains how things got to be as they are without any divine creative force behind them. Of course, if we do not need God as our Creator, then we do not need to be thankful. Why should we? We got here by ourselves, thank you. We have no one but ourselves to thank. Another way we imagine that we are our own creators is by an*

*inordinate admiration of our abilities or achievements. It is only when we know God as our Creator that we know ourselves as his creatures and find ourselves appropriately thankful to him.*

- g. The Humorist: “An Englishman is a self-made man who worships his creator.”
  - h. Self-made Americans can only truly worship themselves!
5. **Reason #3:** “*We are His people and the sheep of His pasture*”
- a. Simply put: God owns us and cares for us.
  - b. We do not own ourselves or our kids...
  - c. ...and we do not provide for ourselves.
  - d. All we are and all we have are from God.
  - e. *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:16-18)*
6. And the reality of these truths drives us to worship together on Sundays...the Lord’s Day!
7. A second call to worship...

## II. ENTER INTO GOD’S JOYFUL HOUSE (Psalm 100:4-5)

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:4-5)*

### A. The Call to Thanksgiving in Worship (100:4)

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalm 100:4)*

1. This is **not** a call to do three things, but one:
  - a. A call to *give thanks...praise...bless God*
  - b. Hebrew parallelism (Hebrew “Rhyme”)
2. The Psalmist tells us here that the highest form of *praise* is **Thanksgiving**.
  - a. Gratitude for grace
  - b. Stopping to say “*Thank You, Lord*”

- c. **Seth Sykes:** *“Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul. Thank you, Lord, for making me whole. Thank you, Lord, for giving to me thy great salvation so rich and true.”*  
(c. 1940).

3. Notice this: **We “bless” God when we give Him thanks!**

- a. *“Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”*
- b. *Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Ps. 103:1-5)*
- Bless the LORD, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his word,  
obeying the voice of his word!  
Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will!  
Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul! (Psalm 103:20-22)*
- c. To bless = **to give joy or to make happy**
- d. God finds joy when we give thanks to Him.

4. The proof of this is one of Christ's parables: **Luke 17:11-18**

*Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”*

*When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.*

*One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.*

*Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” (Luke 17:11-18)*

- a. **Note well:** *“was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” (17:18)*
- b. How? *“...and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks.” (17:16)*

c. To give thanks = praise God = to bless God's name

5. Once again, three reasons why we should enter God's House (Church) with thanksgiving...

B. Three Reasons for Thanksgiving in Worship (100:5)

1. *For the LORD is good;*

*his steadfast love endures forever,*

*and his faithfulness to all generations.* (Psalm 100:5)

2. **Reason #1:** "For the Lord is Good" ...

a. We thank God because God is good.

b. **Louis Berkhof:** *Systematic Theology*; p. 70.

*We speak of something as good, when it answers in all parts to the ideal. Hence in our ascription of goodness to God the fundamental idea is that He is in every way all that He as God should be, and therefore answers perfectly to the ideal expressed in the word "God."*

c. God is everything we need God to be!

3. **Reason #2:** "His steadfast love endures forever" ...

a. God's *chesed* is eternal, unending, forever!

b. *chesed*: God's covenant love and loyalty

c. His promise to Abraham to a thousand generations

*Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* (Genesis 12:1-3)

*"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."* (Genesis 17:4-8)

*Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.* (Galatians 3:7-9)

*...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if*

*you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Gal. 3:26-29)*

- d. The everlasting promise of the covenant of grace

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

4. **Reason #3:** “...and His faithfulness to all generations.”

- a. God’s love, goodness and grace to your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren  
 b. The God of your great-grandfather will be the God of your great-grandchildren.  
 c. *The Immutability of God...*

*For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6)*

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say,*

*“The Lord is my helper;  
 I will not fear;  
 what can man do to me?”*

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:5-8)*

- d. God unchanging is God unfailing!

5. We give thanks to God each Sunday morning because of His saving grace, unfailing love, unchanging fellowship.

- a. The **Apostolic Benediction**  
 b. *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)*

**CONCLUSION:** Psalm 100 calls you and me to the Prince and Princess of all virtues...

1. The **Prince of Virtues:** Thanksgiving or gratitude to God
2. The **Princess of Virtues:** Joy or delight in God
3. The *highest form of praise* is a heart of gratitude with a smiling face.
4. **Key:** This calls us to a new spiritual DNA –
  - a. We don’t smile much in worship or enjoy God
  - b. We tend to critique, complain, argue rather than give thanks to God.
  - c. *The Spirit has to do a deep, deep work in us!*

5. **Here is where you can meet the Spirit along the way of this happy transformation –**
  - a. **First:** *Memorize and recall to voice and heart, Psalm 100 each Sunday – “A Song for the Parking Lot”!*
  - b. **Second:** *Enter God’s presence with joy – learn how to enjoy God, your church, your loved ones!*
  - c. **Third:** *Enter God’s House with thanksgiving – tell God why you are profoundly grateful to Him!*
6. Three great changes: A Psalm...A Smile...A Habit of Thanksgiving
7. **What if...?**
  - a. Your wife died all of a sudden...
  - b. Your husband left you for another woman...
  - c. Your parents were suddenly taken from you...
  - d. Your children were killed in a car wreck on the way home from college or the military...
  - e. Your church was closed by the government...
  - f. You were no longer allowed to worship God?
8. **What if God decided not to love you or save you anymore?**
9. Well, that will never happen, but nevertheless, before your loved ones are gone and your life is over, learn this priceless lesson: *Be glad...be grateful...*
10. **Tell God (and others) how thankful you are for them. And learn to enjoy them while you still can!**
11. Let’s make 2012 a year of change: *Gladness in God’s House* is a start!  
*I was glad when they said to me,*  
*“Let us go to the house of the LORD!” (Psalm 122:1)*