

Unceasing Praise

Psalm 134*

This last psalm of the “Songs of Ascents” series is quite brief, but it deals with a vast subject: worshiping the Lord and sharing His blessings with others. It is a short psalm—117 is the shortest—but it deals with a subject that could fill volumes. The psalm closes the collection with a benediction and leads into a series of psalms that emphasize praising the Lord. The inferences we draw from this psalm ought to encourage us in our own pilgrim journey and make us a blessing to others. —Citation: Warren Wiersbe, *Be Exultant*, p.182

A God who never sleeps (1)

A worship that never ends (2)

A blessing that never stops (3)

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION*

In our contemporary society, the work of Christians in the way and walk of faith is most difficult and is what Gore Vidal has analyzed as “today’s passion for the immediate and casual.” We are all in a hurry.

The tendency is to want shortcuts in the life of faith and when the latest book, song, conference, podcast, blog, sermon doesn’t deliver on instant spirituality we become impatient. Shockingly (for some) the Christian life cannot mature under such conditions and in such ways. The walk on the ‘pilgrim pathway’ is lifelong, arduous at times, with only glimpses of the serene vista of arrival.

Today we finish this fifteen-part series unwrapping the Psalms of Ascent (120-134). These Psalms guide those who have ears to hear in the conscious and continuous journey that develops people of faith into maturity in Christ.

There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Christian faith in our time has been **captured by the tourist mindset**.

Two descriptive terms identify the one who has believed in Jesus Christ for everlasting life: a disciple and a pilgrim

Disciple—A disciple is a person and a people who spend our lives apprenticed to our master, Jesus Christ. We are always in a growing, learning relationship with Jesus.

It is a lifelong process of acquisition. And that is one of the reasons many people who begin well do not finish well. It seems too hard, it is not instant.

Pilgrim—A Christian is also a pilgrim. That Greek word tells us that we are a people who spend our lives going someplace, going to God, and whose pathway for getting there is Jesus Christ who in answering Thomas when he asked “how do we know the way?” said; “I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (Jn.14:5-6)

The pilgrim who begins far off in a harsh world (120), indeed in this world’s ‘darkness’ (*Kedar*, 120:5, means ‘black’) ends in a very different *night* (134:1), secure in the Lord’s house and under his blessing.

We are called to a long obedience in the same direction.

—the above adapted from multiple sources

* Title from Eugene Peterson’s book of the same title