

**The GOD We Trust**  
Psalm 33  
October 14, 2007 ~ Crossway

**INTRODUCTION**

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

Some preliminary questions –

What do the sermons we preach and lives we live say about God? Can people outside the church read the greatness and glory of the infinite personal God off of our lives? Or, does God rest “inconsequentially” upon us? Is He weightless and trivial – having little more than a rhetorical presence in our lives? Or, does His existence and excellence inform and animate our worship, feed our joy, and strengthen our hope?

**PSALM 33**

**MAIN IDEA:** Deepest joy and enduring hope are possible *only* as we learn to live our lives out of a God-centered vision of reality.

**1. A GOD-CENTERED VISION OF REALITY**

The psalmists God-centered vision of reality is cosmic & comprehensive in scope. The LORD is the Creator-King over everything.

**i. Character (vv. 4-5)**

At the center of everything is God’s unimpeachable character.

God’s word and God’s works are in perfect harmony with His character. He is upright and faithful in everything He says and does.

God’s perfection stands as the center of all reality. This great truth anchors our existence into a moral vision that makes life meaningful. Words like good and evil, right and wrong, truth and falsehood, better and worse have

resonance because they take their cue from God's character. Remove Him from the center and these words – all words – become weightless. They evaporate into a mist of meaninglessness.

**ii. Creator (vv. 6-9)**

The cold and inhabitable vastness of the universe and the threatening chaos of the ocean – are created and controlled by the Lord.

**iii. King (vv. 10-19)**

→ **His counsel (vv. 10-12)**

Those who take their own counsel and devise their own plans are living against the grain of reality – sure to pick-up splinters along the way.

The LORD is accomplishing a work in the world – He is working out His eternal plan whether we agree with it or not. The question is, will we go with or against the divine direction of creation and history?

→ **His Kingdom (vv. 13-17)** – He sees “all” (x4) – comprehensive scope of the Lord's reign. Contrasted with what appears to be “great” (x3) in our eyes.

What appears great in our eyes? What are we placing our confidence in? -- money, job, health, relationship, children, good looks – all are a vain hope and will give way beneath our feet.

→ **His care (vv. 18-19)**

Although the King sees all – His eye is particularly set on those who humbly submit their lives to Him. His gracious gaze is drawn to those who find their only hope in Him. When we hope in Him, His care and attention is irresistibly directed our way.

“As Christians, we must understand that there is no word so meaningless as the word *god* until it is defined. No word has been used to teach absolutely apposite concepts as much as the word *god*. Consequently, let us not be confused. There is much ‘spirituality’ about us today that relates itself to the *word* god or to the *idea* god; but this is not what we are talking about. Biblical truth and spirituality is not a relationship to the *word* god, or to the *idea* god. It is a relationship to the One who is there. This is entirely different.” Francis Shaeffer, *The God Who is There*, 158

## 2. HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

Lining up our lives with a God-centered vision of reality.

The challenge is to link our lives back into this vision of reality. From every vantage point – every situation we face in life.

### i. Deep joy (vv. 1-3) – praise – outward expression

“The character of God is a sea, every drop of which should become a wellspring of praise for His people.” C.H. Spurgeon

Authentic praise engages with God –

- “Shout for joy *in the Lord*”
- “Give thanks *to the Lord*”
- “Make melody *to Him*”
- “Sing *to Him*”

Contra formalistic, self-conscious worship that thinks more about self than God

### ii. Enduring hope (vv. 20-22) – waiting, trusting – inward confidence & dependence

“This is hope in its surest form: patient, confident, buoyant, informed.”  
Derek Kidner

patient (v. 20a) -- (vs impatience)  
confident (v. 20b) -- (vs uncertain or fearful)  
buoyant (v. 21a) -- (vs dark or somber)  
informed (21b) -- (vs indifferent)

Corporate identity – joy and hope are always cultivated and experienced together.

### **3. THE GOSPEL**

future orientation – not a vague and indistinct hope that fades into uncertainty – a sure and certain hope realized in Christ

The personal reality of the psalmist anticipates the person of Jesus Christ

Links between Ps 32 & Ps 33 – especially Ps 32:11 & Ps 33:1, 20-22

“Psalm 33 takes up the invitation to praise that concluded Psalm 32. The psalmist’s instruction (Ps 32:8) has been heard and heeded.” J. Clinton McCann

OT hope is transposed into a new and different key in the NT – a gospel hope!, an accomplished hope, a fulfilled hope, a visible hope

Hope in the Lord necessarily involves the removal of our sin and guilt before God.

Psalm 32:1-2 → Romans 4:7-8 -

Genuine hope and true joy would wither and die if the dark cloud of our sin and guilt hung threateningly over our future. The gospel breaks open the blessedness of God’s favour and love on our lives and brings light and life to our joy and hope.

#### **Application questions –**

Do your circumstances in life interfere with your worship of the Lord?  
Is your hope clouded by fears and uncertainties about the future?  
Does the darkness of disappointment over the past cast a shadow over your present joy in Jesus?

How has your joy and hope become disconnected from the God-centered vision of life presented by the psalmist?