

# Sermon Notes – November 21, 2021

## Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is far more than an American holiday – though it is that. Scripture calls us to “give thanks with a grateful heart.” We are right to see a spirit of thankfulness as a spiritual discipline to pursue!

*“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever!  
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
Whom He has redeemed from trouble...”*  
Psalm 107:1-2

Most historians identify 1621 as the year that the pilgrims who had arrived on the Mayflower celebrated the first “thanksgiving” event, following a brutal year of cold, sickness, starvation, and death.

## Today’s text: Psalm 50

Today’s text is a powerful psalm with a strong message about how we view and worship God. It is presented “first person” with God Himself speaking, and it is written both to God’s people, and to the whole earth. We are going to move through the text twice, the first time to notice the structure and themes, and the second to capture four reasons to worship God rightly.

## God Cares Deeply How We Worship Him

- ⇒ The \_\_\_\_\_ scene: God, the supreme Judge, summons the whole earth and His people specifically. (1-6, 7)
- ⇒ Danger #1: Ever since the Garden of Eden, humans have tended to reduce a relationship with God to \_\_\_\_\_ practices. “Just give me a list of things to do, and I’ll do them.” (7-15)
- ⇒ Danger #2: Ever since the Garden of Eden, humans have \_\_\_\_\_ against God, often hiding behind a cloak of religion, following their own rules, and rejecting God as their King. (16-21)
- ⇒ God, the Judge, calls for a heart-and-life response directed to Him. (22-23)

Psalm 50  
This Is My Father’s World  
Pastor Jay Mosser

## God Gives Us Four Reasons To Worship Him

- ⇒ God is \_\_\_\_\_! God opens this courtroom scene by announcing Himself in a powerful way – “The Mighty One, God the Lord.” He alone has the right to issue a summons to the entire earth. He describes what He is like (3) and calls creation itself as witness to who He is (6).
- ⇒ God is \_\_\_\_\_! Let’s get this right – God does not call us to worship Him because He is needy or likes affirmation. God is not lonely. He did not create all that is because He was bored. Rather, God’s call for us to worship Him is an act of stunning grace! He invites us to know and worship Him, but He does not need us to do so. (8-13)
- ⇒ God is \_\_\_\_\_! God calls “evil” for what it is, and one day He will settle all rebellion and evil with complete and total justice. (16-22) We struggle to use “moral language” in our day because to do so implies an objective standard against which actions can be measured, which leads toward a theistic worldview.
- ⇒ God is \_\_\_\_\_! That God reveals Himself to us at all is an act of mercy! This courtroom scene, though appropriately sobering, is mercy! His longing that men & women would enjoy His presence in true worship is mercy. God’s call to repentance is mercy! (14-15 and 23)

## Responding to God’s Word in Worship & Obedience

- ⇒ “This is my Father’s world!” – We must never forget this. Though “the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet!” Knowing and believing this should calm our fears and quiet our frantic worry.
- ⇒ We see in this psalm our human tendency to reduce a relationship with God to external practices. Are you doing this, even today? Do you view a hoped-for trip to heaven as a transaction – if you do your part and be adequately nice, God takes you to heaven?
- ⇒ Hear the gospel today: Christ has done it all! He has fully paid the price for your sin. He lived a perfect life and died in your place on Calvary’s cross, so that you, trusting Christ and Him alone, could be welcomed into God’s family as a dear child. Will you trust Him today?

**Advent Worship Next Sunday: November 28, 2021**

“The Savior For The Nations” (Luke 9:18-50)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: • courtroom • external • rebelled • almighty • self-sufficient • just • merciful

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