

July 20, 2025

CFBC... "Summer in the Psalms"

"THE MISSION SONG"

Psalm 67:1-7

What's your favorite psalm? I'm sure many of you would choose Psalm 23. Others might land on Psalm 46 or Psalm 1. There are so many good ones to choose from. Last week I preached from what many might consider an obscure one, Psalm 131. Today, I'm going to preach from a chapter that probably no one picked as your all-time favorite. Take your Bible and turn to Psalm 67.

This chapter is ripe for our consideration today. I say that because it is known as "The Mission Psalm." With Ruth Ann being commissioned to serve as a missionary to an unreached part of the world, I sensed a strong leadership of the Holy Spirit to preach this chapter. I do want you to know that this sermon is for everyone, not just Ruth Ann Essary. Here's the truth you need to know and embrace. . .

YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Now, with that truth firmly planted in your mind, heart, and soul I want you to see. . .

1. THE PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING

Psalm 67:1... God be gracious to us and bless us, *And cause His face to shine upon us— Selah.*

The language of verse 1 is rooted in the great Aaronic blessing of Numbers 6. . .

Numbers 6:24–26... The LORD bless you, and keep you; **25** The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; **26** The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

"God be gracious to us"— This request is asking the Lord for His favor, which is something no sinner deserves. Remember, ***mercy*** is God choosing to not give what you deserve. On the other hand, ***grace*** is God choosing to give what you don't deserve.

"And bless us"— In modern 21st century thought, we attribute God's blessing to Him making us successful, to a growing bank account, to a nice house, or to a nice SUV. A more biblical grasp of this term zeroes in on the massive spiritual blessings associated with knowing God, serving Him, receiving His forgiveness, and living to please Him. Warren Wiersbe provided this explanation:

"A blessing is a gift from God that glorifies His name, helps His people, and through them reaches out to help others who will glorify His name."

Hear me now. God will stop sending blessings to you if He cannot send blessings through you!

"And cause His face to shine upon us"— A shining face implies the favor of God.

"Selah"— This is a musical term that signifies some kind of pause, as if to say, *"OK, don't move on too quickly in the song yet; just let it soak in."*

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Psalms 67:2... That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

God blesses His people for the sake of His praise and glory—so that His saving power might be made known among all the nations (v. 2).¹

"That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations."— Here's the reason God blessed Israel. Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden every human being has come into this world as a sinner by nature and by choice. That sin has separated us from the Lord. The way back to God would never be found through intellectual pursuits, through idolatry, or through stacking up good works. Faith in the Lord is the only hope for the whole world!

The gospel is not a message of condemnation. It is a message of celebration and genuine hope for time and for eternity!

¹ David Platt, Matt Mason, and Jim Shaddix, [*Exalting Jesus in Psalms 51-100*](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2020), 147.

John 14:1–6... "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. **4** "And you know the way where I am going." **5** Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

In this second stanza of the mission song, the Lord provides even more clarity as it relates to. . .

2. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S BLESSING

Psalms 67:3–5... Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. **4** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah. **5** Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

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God's desire for praise among all peoples is a theme that shows up throughout Scripture. . .

Genesis 12:1–3... Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; **2** And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; **3** And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Daniel 6:26–27... "I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion *will be* forever. **27** "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

Ezekiel 36:22–23... "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I

am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. **23** "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

In verses 3-5, the psalmist expresses God's desire for people from the north to the south, from the east to the west, from the rich to the poor, from the young to the old, from the urban to the rural, in every tribe, in every language, and among every ethnic group on the earth to praise God. **That's the purpose for God blessing His people!** ²

So, how are the nations of the world going to know God, praise Him, and give Him the glory He deserves?

² David Platt, Matt Mason, and Jim Shaddix, [*Exalting Jesus in Psalms 51-100*](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2020), 147–148.

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***By observing God's gracious blessing in the lives of believers.**

We must pray for God's blessing not that we may then monopolize his grace and bask in the sunshine of his favor, but that others may see in us His blessing and His beauty, and be drawn to him through us. John R. W. Stott, *Favorite Psalms* (Chicago: Moody, 1988), 68.

Does anyone ever look at you and think, "*The Lord Jesus certainly makes a difference in that person's life.*"

***The power of God's Word through believers.**

God is glorified and praised as Christians share the gospel with those who are not saved—locally, nationally, and globally.

All of God's people are priests and missionaries. How? Clearly, it's by living for the Lord and by telling others about him.

1 Peter 2:9–10... But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Okay, we've gone through two stanza's of the Mission Song—the prayer for God's blessing and the purpose of God's blessing. Now, here is the third stanza. . .

3. THE PROMISE OF GOD'S BLESSING

Psalm 67:6–7... The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. **7** God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

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God will bless His people, and through them He will bring all the ends of the earth to worship Him and to give Him the glory He deserves.

Revelation 7:9–12... After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; **10** and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation** to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, "**Amen**, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

David Platt observed. . .

"This promise must compel risk-taking, life-giving, death-defying confidence in our Lord.... There is more to this life than

having a nice job, a decent family, a comfortable life, and then tacking on church attendance. We have been created, saved, and blessed by God for the praise of God among the peoples of the world."

CONCLUSION

You know some songs get stuck in our minds and hearts. We find ourselves humming the tune and singing the words throughout the day. My prayer is that "The Mission Song" settles into the deep recesses of your heart and soul.

Every believer within the sound of my voice must avoid the danger of disconnecting God's gracious blessing in your life from God's ultimate purpose for your life. . .

YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Jesus challenged every believer with these words:

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Matthew 5:16... "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

I would remind you that you can be just as lost while living in the Collierville area as someone who lives in Cameroon or the Philippines. There's only one way back to God and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. He died on the cross for your sins, and He was raised from the dead so that you could be justified before the Father. Will you believe in the Lord Jesus today and receive His gracious blessings?