Entering the Gates of Righteousness

Psalm 118:15-29

April 13, 2025

The Big Idea: The only way to have acceptance and peace with God is through the fact that Christ was rejected and despised by men. We must not stumble over the stone that so many others have stumbled over. This Cornerstone is the only sure foundation on which we can stand.

Psalm 118:15-24 (NASB)

118 **The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord performs valiantly. 16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord performs valiantly. 17 I will not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord. 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not turned me over to death. 19 Open the gates of righteousness to me; I will enter through them, I will give thanks to the Lord. 20 This is the gate of the Lord; The righteous will enter through it. 21 I will give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation. 22 A stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This came about from the Lord; It is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day which the Lord has made; Let's rejoice and be glad in it.**

A Victory Shared (Psalm 118:15-21)

+ Psalm 118 would have been a common Psalm to sing at Passover.
+ God gives joy to His people
    - The joy of the Christian is not dependent on what is present in their lives, it is entirely dependent on the never-leaving presence of God in their lives.
+ God gives life to His people
    - The only One that can save from death is the only One that can give life.
+ God lovingly disciplines His people
    - Loving discipline from the Lord is a sign that we have been adopted as His sons and daughters (Hebrews 12:5-11).
+ God answers His people
    - "God always answers your prayers in precisely the way you want them to be answered if you knew everything He knew."- Timothy Keller

A Victory Secured (Psalm 118:22-29)

1. Christ was rejected so that we would be accepted.
2. Christ's atoning death does not produce possibilities; it brings forth certainties.
3. Christ's death accomplishes the work of redemption.
4. "You must not stumble at God's grace in Jesus Christ, as many have, tripping over that stone. You should come to Jesus instead and build your life on that secure foundation."- James Montgomery Boice

A Victory Savored (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

- When Christians come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper, they remember and proclaim that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.
- "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In that week when God's realities broke through His symbols and shadows, the horns of the altar became the arms of the cross, and the festival itself found fulfillment in Christ our Passover.

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