

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Text: Psalm 67

Everything Depends on God's Blessing

Key Verse: "God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him." Psalm 67:7 NIV

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Many times I have asked myself how they sang the Psalms in the time of the Old Testament. Which melodies, which instruments were used? Of course, the content of the psalm is more important. While some psalms are laments or psalms of vengeance, other psalms speak of joy, blessing or praise of God. The psalmist knows: Everything depends on God's blessing!

This psalm begins and ends with an appeal for blessing! The request: "God be gracious to us" comes first, before the blessing is requested. It was the experience of the psalmist that every blessing comes through the grace of God. And where God pours out His blessing, there the people recognize that God is at work. Those who experience God's blessing can do nothing other than express their gratitude for the Giver of all good gifts. We teach our children this. We tell them to say, "Thank-you," for everything that they receive.

God's blessing leads to joy and thankfulness. In Germany, we say that thanking has to do with thinking. Those who are thankful have thought! The nations should be glad and sing for joy! It is understandable that they should be glad, but what does "sing for joy" mean? The Hebrew word means wild and enthusiastic joy, which is completely visible both on the face and by the behavior of the person displaying it. It's too bad that we don't often really rejoice over God's gracious blessings.

A few weeks ago our students were challenged through a school project "Love Loud" to communicate God's love without words. A businessman invited some students to paint his warehouse. This businessman was so amazed by their work that he immediately wanted to get to know Bibelseminar Bonn. He wrote in an email, "You have really shown my son, who proudly declares himself to be an atheist, how faith can be and is lived out! You have caused him to really reflect."

In the places where we carry God's blessing to the world, there the people will recognize God and praise Him. Therefore, the psalmist says again, "Let the peoples praise You, O God." In this way, all people can and should experience that "Everything Depends upon God's Blessing!"