

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Text: Psalm 104:24-34 **Praise God With Our Lives**

Key Verse: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalm 104:33 NIV

Author: Pascal Kulungu of Kinshasa, Congo. He serves as Administrator of Finance at the Christian University of Kinshasa (UCKin).

Of all the books of the Bible, none is as popular or as well read as the book of Psalms. No other book carries so much prayer. Many Psalms were first prayers of individual praise but many were written for collective praise. The Psalms were used during the services celebrated in the temple in the same manner as our song books today that contain a wide range of prayer by various writers.

This passage starts with a meditation in verses 24-30. The Psalmist meditates on the total dependence of this world in its various parts in relationship to the creator. The psalmist is overwhelmed by the diversity of the work of God and by the immense richness of the divine wisdom that created everything. Each creature finds its place and plays its role for the well-being of the total.

In spite of all this, today in the church and more so in the world, many people do not want to recognize and to honor the virtues and the competencies of others. As a consequence there are divisions, quarrels, anarchy, disputes for power, and all kinds of other disorders that are created by the devil. Many people do not prosper on earth because they don't trust in the Lord even as much as the sea monsters called Leviathan and other terrestrial animals trust in God for their survival. These animals have food and are satisfied.

Verses 31-34 open with a supplication. The desire of the psalmist is that the multiple and varied works of the Lord always be a subject of rejoicing like it was right from the beginning. Therefore the just one is one who engages in worshiping this great God and inviting Him to be favorable to him. On the contrary the evil one, because of his refusal to recognize the Creator and his marvelous work, will not find his place in this great organized whole.

In conclusion, God is marvelous because of what he has done. Praising God must lead us to having confidence in him. He has the power to deliver us from all sorts of situations because that is the only way we can express our confidence in Him. Consequently just to praise him in words is not enough. We must praise him by offering our lives to his service and maintain the commitment that we made before Him.