

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 100

2/1/13

Vs. 1-5 make an open invitation for all to approach God.

This Psalm describes God's accessibility for all who will hear and obey. Though not directly "Messianic," that is, pointing specifically to Jesus Christ, this invitation can be fully appreciated today because we have Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Verse 1: A "joyful shout" speaks of the happiness in the heart of one who obeys God. When the children of Israel returned to their Promised Land after 70 years of exile, "they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the LORD made them joyful" ([Ezra 6:21-22](#)). Jesus said; "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" ([John 15:11](#)). Paul wrote: "I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith" ([Philippians 1:25](#)). Christians hope to hear, "Enter into the joy of your lord" ([Matthew 25:21, 23](#)). In [Psalm 100:1](#), the expression "all you lands" reaches beyond the Israelites who were limited to their land.

Verse 2: "Serve" with "gladness" shows the satisfaction one has in knowing that God is pleased. One of God's witnesses to all people is that: "He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" ([Acts 14:17](#)). King Hezekiah and the priests offered their sacrifice and "sang praises with gladness" ([2 Chronicles 29:27-30](#)). When people obeyed the Gospel of Christ for the first time by repenting and being baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," they "they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart" ([Acts 2:38, 46](#)). To "Come before" God "with singing" shows values in congregational song: God is praised, and the people are taught ([Ephesians 5:19-20](#)). Israelites could "come before the LORD on the appointed feast days" ([Ezekiel 46:9](#)), thus to "come before the LORD" showed congregational worship. Job rightly said, "a hypocrite could not come before Him" ([Job 13:16](#)).

Verse 3: "Know" acknowledges certainty of faith:

- (1) "The LORD, He *is* God" and no one else can be. At no time can a human claim to be or become "God."
- (2) God decides who are, or are not, His people. Humans do not make this decision with their prejudice, membership rolls, or creeds, rather "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD. For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends" ([2 Corinthians 10:17-18](#)).
- (3) God is the Shepherd of the Israelite sheep, a role Jesus Christ claimed for His Christians ([John 10:1-5, 11-18](#); [Hebrews 13:20-21](#)).

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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Verse 4: "Enter" with "thanksgiving" and "praise" is the word of an open door to all who will come with appreciation for God. Jesus said we must "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)). "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" ([Matthew 7:21](#)). "Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city" ([Revelation 22:14](#)).

Verse 5: Because the LORD has provided the way, this offer stands, for God's "goodness," "mercy," and "truth" never changes or passes away. Jesus' invitation still stands: "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light" ([Matthew 11:28-30](#)).

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