

**Psalm 67:1-7:** TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM. A SONG. May God be merciful to us & bless us & make His face to shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations. <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad & sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity & guide the nations upon earth. Selah <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. <sup>7</sup> God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

**Intro:** Why do I preach on evangelism & missions once a year?

1) It is our church's (the church's) mission: **Matthew 28:18-20:** Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. & behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2) Why not just missions but evangelism & missions?: Because if we are not doing evangelism here at home, we will not be effective at missions either. (D. L. Moody story)

3) The greatest need in the world is for missions to be done for the unreached peoples of the world: There are no needs in Philadelphia. Of course there are needs here! (marriage strife needs; addictions needs; poverty needs; sexual addiction needs; disability needs; family needs; overcoming all manner of sin needs; Gospel needs)

- **Romans 15:23:** I no longer have any room for work in these regions

- **Romans 15:19-21:** from Jerusalem & all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; & thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

- **Unreached People Group:** A people group is considered unreached when there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to engage this people group with church planting. Technically speaking, the percentage of evangelical Christians in this people group is less than 2 percent. (7,250 groups, 4.8 billion people)

- **Unengaged People Group:** Unreached people groups are unengaged when there is no church planting strategy, consistent with evangelical faith and practice, under way. Gathering believers and planting churches are the keys to establishing an effective and multiplying presence among these people groups. (3,160 groups, 283 million people)

- **George Murray (All Nations Family):** Only 5% of people that get Biblical training plan on going into missions. Of those 5%, only 9.6% go to the unreached people groups, & they receive only 1% of the church's money.

- **Pastor:** North American Christians give an average of 2.5% of their income to churches. Churches give an average of 2% to missions. So for every \$100 a North American Christian makes, 5 cents is given to missions.

4) Is everyone a missionary? Yes (we should live like it!) & No (missions: crossing land/sea, culture, & language)

God blesses us so that we might bless the nations with the knowledge of God for the praise of His name!

### **1. God's Mercy And Blessing Is Upon His People (Us!)**

**Psalm 67:1:** TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM. A SONG. May God be merciful to us & bless us & make His face to shine upon us, Selah

**a. The title of the Psalm:** TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM. A SONG.

1) **James Hamilton:** To the preeminent one: David/Davidic King (when these list a name, that's the author)

2) This is a psalm & song: they were written to be sung with instruments

**b. This Psalm starts with a prayer for the blessing & mercy & favor & love of God:** I heard a sermon recently where the preacher said you don't need to pray for what God has given you. He said you don't need to pray for grace because God has already given you grace. Well, not according to Psalm 67:1

Yes, God had given Israel grace & blessing & mercy & favor & love! He called them to be His people – His holy bride! He delivered them – redeemed them out of slavery in Egypt! He provided for them & protected them & gave them His laws & Himself! But they want more! **Song:** More love! More power! More of You in my life!

Oh what grace & blessing & mercy & favor & love God has shown us in Christ! Do you know Him? **GOSPEL!**

**Ephesians 3:14-19:** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven & on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith - that you, being rooted & grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth & length & height & depth, & to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Numbers 6:24-27:** The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you & be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

**c. What does “Selah” mean?: Interpreters:** A direction for those singing; lift up your voice (Calvin); a repetition of words; forever; pause; silence from singers while instruments play; a musical direction; they are singing!

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## **2. God’s Blessing & Mercy Is Upon His People (Us!) For God’s Purposes**

**Psalm 67:1-7:** May God be merciful to us & bless us & make His face to shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations. <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad & sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity & guide the nations upon earth. Selah <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. <sup>7</sup> God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

We are blessed to bless others! Those who have been blessed & received mercy should **(they will!)** be moved in their heart & desires to show mercy to others!

- **Luke 7:47:** Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

- Pastor whose wife was adopted, so they have adopted children.

What are God’s purposes for blessing His people & being merciful to His people?:

**The Negative:** God doesn’t bless us so that we can live more comfortable, easy, lavish, no-risk, American-dream lives:

**John Piper on John Wesley:** In 1731 he began to limit his expenses so that he would have more money to give to the poor. In the first year his income was 30 pounds and he found he could live on 28 and so gave away two. In the second year his income doubled but he held his expenses even, and so he had 32 pounds to give away (a comfortable year's income). In the third year his income jumped to 90 pounds and he gave away 62 pounds. In his long life Wesley's income advanced to as high as 1,400 pounds in a year. But he rarely let his expenses rise above 30 pounds. He said that he seldom had more than 100 pounds in his possession at a time. This so baffled the English Tax Commissioners that they investigated him in 1776 insisting that for a man of his income he must have silver dishes that he was not paying excise tax on. He wrote them, “I have two silver spoons at London and two at Bristol. This is all the plate I have at present, and I shall not buy any more while so many round me want bread.” When he died in 1791 at the age of 87, the only money mentioned in his will was the coins to be found in his pockets and dresser. Most of the 30,000 pounds he had earned in his life had been given away.

**Randy Alcorn (Treasure Principle #6):** God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.

1) God blesses us (Israel) & is merciful to us (Israel) so that God's way may be known on earth: V. 2: that Your way may be known on earth

**a. God's way is to trust & obey as God commands:**

**Psalm 44:18:** Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way

**Psalm 86:11:** Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

**Genesis 18:19:** For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice,

**2 Kings 21:22:** He (Manasseh) abandoned the LORD, the God of his fathers, & did not walk in the way of the LORD

**Acts 18:25:** He (Apollos) had been instructed in the way of the Lord. [All over Acts – The Way!]

**John 14:6:** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"

**b. God wants the whole earth to know Him & trust & obey Him: V. 2:** that Your way may be known on earth

2) God blesses us & is merciful to us so that God's saving power may be known among all nations: V. 2: Your saving power [may be known] among all nations.

**John Piper:** God wants to be known among the nations! He doesn't want people to be ignorant of Him.

- **Genesis 12:1-3:** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country & your kindred & your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, & I will bless you & make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, & him who dishonors you I will curse, & in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- **Matthew 28:18-19:** Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations"

- **Revelation 5:9-10:** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll & to open its seals, for you were slain, & by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe & language & people & nation, <sup>10</sup> & you have made them a kingdom & priests to our God, & they shall reign on the earth."

3) God blesses us & is merciful to us so that all the people's of the nations might praise God: This is repeated four times! **Vs. 3, 5:** Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! . . . <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

God wants to be praised among all the nations & peoples of the earth! He deserves it! And this is what satisfies us!

**C. S. Lewis:** But the most obvious fact about praise – whether of God or anything – strangely escaped me. I thought of it in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise unless . . . shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it. The world rings with praise – lovers praising their mistresses [Romeo praising Juliet & vice versa], readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game – praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, motors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians or scholars. . . . Except where intolerably adverse circumstances interfere, praise almost seems to be inner health made audible . . . I had not noticed either that just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it: "Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that magnificent?" The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about. My whole, more general, difficulty about the praise of God depended on my absurdly denying to us, as regards the supremely Valuable, what we delight to do, what indeed we can't help doing, about everything else we value . . . I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely

expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.

4) God blesses us & is merciful to us so that the nations might be glad & sing for joy: V. 4: Let the nations be glad & sing for joy

God wants to be enjoyed among all the nations! God wants the nations to be moved by joy in Him to sing for joy!

**Zephaniah 3:17:** The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

**William Plumer:** God shall make them glad & give them cause for shouting . . . No man can read the writings of early Christians converted from heathenism without seeing that they felt themselves almost as marvelously rescued, as if they had been brought out of hell itself.

**V. 4:** for You judge the peoples with equity & guide the nations upon earth. Selah

We are glad in God & sing for joy in Him because He is a God of justice & He leads & guides us as the best leader & as the most trustworthy, loving, most powerful guide!

- **Ps 89:14:** Righteousness & justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love & faithfulness go before you.

- **Ps 23:1-4:** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5) God blesses us & is merciful to us so that all His purposes will certainly & unstopably come to pass & He will certainly & unstopably bless us more: Vs. 6-7: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

<sup>7</sup> God shall bless us

The salvation of all the earth & of all the nations is spoken of here as if it's already happened because it is so certain to happen in God's sovereign plan & providence! All God does is win! You can't stop Him! He will accomplish all of His purposes & nothing & no one can stop Him! He shall save His people from their sin!

- **Isaiah 46:10:** declaring the end from the beginning & from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose"

- **Ephesians 1:11:** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

- **John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

**God has ultimately blessed us in Christ Jesus: Luke 24:44-53:** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses & the Prophets & the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> & said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer & on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> & that repentance & forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, & lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them & was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him & returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> & were continually in the temple blessing God.

6) God blesses us & is merciful to us so that all the ends of the earth might fear God: V. 7: let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

God wants all the nations & ends of the earth to fear Him! **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14:** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

**Two summaries: 1) John Piper:** The main point of this Psalm is not just that God aims to be known & praised & enjoyed & feared. And not just that He aims to be known as a God of grace & a God of justice & a God of power. The main point is God blesses us His people so that we would extend this blessing, we would bless the nations of the earth, the peoples of the world, all the peoples with everything: with all the grace & all the justice & all the power so that they would know & praise & enjoy & fear all that we know & enjoy & praise & fear . . . & the nations' joy is the consummation of our joy.

**2) James Hamilton:** We long to be impressed with jaw-dropping feats of greatness that flow from unique ability & peerless power. This is why so many around the world are intoxicated by the prowess of elite athletes. It is why we love to see the majesties of creation – the ocean, the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, and the starry heavens. We love these indescribable glories because there is a yearning in us for the one who alone could create them. Praise completes our enjoyment, and there is nothing we were made to enjoy more than God. When we experience God we encounter on more satisfying, more compelling, more capable, and more impressive than anything else in all creation. There is no greater source of gladness than God, & no one has elicited more praise than God. Gladness gives rise to praise, & gladness comes from knowing God's way and God's salvation. These in turn come from God's gracious good pleasure to bless those on whom he makes his face to shine.

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**Jesus calls us all to support missions through prayer & giving, & He may call some of us to leave the United States & go to the nations:** We should all have a burden for this: you can give, pray, go, or be disobedient.

God has chosen to give us examples of great sacrifice, not to make us feel guilty or to guilt us into action. But to inspire us to think & pray about how we might live our lives in ways most pleasing to Him (Zacchaeus; The widow who only gave two, small copper coins, but she gave more than all because she gave all; The Macedonian Christians who, in a season of extreme poverty, gave lavishly beyond their means) **Elisabeth Elliot:** Rosalind Bell-Smith, born in London in 1864, was twelve years old when she heard a sermon on John 3:16 at a revival meeting. The love of God was presented with such fervor and intensity that she yielded herself absolutely to Christ and stood up, along with others, to confess Him publicly as her Lord and Master.

Her father having been an artist, she grew up with a great love for art and went to art school in Toronto. But there was a strong pull in two opposite directions: Should she give her life to painting or should she serve her Master to whom she belonged? In her mind the two were mutually exclusive. When she was twenty she began to pray that if married life was what God wanted for her, He would give her a husband “wholly given up to Him and His service. I wanted no other.”

One day in June 1885, she joined a group of art students bound for a [lunch outing] at Niagara Falls. On the same boat as they crossed the lake was another party, headed for a Bible conference. She envied the latter group – her heart was more with them than with her own crowd. On the return trip that evening both groups were on the boat again, plus others who had been at the Bible conference. The Bible teacher recognized Rosalind as the organist in the church where he had spoken the previous Sunday & invited her to join a mission group the following Saturday.

“We are to have a workers' meeting and tea, and I would like you to meet them all.” She was on the point of saying this was impossible when her brother whispered, “You have no time. You are going to England.” Partly to show her

brother that she would do as she pleased (“and what a trifle can turn the course of a life!” she said later), she accepted the invitation on the spot. As the teacher turned to leave, he called to a friend who looked to Rosalind like a “very shabby fellow.” He was introduced as Jonathan Goforth, “our city missionary.” “I forgot the shabbiness of his clothes, however, for the wonderful challenge in his eyes!” she wrote.

“The following Saturday found me in the large, square workers’ room of the Toronto Mission Union. Chairs were set all around the walls, but the center was empty. Just as the meeting was about to begin, Jonathan Goforth was called out. He had been sitting across the corner from me with several people between. As he rose, he placed his Bible on the chair.”

“Then something happened which I could never explain, nor try to excuse. Suddenly I felt literally impelled to step across, past four or five people, take up the Bible and return to my seat. Rapidly I turned the leaves and found the Book worn almost to shreds in parts and marked from cover to cover. Closing the Book, I quickly returned it to the chair, and returning to my seat, I tried to look very innocent. It had all happened within a few moments, but as I sat there, I said to myself, ‘That is the man I would like to marry!’”

“That very day, I was chosen as one of a committee to open a new mission in the east end of Toronto, Jonathan Goforth being also on the same committee. In the weeks that followed I had many opportunities to glimpse the greatness of the man which even a shabby exterior could not hide. So when, in that autumn he said, ‘Will you join your life with mine for China?’ my answer was yes, without a moment’s hesitation.”

“But a few days later when he said, ‘Will you give me your promise that always you will allow me to put my Lord and His work first, even before you?’ I gave an inward gasp before replying, ‘Yes, I will, always,’ for was not this the very kind of man I had prayed for? (Oh, kind Master, to hide from Thy servant what that promise would cost!)”

“A few days after my promise was given, the first test in keeping it came. I had been (woman-like) indulging in dreams of the beautiful engagement ring that was soon to be mine. Then Jonathan came to me and said, ‘You will not mind, will you, if I do not get an engagement ring?’ He then went on to tell with the greatest enthusiasm of the distributing of books and pamphlets on China from his room in Knox [College]. Every cent was needed for this important work. As I listened and watched his glowing face, the visions I had indulged in of the beautiful engagement ring vanished. This was my first lesson in real values.”

Dr. and Mrs. Goforth sailed for China in February 1888 and served there until 1935. He celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday on board ship, bound for Canada, where he died the following year.

Christ Jesus Is God’s Blessed Grace  
Look! See! The God-Man’s Shining Face  
Yet On That Cross God’s Wrath Defaced  
He Died And Rose So There’s No Trace  
Of Sin Or Wrath But In Their Place  
Peace, Love, And Joy Interlace  
Now Righteousness Is Our New Race  
We Go And Tell In Every Space:  
“Trust Christ And God Your Sins Erase!”  
For Every Nation Must Embrace  
God’s Holy, Loving, Saving Grace  
Let Nations Sing, Be Glad, And Base  
Their Praise On God, Let’s Tell And Brace  
For Any Challenges We Face  
God’s Goodness, Mercy Always Chase  
So Pray, Give, Go And Spread God’s Grace!