

Scripture - Psalms 133:1-3 (v. 1)

Sermon - How Sweet It Is!

Every book of the Bible deepens our understanding of our relationship with God. But the Psalms uniquely enrich our experience of that relationship to God and humanity. Every human emotion has its echo in the Book of Psalms. And the wonderful message of Psalms is that God cares—not only about the external circumstances of our lives, but He cares about our every reaction to life's many experiences and about our relationship and fellowship with one another. The Psalms are especially rich in imagery and figures of speech. Realizing that the Psalms touch on every human experience, adds to our understanding of why this book draws us again and again to express our thoughts, our feeling, our joy, our distress, and our relationships to both God and people. While Psalms touches us at the deepest levels of our personalities and probes every human experience, it also has the capacity to lift our eyes up to see God and our brothers and sister in Christ.

Because of the historical and relational bent found in the Psalms, I have turned to Psalms 133 to preach about, "How Sweet It Is". Relational life is not a mere accessory to spirituality or ministry, but the heart of it. Finding unity within diversity because of the diversity, and not in spite of it, is an important link of unity within the Godhead. It is also an important link for brethren and sisters in

Christ to live together in unity

“How Sweet It Is” to unearth the hidden treasures and unravel the threads in the garments that reveal unity in the midst of diversity.

As we look at our text, we could be easily baffled and mystified by its simplicity, but grappling content and implication. I find the sentence structure to be very interesting and confounding. Because the word “**how**” in a sentence usually raises a question. And the word “**how**” even occurs two times in this sentence. You can hear questions raised by this word in other scriptures. Some familiar questions are:

How can two walk together, except they be agreed? Or

How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land? Or

How long shall you halt between two opinions? Or

How shall I know this? -- Is the question Zacharias raised when he thought that he and his wife, Elisabeth were too old to have a child, who was named John, the forerunner of Jesus.

How can this be? -- Is the question Mary raised when the angel told her that she would give birth to Jesus.

But, in Psalms 133 verse one, neither the first “**how**” nor the second “**how**” raises a question. Instead, they provide an imperative statement that is accentuated by closing with an exclamation point—Now that’s very unusual.

But, even more unusual is the word, “**behold**” that precedes the words “**how**.”

The word “**behold**” tells us to stop, look, read, listen, and live in unity according to the “**how**.” It’s strange that in this verse (Psalm 133:1) that the words “**how**” do not - begin the sentence - raise questions - require answers - end with the traditional question mark. I am no English expert, but I am sure that someone who is, would probably find this verse totally unacceptable.

Let me move on before I confuse myself and you too. Nevertheless, I am offering to you a sermon topic that might seem and sound like bad grammar—but, in the best way that I know right now—I would like to proclaim, “**How Sweet It Is!**” You may ask me, what is it that’s so sweet? Well, I am not talking about - honey - pure sugar - equal - (pink pack) - your pies and cakes - and not even your honey baby or sweetheart. If it’s not those sweeteners, then what is it that’s so sweet?

Well, I tell you that there is nothing as sweet as **U-N-I-T-Y!** Unity that is - intangible - untouchable - indefinable - unexplainable - unclassifiable -indescribable - unspeakable.

Therefore, the psalmist declares that **UNITY is like :**

v.2 1. Precious oil - An oil that works on Christians to - lubricates the dry bones in the church - loosens the frozen nuts in the church - soothe rough skins in the church - soften hard hearts in the church.

As a matter of fact, the songwriter wrote, “I’ve got oil in my vessel, and my lamp trimmed and burning, I wanna be ready when the bridegroom comes!”

v.3 2. Morning dew - **A dew that** works on Christians to - Moisten messed-up minds in the church - dampen dusty demons in the church - refresh rusty religion in the church - wash away worrying in the church. The songwriter wrote, “Why should I feel discouraged and why should the shadows fall, why should my heart feel lonely, and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion, a constant friend is He, His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me!

v.3. 3. Life forevermore - **A life that** works for Christians to - Prepare the way to glory - make the rough road smooth - make crooked way straight - open up the gates of heaven. The Psalmist proclaims, “How good and how pleasant it is for us to dwell together unity upon this earth!” Yes, “**HOW SWEET IT IS!**” But, it is written, “there a union in the heaven where I belong.” And “When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be, when we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory.

Pastors, if you wanna be there, say YES!

Preachers, if you wanna be there, say YES!

Deacons, if you wanna be there, say YES

Christians, If you wanna be there, say YES!

No pain - HOW SWEET IT IS!

No fear - HOW SWEET IT IS!

No dying - HOW SWEET IT IS!

Eternal life - HOW SWEET IT IS!

Peace - HOW SWEET IT IS!

JOY - Everlasting Joy - Eternal Joy - Unspeakable Joy - Abiding Joy - Divine Joy - Supreme Joy - **Heavenly Joy - HOW SWEET IT IS!**