

III. UNITY IS LIFE (133:3b)

This Psalm began with an ideal situation, progressed with a double comparison and ends with a sure benediction (v.3b). God orders his blessing and ordains abundant life “there”, i.e. not at Jerusalem, or the top of Mount Hermon, but wherever believers together serve him in unity. For this blessing to become a reality at the national and social levels, it must start at the personal. Despite problems believers face, our oneness in worship and partnership in mission can inspire others to know Jesus as Savior for ‘in Christ’ alone, true and lasting unity is ultimately realized.

Let’s Be On Mission Together!

“Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.” Acts 14:27

ON MISSION TOGETHER

Priest And People Together On Mission

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INTRODUCTION

A. What is our Global Missions Focus?

Mission: Making sure that everyone in the world hears the Gospel of Jesus Christ correctly and planting New Testament churches among those who believe.

“40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Acts 2:40-42

B. The theme of our 2018 Global Missions Focus is “ON MISSION TOGETHER”.

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C. ON MISSION TOGETHER, will challenge and teach you how to be on mission together. This six part series features the following messages:

July 8	Doing The Mission!
July 15	Together In Prayer
July 22	Together In Sending
July 29	Together In Suffering
Aug 5	Together In Giving
TODAY	Priest And People Together On Mission

D. TEXT: Psalm 133:1-3 (Pew Bible/Pg.1154/Old Testament

PRIEST AND PEOPLE TOGETHER ON MISSION

Our multicultural pluralistic world yearns and strives for “unity in diversity”. Yet several factors divide our families, societies and nations. Perhaps the real scandal has something to do with God’s own broken and divided people – the Church! Christians find it difficult to get along with each other and almost impossible to work together. So, we often form our own ‘independent ministries’ that tragically function with the motto: “divided we stand, united we fall”!

Taken from the timeless hymnbook of God’s people, Psalm 133 teaches us about the nature and value of unity. David was probably prompted to write this Psalm when Israel came together for his coronation, not as the northern and southern kingdoms, but as one nation under God (2 Samuel 5:1-3). This is a “psalm of ascent” that was regularly sung as Israel went up to worship at Jerusalem. We learn and are challenged about the vital need to worship and witness together.

I. UNITY IS **JOYFUL** (133:1)

- A. The psalmist begins with an attention-getter, “Behold”, to focus on the topic of unity. When believers are together, God’s favor manifests itself in a way that is nothing less than a miracle of his grace. Christian unity, as a divine gift, cannot be manufactured, but only maintained.
- B. Two adjectives: “good” speaks of an objective reality that is morally right, and “pleasant” is subjective indicating how unity offers a *joyful* experience (v1a). Two arrangements: the harmony is not just in “dwelling together”, which can be mechanically, but abiding “in unity” (v1b). Such togetherness takes more than human cooperation, it requires divine enablement. Believers as “brothers and sisters” have a common heavenly Father, a living faith and bright future.

II. UNITY IS A **GIFT** (133: 2-3a)

Two analogies reveal the essence and function of unity:

- A. The first, although religious, was understood by the whole community: Fragrant oil was used to anoint national leaders like prophets, priests and kings. This “anointing” on Aaron the high priest’s head, flowed “down” his beard on to his breastplate bathing the twelve stones representing the twelve tribes. The same olive oil, symbolizing the Holy Spirit’s empowering, at once consecrates priest and eradicates divisions among the lay people.
 - B. The practical image is of fruitful dew that ‘descends’ from Mount Hermon’s heights to irrigate the whole land and make it fertile.
- Both pictures illustrate how unity is a perfect gift from above that literally affects our life, health and peace!