



CrossRoads Notes: Turn your Bibles to Psalms 67:1-7

Title: A Missionary's Song

Theme: A Prayer for God's Blessings on His Work

Introduction: *Psalm 67 is what could be called a "Missionary Song."* (The Expositors Bible Commentary; The Treasury of David; The Pulpit Commentary; Psalm 67:2) The truths in this song are what should be in the heart of those who either want to be a missionary or be involved in missions. Christians long to see peoples from all nations participating in the privileges that come to those who live a life of praise to Jesus Christ.

Psalm 67:1-7, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, ^{Ps 67:2} that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. ^{Ps 67:3} May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. ^{Ps 67:4} May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. ^{Ps 67:5} May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. ^{Ps 67:6} Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. ^{Ps 67:7} God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him."

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what is requested in this song of prayer and why are they so beneficial to the lost and the Body of Christ?*

Proposition: *I would propose to you that Psalm 67 is from the heart of God, being expressed to His children to what has real importance in regard to eternity. This song is a prayer for God's blessings, His Salvation to include all nations, His righteous rule and His declaration of blessings to the ends of the earth.*

Transitional Sentence: *The first heart cry of this missionary song is, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us,"*
Numbers 6:24-27

"Gracious" (*hanan*) meaning to "have mercy on me!" (The Complete Word Dictionary, Old Testament) God's forgiveness of sin is to be sought foremost and that brings a chain of blessings upon the repentant Christian. This heart reflects a death to legal works or claims of merit. It is a heart resting totally on the favor of God given in Christ' Name.

Lorica of Saint Patrick: "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the eyes that see me and Christ in the ear that hears me." (Sermon Central)
(Numbers 6:26 NAS)

Transitional Sentence: *The heart of a missionary and mission's based church will be seeking the Lord's blessings, peace, a noble countenance that expresses love for the Lord and a life bound by the grace of God. They are Christians that long for God's ways and salvation to be made known throughout the earth.*

(Psalm 67:2)

(1 Kings 2:1-3)

(Romans 10:14-15)

(Romans 10:18)

(Romans 10:13)

Therefore, Romans 10:14-15 in its application to the church today shows forth the necessity of proclaiming the gospel worldwide. Men, women, and children are to be urged to ask Jesus to come into their hearts and lives to be both Savior and Lord. Sinners cannot believe unless they hear about Jesus Christ. They cannot hear unless someone takes the good news to them. All believers in Christ have been "Commissioned" to fulfill their part in reaching out to a lost and dying in their home town and around the world." (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

Before someone can call upon the Name of the Lord there must be faith, so before faith there must be hearing, before hearing there must be preaching, and before preaching there must be someone surrendered to God's "Commission." This takes a team.

Transitional Sentence: *All through Scripture we see God using people who are sold out to His purposes and there are character traits that are evident in a mission's based church. The mission-based church will have prayer warriors.*

(2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

James Gilmore: "Mission work could not succeed without prayer by God's children in the homeland. Un-prayed for, I feel like a diver on the bottom of the river with no connecting line to the surface and no air to breath; or like a fireman with an empty hose on a burning building. With prayer, I feel like David facing Goliath!"

Illustration: Walter B. Knight

Transitional Sentence: *Missionaries and missions are protected and provided for through the prayers offered in Jesus' Name by loyal Christians to an all-loving God. They are also provided for by practical means.*

The word "missions" comes from a Latin word (*mitto*) denoting a task that a person or group has been assigned, usually by God or God's representatives, and sent out to perform. In the New Testament, missions refer to the ministry of the Gospel, in word and in deed. Paul was fulfilling a God-given task during his three mission trips. The church in Antioch was very much fulfilling the Lord's task in sending Barnabas and Paul out with famine relief to the needy. Missions were being fulfilled in Peter's

Commission to preach the gospel to the Jews. (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
 (Ezra 1: 2-11)
 (Ezra 1:5)
 (Ezra 1:6)

Many have come to know the joy of meeting the needs of missionaries in practical ways. They have given sacrificially, gone into the mission field to help build a church, a Christian hospital or orphanage with supplies given by their brothers and sister in Christ on the home front. In this nation right now, those in government positions are enabling and encouraging people to give to Christian-based ministries and give them tax breaks for doing so.

Transitional Sentence: *Missions and missionaries are to be provided for in practical ways and the church with a heart of missions will make a plea to God for servants who can preach the gospel.*
 (Romans 10:14)

“Preacher” (*kerusso*) here means someone who can publicly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and the responsibilities that go with it as it was taught by the apostles and the Christian teachers of the God’s Word. This Christian is one who represents Jesus Christ and he is only to proclaim the message of the Word of God. He is not to add in his own ideas, fads, or worldly philosophies. (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon; The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Bible, New Testament; Practical Word Studies in the New Testament)

The Gospel Herald: “Talks Christ Only”
 (2 Corinthians 5:20)

In Closing: *Walter B. Knight wonderfully pointed out that the rich man in hell became a true believer in missions. For his plea was,* (Luke 16:27-28)

Paul Box, missionary to Malaya shared what the missionary needs most when he wrote, “...missionaries go from daylight to midnight in [difficult circumstances] witnessing for Christ but seeing little response. Sickness strikes many of our homes. Depression sweeps new missionaries. We see need after need that must be filled, and yet often have no immediate answers. Our greatest need is for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of Christ.”

Illustration: Pastor Edward Pruden

Illustration : William Cary, “I will go down if you hold the ropes.” This is the way it should be. The mental picture is “I will go down into the caves that most people will never go into, but you must hold the ropes. I will go down if you will hold on. I will go if you are here holding fast, holding tight.”

The Missionary’s song, or rather prayer, is, I will go if you hold on to the ropes of prayer and provision and trust in the One who has called me.

Let us pray!

