#277 – Hymn Study (Stephen Zhu) – 24.02.25

INTRO - WHY SING IN THE FIRST PLACE?

- To praise God for His wonderful goodness toward us.
    - Psalm 89:1: “I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.”
    - Psalm 95:1-2: “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”
- To learn more about God and to keep Scripture in our minds.
    - Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
        - Songs that are based in Scripture are another way of reminding ourselves of God’s love, our sin, our need for Him, etc. It’s also a way to memorize biblical concepts and carry them around with us everywhere we go.
    - Ephesians 5:19-20: “Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
        - Singing comes from a heart of thanksgiving - you sing because you WANT to praise God for His incredible goodness.

HYMN STUDY

- Note to self: REMEMBER TO PARAPHRASE. Don’t just read verses for 15 min straight.
- **Main point:** We are sinners who don’t deserve anything. Everything we are and have is a gift from God through His saving grace.
- “Naught have I gotten but what I received”
    - John 3:27: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.”
    - James 1:17-18: “**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **Of his own will he brought us forth** by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
    - 1 Cor 4:7: “For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”
- “Grace hath bestowed it since I have believed”
    - Phil 3:9: “and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own** that comes from the law, but that **which comes through faith in Christ**”
- “Boasting excluded, pride I abase; I’m only a sinner, saved by grace!””
    - Rom 3:27-28: “Then what becomes of our **boasting? It is excluded.** By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but **by the law of faith.** For we hold that one is **justified by faith** apart from works of the law.”

    - Eph 2:8-9: “For **by grace you have been saved** through faith. And this is **not your own doing**; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
        - We have nothing to show for ourselves for why we should’ve been saved. We didn’t deserve it at all - salvation and sanctification are entirely gifts of God, not products of our own work.
- “This is my story, to God be the glory!”
    - Rom 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”
    - 1 Tim 1:15-16: “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, **that in me,** as the foremost, J**esus Christ might display his perfect patience** as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”
        - We tell the story of how we were saved not to boast about how much progress we made, but to glorify God by telling others how He has completely transformed our lives, something we could never do on our own.
- “Once I was foolish, and sin ruled my heart”
    - Eph 2:1-3: “And **you were dead in the trespasses and sins** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, **following the prince of the power of the air,** the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.”
    - John 8:34: “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”
        - Not just that we have a problem with sin - we were complete slaves to it, unable to free ourselves (which is why Jesus refers to Himself as a **ransom** for us - you can’t pay off your own ransom; someone else has to do it)
- “Causing my footsteps from God to depart”
    - Isa 53:6: “All we like <u>sheep</u> have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way”
- “Jesus hath found me, happy my case”
    - Luke 15:6: “Rejoice with me, for I have found my <u>sheep</u> that was lost.”
    - Luke 19:10: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
        - We didn’t just come back to Jesus of our own accord - we were lost in sin, and He came to us to save us.
- “Tears unavailing, no merit had I; Mercy had saved me, or else I must die”
    - Ps 130:3: “If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?”
    - Rom 3:20: “Therefore by the deeds of the law **there shall no flesh be justified in his sight**: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”
- “Sin had alarmed me, fearing God’s face;”
    - Gen 3:10: “And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

        - From the very beginning, sin causes guilt and a fear of God.
    - Isa 6:5: “And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for **I am a man of unclean lips,** and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!””
    - Deut 5:25: “Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die.”
        - When we understand how perfectly holy God is, the magnitude of our sin becomes so much more apparent.
- “Suffer a sinner whose heart overflows, Loving his Saviour to tell what he knows”
    - Ps 53:13-15: “Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and **my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.** O Lord, open my lips, and **my mouth will declare your praise.**”
        - David can use the story of his sin to glorify God, telling others how great his mercy is, and this testimony will convert others to God.
        - Similarly to Rom 1:16, we shouldn’t be ashamed to speak of what God has done in our life. Even if our sin was shameful, that just glorifies God all the more, because it shows from what depths of sin He saved us.
    - Acts 4:20: “For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
        - We ought to love God so much that we just can’t help but tell others of His goodness.
        - 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.”
            - Recognizing our sin makes us love God all the more, because it shows just how undeserving we are and how merciful He is.