

“Come, Behold...Be Still, and Know” —A Call to Active Passivity

Sermon Series: **Singing with the Psalmist—Learning to Feel Our Faith**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would not only have *informed minds* but *enflamed hearts!*



Key Text

Psalm 46

→ “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (v. 10).



Big Idea

Because of Christ’s work on the cross, every raging sea becomes for us a gently rolling stream, flowing unto our gladness and His glory!

(1) An Ironic Contrast (vv. 1-7)

The instability of this world is contrasted with the stability of the city of God. But the two are surprisingly connected. The raging waters in vv. 2-3 are not what they seem! While they seem boundless and destructive, they are in fact given banks and channeled by YHWH for the satisfaction and joy of His people—“a river whose streams make glad the city of God!” (v. 4). The raging sea becomes a gently rolling stream...and we are invited to dip in our hands and drink!

(2) An Ironic Command (vv. 8-11)

The reflections that have preceded in this Psalm give rise to a very intriguing string of commands: “Come, behold...be still, and know.” But what are we coming to, beholding, being still before, and knowing? The simplest answer: God. But why are these commands ironic? They are ironic because in them we are commanded to do...nothing. That’s the command. Stop! Let your hands drop. It is a call to active passivity. Be active in being passive. Let God be God, and trust in Him!

(3) An Ironic Christ

Jesus Christ fulfills this Psalm for us by singing it to us. As the chaotic sea of nations raged against Him, He was still and trusted in God His Father. And, as He drank that sea down to its dregs on the cross, experiencing in His body the full weight of God’s wrath...in His resurrection, God took that sea of wrath and through His wounds forged streams of grace for the world. No one saw this coming! He cursed the curse by becoming a curse for us. He put to death death by being put to death for us. And He offers us His victory to be received by grace. We sing this Psalm to Him, because He first sang it to us!



Principled Action

Come, behold...be still, and know!



Reflection Questions

- The Psalmist describes God as our refuge, strength, help, and fortress? How would you currently describe God as you are experiencing Him in your life?
- How has God shown Himself to be a very present help in time of trouble to you?
- How does this Psalm help you to feel your faith? What effect would singing this in the morning have on your day?
- Consider again how Christ sings this Psalm to us? How do all of this Psalm’s themes find their ultimate fulfillment in Him?
- Describe “active passivity” in your own words. Where else do you see examples of this in the Bible?
- What raging seas have you faced this week? Describe what “come, behold...be still, and know” would look like in the midst of these?