

Thought for Today: January 9, 2008

Psalm 95 (NASB)

**O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD,
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
For the LORD is a great God
And a great King above all gods,
In whose hand are the depths of the earth,
The peaks of the mountains are His also.
The sea is His, for it was He who made it,
And His hands formed the dry land.**

**Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
Today, if you would hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,
"When your fathers tested Me,
They tried Me, though they had seen My work.
"For forty years I loathed that generation,
And said they are a people who err in their heart,
And they do not know My ways.
"Therefore I swore in My anger,
Truly they shall not enter into My rest."**

This is a great psalm for us to think about as we're still in the beginning of a new year together. The first half reminds us that God is God and there is no other. That awareness gives us a strong foundation and a real reason to rejoice! If we can remember this each day, then our new year has the possibility of being a time when we are drawn closer and closer to God. What a gift!

The second half of this psalm reminds us that our response to this magnificent Lord is to live in His presence with hearts that are worshipful and humble. The Lord refers to the generation that He led out of Egyptian bondage when He talks about a people who saw His work and still failed to truly know Him. Those people never found true rest, because they never allowed God to shape their hearts. They went their own way and trusted in their own plans—and they died in the desert.

With the blessing of a new year, we can either play the game or we can be a people guided by the hand of God. Will we humble ourselves and offer our whole hearts to God? Or will we make the same mistakes made so many years ago by a people God tried to lead. Since He wants to be our God, why don't we let Him? Each day is a blessing, and with blessing comes responsibility. Let's begin by getting our hearts right with God.

Serving together,
Patrick Barber