

June 11, 78 A.M.
(Graduates)

11/11

"VOLUNTEERS"

Psalm 110

INTRODUCTION:

hymn Vol - to you -

All of this world loves a volunteer. The heart is strangely stirred by the young adventurous spirit of a person who takes a daring step upon himself to do some dangerous assignment.

Don't you love a Vol - When your son comes home & says "I'll take care of the grass & yard" "Flower beds" "I'll wash the dishes & run the cleaner. Mother, you take the day off!"

Armed forces use & depends upon volunteers

In Neh. 11:2 and the people blessed all the men that willingly offered themselves. A large part of the work done for the good of the community, is done by volunteers. Some of the best work done in this community, and city of ours, is done by men and women who willingly offer themselves. They are not paid to do what they do. But they do it out of gratitude.

Firemen - Hospital birth babies -

In our church there are those who volunteer as officers, Sunday School teachers, workers, visitors, Vacation Bible School workers, W. M. U. workers. They love the pleasure of doing good.

The author of this Psalm 110 presents a king - who is also a priest. Who volunteers to be the leader in the deadly encounter with a cruel foe.

It is a battle unto the death. It is the end, and in victory, for the volunteer. This is a beautiful poem of warriors streaming forward to take their place as near to the leader as they possibly can, as he rushes forth to the battle. They are volunteers. The drama is with vividness and the death struggle is tremendous. In these introductory statements, David speaks V. 1 - the Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand. Until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Now in these opening remarks, I want you to get a clear picture. David is referring to one thing. The Messiah and his work. He is talking about God's work and he is talking about the coming forth of Christians - who are won from the power of the Devil. And David in the Psalm says he is a prophet of God. And he is predicting the victory of the Messiah - the son of God. Now in the Psalm, the Messiah is presented - not just as an earthly king, alone. Because no human king could possibly fill this picture.

But he is talking about one who came in the fullness of time, as a babe in Bethlehem and began an active campaign against the Devil. Without embarrassment, he recognizes him, as a priest and as a King. And this Psalm is frequently quoted in the New Testament as our Lord used it in his conversation with the Pharisees. And with the Scribes.

We need to keep these things in mind as we look at this Psalm. First, the Lord. The Priest's king. And he is pictured throughout the verses. And then secondly, the volunteers which begin in V. 3.

I. THE LORD

V. 1 " He says my Lord, sit on my right, and I shall make my enemies a footstool for you." We must take special note of Matt. 22:43 - David in spirit calls him Lord. The Apostles prove the dignity Melchizedek - and in him of Christ. By this, and so great a man as Abraham was paid in tithes. Heb. 7:4. The great man calls him Lord.

He is sovereign Lord, Lord Jehovah, and he sits as a king. And he receives of the father this honor, and glory.

For what God has said, shall not be unsaid.

Now the highest honor is here inferred by - sit thou at my right hand.

It is a ruling position. And the matter of footstool - his enemies in due time were going to be made his footstool. Even Christ himself has enemies that fight against him. They will not reign over him. And these enemies will be made his footstool. As a man sits with his footstool under his feet. He will subdue them in such a way - that shall be most for his honor, and for their disgrace. Mal. 4:3 says, he will tread down.

Now God the Father has undertaken to do this. It will not be done immediately. But it will be done.

V. 2 It says here - that this kingdom having been set up. That is beginning in Jerusalem The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of these enemies. The Messiah as he sits on the right hand of majesty in the Heavens, will have a church on earth. He will have an eye on that church. For he is the king upon the holy hill of Zion. Mt. Sinai was a frightful mountain. But the kingdom of Christ took rise from Zion. And by the rod of his strength - is meant the everlasting Gospel.

The power of the Holy Ghost is going among them, and the report of the word and the arm of the Lord, will accompany it. Isa. 53, Rom. 1:16. The Gospel coming in word and in power, and in the Holy Ghost. I Thess. 1:5. Note also, the Gospel of Christ, being sent of God is mightily through God to do wonders.

It is the rod of Christ's strength.

Now that this kingdom is going to be set up - it shall be maintained and kept up.

V. 3- We read that thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.

II. THE VOLUNTEERS

That in great number of subjects - that they should be his own people. They are redeemed by him. They are the here am I - send me type.

Christ's people are a willing people. The conversion of the soul consists of that soul being willing for Christ to come and to take up the yoke and follow him.

Now the enlistment here of soldiers, is that a multitude of volunteers are going to come forward. And even the Gentiles will seek it. Isa. 11:10. Here is the Messiah at the right hand of God in the divine throne room. And he has received words from the hand of God, the priestly office. He is (not) made a priest because of his birth or because of his heredity. But by divine appointment he became a priest after the order of Melchizedek.

V. 4- This is while we look upon him - there is a consuming love for lost men.
A great yearning to see the power of the Devil broken.

And suddenly he announces the intention to go forth as a warrior, to break the Devil's power and free the captives. The task is redemption of men. Now they - the king is cheered on by a spontaneous response. V. (6.) That is in joyful recognition of him. No king has ever written of such instant loyalty. No king has ever set himself to enter the (great Armageddon) that will guarantee the final defeat of the forces of unrighteousness. They can see the danger. The sacrifice, the wounds, and certainly the victory thrills their souls. As they love their leader, no sacrifice is too much. He will not go to battle alone. The life and death struggle will find them in the very thick of the fighting, as they are ready to go.

Because he is going to be a great conquering one - who will make up this army. Shall he go forth alone.

V. (3) Thy people offer themselves willingly in the day of thy muster. The assurance is given that pressure will not be necessary. The battle must have multitudes of strong helpers. Who are already responding with eagerness to take the oath of loyalty.

And the way to interpret this (literally) is to say this -- thy people shall be free will offerings. Each of them comes in with a thrust of enthusiastic devotion. He lays his body on the alter in front of the king, and this offering is in the spirit that was found in Abraham, when Abraham bound his own son Isaac and layed him on the alter, and lifted the knife. Abraham proved his love for his divine Lord. These volunteers come in the same spirit. In the same surrender and they are going to give their last drop of blood to prove their love for their king. It is a glad sacrifice, that he richly deserves.

In the days of Deborah, we are reminded of the response of the people. When the governors of Israel offered themselves willingly. In this picture of the king, he is assured that his army will be made up of willing followers. Who love him and who will not refuse him, down to the last breath. If it is needed to bring victory. Paul states this - I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice. Holy acceptable unto God. Which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world. But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove that which is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Another thing to note about these volunteers is that many of them are young. They are vigorous and they are able to venture. They have not grown old and cautious with fears. An Army officer does not want older men when he goes on some periless undertaking. But he wants you to dare, risk, and plunge forward in a dangerous venture. The king here is thrilled here that he has such a group when he says - thou hast the dew of thy youth. V. 3. May it ever be true that our Lord may be able to count among his volunteers, young men and women who possess a brand of courage and doubting that will make for victory.

In this season, when many young people are graduating, and going out into life - the youth of our day should become choice recruits to storm the gates of evil. And to help destroy the kingdom of the Devil. Isaiah tells us how we may keep and find eternal youth. He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might. He increases strength. Even the youth shall faint and be weary. And the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

As the leader is pictured here - in this warfare - it is a holy struggle. The evil one must be destroyed along with his work. The subjects who are slaves must be persuaded to come back. To the king for pardon and cleansing and the abundant life. In order to do this, it is necessary for him to offer himself as a sacrifice and as a substitute. And his life must end in death.

We know that temptation and victory over it, only comes through loyalty to this king. How are we supposed to be able to stop doing some of the sinful things we have been doing for years. How are we going to get rid of some of these hateful and greedy attitudes which we have. I just can't do it myself. You are right. However, the capacity to resist sin, comes from obeying God and the Holy Spirit in your life. The Bible does not tell us that we won't be tempted. That would be foolish. We know that we are in a world full of temptations. Most of them are tied to very attractive packages. They offer us something that we must try or we must buy just once. But the converted man has the offer of victory over temptation. No temptation is overtaken, but such as is common of man. God is faithful - he will not allow you to be tempted beyond that you are able. But with the temptation, will provide the way of escape. Also, that you may be able to endure it. I Cor. 10:13.

Temptation is a very powerful thing. And it becomes even more after you have been born again. There are those who may think that when they are converted, that they will become perfect right away. And will live on a (continual high). And then they find themselves being tempted. The new believer takes a look at himself. He is filled with discouragement. This is normal. The Devil tempts you. And Satan, we know, has this way of trying to over take you.

When you think about the story of a housewife who found a mouse in the kitchen,

and took a broom to it - the mouse didn't waste any time thinking about the housewife or the broom. He got busy looking for a hole to hide in.

So it is with us. When we are caught in temptation. We don't spend much time contemplating the temptation. We get busy trying to look for a way out. The Bible says, God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. When the Christian sins, he is miserable. And sometimes, he avoids other Christians. Sometimes he stops going to church. And sometimes he will stay away from fellowship with others. But we know that what the Psalmist is talking about - that we come to the King. We are in this holy struggle of warfare and our lives are going to be devoted to this struggle. And that we will engage in the Heavenly-directed work. Of saying to others - be ye reconciled to God. Because you have the same spirit as that of your leaders. And your lives are fully consecrated to him.

Do you know how to receive Jesus Christ, this king, this priest? There are four things that God wants you to do (and to know.) And these things are very very clear. There are simple steps to peace with God. There are some guidelines from the Bible which will help you, to accept this Saviour as your King. And you need direction, and the steps are very very conclusive.

✓ First, you must recognize what God is. And what God did. He loved you so much that he gave his son to die on a cross. A substitute for your name and the world. Whosoever - in that familiar verse. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, shall not perish, but have eternal life."

✓ Now the second step, you must repent for your sins. Jesus said, unless you

repent, you will perish. Luke 13:3.

✓ Third you must (receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.) John 1:12 - but as many as received him, to them gave the right to become children of God even to those that believe on his name.

✓ Fourth, you must (confess Christ publicly.) This confession is a sign that you have been converted. Jesus said everyone therefore, who confesses me before men, I shall confess him to my Father which is in Heaven. Matt. 10:32. You can make this happen now. "Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation" - if you are willing to repent of your sins. And accept Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you can do it now.

Pray " Oh Lord, God, I acknowledge that I have sinned. I am willing to turn from my sins. And receive thee as Lord. I confess thee. From this moment on, I shall live for you and serve you."

There is total consecration by these volunteers.

There is one additional thing that catches your eye here in these verses. And that is in these volunteers - they will have beautiful garments because it says that in V. 3 beauties of holiness. They will come forth. How beautiful and how wonderful. These volunteers march forth - they will have clean clothes, fresh garments, and singing

the song of consecration. They have a tremendous matchless purity. The priest's king who is leading them, has washed the garments - until they glisten with whiteness.

Isaiah said be ye clean, ye who bear the vessels of the Lord. Thank God for young people today who keep themselves clean for the Lord. In all generations, we find there are some who dare to be different. They will not defile themselves.

Our church is happy because we have a group of young Christian soldiers who have kept themselves and their garments clean, and joyously walk with the Lord. In the holy task of winning men back to the Father.

The king calls, as the verse go - conquering now and still to conquer. Rideth the king in his might. Leading the host of all the faithful. Into the midst of the fight. See them with courage advancing, clad in their brilliant array. Shouting the name of their leader. Hear them exaltingly say - not to the strong is the battle, not to the swift is the race. Yet to the true and the faithful. Victory is promised through grace. IV

There is another reference here to the dew that brings into the picture the beautiful, touching thrill as we read - which is a symbol of refreshment. Which lifts this old weary world. And it really needs it. The mysterious birth of the morning is so precious. As the Psalmist looks across the dry eastern lands, the dew and its freshness and sparkle of new life. To the dry thirsty world. And suddenly he visualizes that here is a world that is sin cursed. And it awakes by the life-giving visit who is the water of life.

His followers are gladdened because they are fresh and adorn. From the womb of the morning - these clean consecrated warriors come as dew to the king. With gladness.

There are two figures that Jesus uses. One is (salt) And one is (light). He talks about the kingdom man. And we can add - the figure of (dew) here.

- (Salt) is a preserving, purifying which combats decay.

- (Light) is more spectacular which guides and gladdens the heart of those in darkness.

- (Dew) freshens and fertilizes, and it quietly and silently comes to an exhausted world. It is God's will that his redeemed ones shall root out the rottenness and the corruption in this world. This is a big assignment. Who is able to measure up to it. We shall be affected as salt, as light, and as dew. Only in his spirit, character, and dedication.

In holy garments, from the womb of the morning, thou hast the dew of thy youth. (How) can you help to make it true.

- (Isaiah) said - here am I, send me.

- (Jeremiah) gave his heart to the Lord when he was young. He called him against

every impossible odds.

We have the same assurance, my grace is sufficient for thee. And low, I am with thee always.

This Psalm has a note of recklessness. Disregard for self. No one can count his own life dear. No one who hesitates when the cost is realized. Paul caught this idea when he said - let this mind be in you. Phil. 2 Which was in Christ Jesus. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery. To be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation. But took upon him, the form of a servant. And was made in the likeness of man. Such dedication is certain to bring victory.

We rejoice today, onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war. With the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal master. Leads against the foe. Forward into battle. See his banners go. 'r/

V. 7 He shall drink of the brook in the way.

How shall or how may we become eligible for a place in his ranks. The cost is much bigger than sometimes we suppose. The Devil is going to help make the price go up higher. And men are going to place the wrong price tags upon many things. And without men sometimes think of false values. They come to believe in things that they think are important.

Listen, Jesus went down to the brook and had to drink of that dark water. As he passed over on his way to the cross

He met a man one day and he re-arranged the price tag for the rich young ruler. And he would have made a good member in the crusading group. But with a sad heart, he turned back. He did not want to be associated with the king.

Saul of Tarsus met him one day, after days and weeks of fighting against him. On the Damascus Road - and he became a powerful follower of the King.

Peter met him one day, and gladly gave up the few hindrances that he had. To the great challenge that the king had.

Mary Magdalene came with a life of worthless pursuits. To find the highest joy. And she was the first to herald the story of the resurrection.

A young Greek Christian fell in love with Jesus. And became a martyr by choice.

A young shoe clerk - the Holy Spirit gripped his heart. And he gladly followed the example - and his love was turned into evangelistic fires.

A young man by the name of George Truitt, met and surrendered to his Lord. And under his divine hand, became the generation's most powerful voice. For spreading the message of Christ.

A shoe cobbler learned to disc heathen souls who needed to hear the Gospel. And

gladly gave his life to go to India.

Albert Sweitzer met and fell in love with Christ, the priest's king, and he turned his brilliant career as a doctor and musician, and a professor at the university to go to darkest Africa to heal broken bodies and to help bring healing to dying souls.

Eternity alone will reveal the influence of such consecrated men and women.

How may one become a marching crusader, in this great army today. It is all your own work. Your will must be brought into play. No one else can force you, no one can press you.

A volunteer is only one who can be admitted. You must first look upon him, fall in love with him, and give yourself to him. You must let your mind accept him. And be turned to the control of the saviour. He will be the one in your thinking. He is the king, the high priest, the redeemer. The sin substitute. And through his eyes you will see the lost world. You will not hesitate because you consider the price too great. You will not turn away because of the misery of yourself.

Because this king is going to win the victory. He is going to win over death. Over sin, and over every foe. "See from his head, his hands, and his feet sorrow and love will flow mingled down. Did er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown." /

In this blessed moment, you will lay your trembling hand in his nail-pierced hand.

You will pour out your heart in thanksgiving. You will rejoice to lay your life before him and in his keeping. And you will go forth with victory. Eternity alone will reveal the blessing that you are going to decide today. And one day around the throne in the presence of God the Father, your happiness will reach its greatest. When you see the victories and the sweeping, countless, millions saved by his death. You will rejoice and say, (thank God) I was a volunteer in his Army.