

### Introduction

We are on the eve of a great prophesied transition:

From privilege to persecution.

The sunrise of our earthly sorrows are here but... so also is...

The promise of eternal everlasting praise!

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

(Psalm 100:1-5)

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

J. Vernon McGee said, "Now that I am a retired preacher I find myself becoming an expert on telling young pastors how they should conduct their services. There is one criticism I want to make concerning my own ministry, and that is that I did not have enough praise included in the services. We ought to praise God more. We ought to worship God more. We ought to come joyfully into His presence."

I. Sing now & in the coming persecution!

# "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands."

(Psalm 100:1)

II. Rejoice now & in the coming

persecution!

- "Rejoice evermore." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)
  - "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." (Psalm 100:2)

According to the well versed faculty at the Moody Bible Institute, "The Thessalonians ... were facing the prospect of insufferable persecution, yet Paul commanded (note the imperative mood of these verbs) them to **rejoice**, **pray** and **give thanks**."

III. Pray now & in the coming

persecution!

- "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)
  - "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." (Psalm 100:3)

IV. Give thanks now & in the coming

persecution!

- "In every thing give thanks:" (1 Thessalonians 5:18a)
  - "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." (Psalm 100:4)

## V. Do God's will now & in the coming persecution!

- "For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18b)
  - "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

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A message from God, yes, from the Word of God to prepare you for what you know comes next. Christian, this is for you. (You're gonna need it!)

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