

This Is The Year The Lord Has Made!
Psalm 118: 24

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1. Picture a man in deep depression. Everything has gone wrong. He couples with the impossibilities of his existence an opening and concluding affirmation. **"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1 & 118:29)** Then, in the middle of this pessimistic/optimistic autobiography, he shouts, **"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).**

2. Picture a nation. Its name is Israel, surrounded by hostile countries during the days of the Psalmist. There was little hope. They express the same optimistic refrain. **(Psalm 118:1 & 118:29; 118:24).**

3. Today I bring to your attention this one verse. It is very familiar. **"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).** What does this verse tell us?

I. Today Is The Most Important Day In Your Life.

A Perhaps you would like to argue that one. Today doesn't seem to be that special.

B What is the Psalmist talking about when he refers to this being the day? He is actually mingling three understandings.

1. First, this is a day of religious celebration.

2. Second, this affirmation refers to an era in time.

3. Third, this is simply a very special day.

C God has a question to ask you. What are you doing with today?

II. The Lord Is With You This Day.

A Have you ever really stopped to think about its implications? This is not only a great day. **"This is the day the Lord has made. . . ."**

B The Psalmist goes on to talk about the forthcoming Messiah.

1. He refers to the stone which the builders rejected. This stone has become the head of the corner.

C Perhaps you can't relate to all of this.

1. God is remote from your problems. In no way do you sense that God is with you in this day.

III. You Have A God-given Instruction To Be A Joyful Person.

A Some pride themselves in seriousness. We've been raised to believe that religious people should be serious. The Apostle Paul instructs, **"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).**

B God makes you happy for a reason.

1. He wants you to be a joyful person, not primarily for yourself.

2. We are to be joyful, happy, purposeful people and communicate the authentic conviction that God is alive. He made this day.