Light and Life Class (September 8, 2019)

Psalm 133: “When Brothers Dwell in Unity”

A. Goal of the lesson: to understand how sweet it is in God’s eyes when we his people live together in the kind of unity the Bible commands to us

B. Setting: The pilgrims are in Jerusalem for one of the Jewish feasts, and someone (likely a priest) is reminding the gathered assembly of the sweetness of unity among them.

C. Analysis of the Psalm

1. v. 1: statement of the blessing of unity (blessing to whom?)

a. Why is unity among the people of God “good and pleasant”?

i. absence of conflict and presence of peace

ii. powerful witness

2. v. 2: the first word picture that describes the blessing of unity among the people of God (oil flowing down the high priest Aaron’s beard)

a. three characteristics: good “fragrance,” holy, able to spread out in influence

b. an example from my pastoral ministry

3. v. 3a: the second word picture that describes the blessing of unity (dew on the mountains)

a. characteristic of dew as blessing from God in Hosea 14:5: “I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon.”

b. Mount Hermon (about 9,200 feet high) lies at point where modern-day Lebanon, Syria, and Israel meet.

4. v. 3b: Zion the place of the blessing of life

a. The earthly Zion is a symbol of the heavenly Zion, the place of eternal life (Hebrews 12:22-24; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 21:1-2; etc.).

D. Looking Further at the Psalm 133 Call to Unity

1. How important is the unity of God’s people to the Lord? Why is our unity so important to God? See John 17:20-23.

2. What is one NT word picture of this same unity of the people of God? See 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

3. How does God want his people to express their unity? See Philippians 2:1-3.

a. “being of the same mind . . . and of one mind” (unity of belief); see Al Mohler, “A Call for Theological Triage,” at [www.albertmohler.com](http://www.albertmohler.com)

b. “having the same love” (for God and for one another)

c. “being in full accord” (on the purposes of the church)

E. Bottom Line

1. Ephesians 4:1, 3-6: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called . . ., eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”