For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture, the sheep of his hand

Ps 95

- O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
- ²Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.
- ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.
- O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
- ⁷ For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,
- 8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
- ⁹ When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.
- ¹⁰ Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:
- ¹¹ Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest. KJV

It is a beautiful picture to know that there is someone in control who is more powerful and bigger than you are. In verse 6 and 7, we acknowledged;

- ✓ He is our maker.
- ✓ He is our God,
- ✓ we are His people,
- ✓ we are on His land, and
- ✓ He takes care of us.

I have to say when I read these verses I see people wearing the clothing of the day and worshiping with song and dance. It is a picture of God dwelling with His people delighting in them and them in Him as well. I would be lead to believe that the Holy Spirit is in the midst of them as we have His presence with us in our Churches.

First and foremost, you have to believe that you are God's creation and that you are <u>created in His likeness</u>. That is to say we share some facets of God in our makeup. This has been severely altered due to the fall of course none-the-less; we are created in the image of God.

Hopefully, if we believe that there is a God who is responsible for us being here, we can claim, "He is our God."

In one sense, we can claim our religious affiliation and not really know who God is. What is amazing is that in our day of technological advancements, scientists are starting to believe in a 'creator' based on the complexity of life and the factors that allow life to exist in the first place. Discovery of DNA have lead scientist to say that life is way too complex to have evolved on mathematical probabilities – a god of Darwinian Evolution we might say.

Now with all that said, can we say "we are His people?" We can do so by saying yes to Jesus who is the second person of the Trinity. God is the first person, Jesus the second, and the Holy Spirit the third.

If you are not God's, or perhaps let me put this way, if you do not believe that Jesus is God's only Son, and have not <u>accepted Him</u> as who He is, God, then you really do not belong to His Kingdom.

The Bible tells us this world and life we live in is temporal, and God's Kingdom Eternal. If you are not God's, where do you spend eternity?

Jesus is prophesied as <u>the Messiah</u> thousands of years before His birth. The whole Old Testament is designed to point us to Jesus as a matter of fact. Nothing can be more important than to realize you need Jesus as your Lord. If he is your Lord, than He is most likely your Saviour as well.

We are blessed - even if you do not have Jesus as your God. There is a term called Common Grace. Common Grace allows us to live and die. It is mostly heard in connection with life. The rain falls on the just and the unjust. People can live on and deny God even exists. Yet God holds their very lives in His hands and will have to bring them into the subjection of His justice. Grace to die is given due to the nature of man after the fall. Death is not really a natural state – that is to say death entered into the world after original sin and fall of mankind. If men were to live on in their fallen condition, they would be eternal and therefore, eternally dammed.

The Good news is that God has provided a way for man to escape eternal separation from His Kingdom and rule.

So, if

- A. you believe that Jesus took your place of punishment and separation from God on the Cross at Calvary's Hill;
- B. you have decided to repent as best as you know how from sinning willfully;
- C. have asked Jesus to forgive you of your past sins;
- D. and asked for the Holy Spirit to enter you

Then you are His child - sheep as we read in the Psalm above of the Good Shepherd. Sheep need a shepherd and the shepherd feeds his sheep by taking them to green pastures. You can also say 'you are on His land.' The Promised Land where milk and honey flow like water is the place where God's children will spend all of eternity. There will be no more tears there as we read in Revelation – the last book of the Bible.

I urge the reader here as we read the next verse which states, 'Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart.' Just as there were those who did harden their hearts against God and would not follow the Lord's instruction regarding the entry into the Promised Land, we can deny Him and be excluded from His mercy today. You see, you cannot enter Heaven based solely on good works. Though they are recommended in the Bible, You have to start at the Cross. You cannot go further. All roads lead to the Cross and you cannot enter Heaven – the Promised Land based on your merits. You need to lay your sin down and ask Christ (Messiah) for forgiveness. The situation referred to here goes to the time when people would not follow what God had instructed them to do. So instead of entering into the Promised Land, they wondered in the desert for forty years till that entire generation died in the wilderness. Today, if you will please, come to grips with the God spoken of here. If you do not, you will have to later and it will not be good on your terms. It must be on His.

Joshua is the name of the man who led the children to the Promised Land in the Old Testament; Jesus is the name of the man who leads all people into Heaven. Jesus is a Greek form of Joshua which means deliverer.

God Bless you,

www.Jesus-abc.com/php/heaven.php

www.jesus-abc.com

www.Jesus-abc.com/php/creation.php

Psalms 95:6-7

True worship is much deeper than communal praise, for worship involves realizing the awesomeness of God and experiencing the fear of the Lord and a deeper love for Him. Too often Christian "praise" is nothing but religious entertainment and it never moves into spiritual enrichment in the presence of the Lord. Our singing must give way to silence as we bow before the Lord. He alone is Jehovah, the LORD, the covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. He is our Maker and our Shepherd. (See 23 and John 10.) Jubilation has its place only if it becomes adoration and we are prostrate before the Lord in total submission, "lost in wonder, love, and praise." What a remarkable miracle of grace that we sinners should be called "His people." He made us, He saved us, and He cares for us! Why should we hesitate to fall before Him in total surrender?

(from The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament © 2001-2004 by Warren W. Wiersbe. All rights reserved.)