

## Psalm 118:24

*“This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”*

Every day is a day the Lord has given us to glorify him. To be grateful for each day regardless of its content is the call and privilege of each child of God. Psalm 118:24 has been used repeatedly to exhort Christians to that end. However, this psalm goes much deeper than an exhortation for daily rejoicing and gladness.

What is the “day” that the Lord has made that we are to rejoice and be glad in? We can begin to answer that question in the preceding verses. *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”* (Psalm 118:22-23)

The day of gladness and rejoicing is the day that God laid the chief cornerstone; the stone the builders rejected. What, or should we say who, was this stone?

Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22-24 in a conversation with the chief priests and Pharisees. He told them a parable about a landowner who leased his vineyard to vinedressers then went into a far country. When the time came for the crop to come in the owner sent his servants to receive some fruit. However, the vinedressers treated them badly. He sent more servants and they were treated in the same manner. Lastly he sent his son whom the vinedressers killed. Jesus' obvious message to the chief priests and Pharisees was that he was the son, the chief cornerstone, they would one day kill. Even though it was God's plan, the kingdom would be taken from them and given to more worthy vinedressers.

Peter used Psalm 118:22-23 when he and John stood before the high priest and his family. He boldly proclaimed Jesus as the stone rejected by “you builders” referring to Israel's religious leaders. (Acts 4:11) Peter again establishes this fact in his first epistle. (1 Peter 2:4-8) The Apostle Paul also attests to Jesus being the cornerstone. In Romans 9:33 he quotes the Prophet Isaiah saying, *“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”* (Isaiah 8:14 & 28:16)

Psalm 118 is a song of salvation and deliverance which prophetically points to the coming work of the Messiah. The following verses are an example: (Psalm 118:5-6) *“I called on the Lord in distress; The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”* (Psalm 118:14-17) *“The Lord is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.”*

We are to respond to God's salvation with rejoicing and gladness. The psalmist uses the Hebrew word *guwl* which is translated rejoice. *Guwl* means to spin round under the influence of any violent emotion. I'm not sure that I know exactly what that looks like, but my guess is it doesn't happen in most churches on Sunday morning. The Hebrew word used for gladness is *samach* which means to brighten up, be blithe or gleesome.

### **Scripture references:**

1 Samuel 2:1

And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.

Psalm 9:14

That I may tell of all your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in your salvation.

Psalm 13:5

But I have trusted in your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

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