

The Sweet Dew of Unity

Psalm 133 is the fourth shortest chapter in the Bible (if one considers a "psalm" as a chapter). Yet the breadth and depth of this passage is profoundly more important than its length might suggest. Great things often do come in small packages!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Coming down upon the beard,
Even Aaron's beard,
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forever. (NASB)

This is one of David's "songs of ascent" (Psalms 120 - 134) that the people sang as they walked up the hill to Jerusalem to attend feasts and festivals. In this psalm, the people were singing the praises of brotherly fellowship and unity. To be together is merely a group, to be in unity is to be at peace as a family.

As I consider these last few weeks in which we have chosen to follow the social distancing guidelines of our health departments, we have all missed the regular fellowship that is the hallmark of peace and unity. As David wrote, it is good and pleasant. He likened the pleasantness of this unity to some of the things that the Jewish mind recognized as wonderful: the oil that keeps the skin soft and healthy in a region known for dry weather; the dews of Mount Hermon that waters the morning grass. That mountain, 9232 feet above sea level, today houses the highest permanently manned United Nations position in the world. It gets enough moisture that there is a ski resort there! Indeed a wonderful respite in a dry land.

As that cool, snowy mount is a relief from the arid heat, so is the good and pleasant atmosphere where brothers dwell together in unity. As we regroup to meet together to worship our Lord, I truly thank God for the good and pleasant unity that is a hallmark of this church family. Hugs and holy kisses (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; II Corinthians 12:16; I Thessalonians 5:26) will have to wait for a later date as we keep social distance to keep one another safe, but until then, what a precious blessing it is to be together to sing praises to our God and to share personal fellowship with one another. All praise be to Him!

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