

Psalm 115 - To God be the Glory

1 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

2 Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?”

3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men’s hands.

5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;

7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

9 O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

12 The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.

13 He will bless those who fear the Lord, Both small and great.

14 May the Lord give you increase more and more, You and your children.

15 May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

17 The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor any who go down into silence.

18 But we will bless the Lord From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 115 is one of the Hallel Songs that Israel would sing during Passover – 113-118

A) It is a Psalm that Celebrates the greatness of God by contrasting him with the idols of other nations

B) Tonight for our teaching I am adopting the outline put forth by Warren Wiersbe in his commentary on Psalm 115

➤ He is the Reigning God V.1-3

➤ He is the Living God V.4-8

➤ He is the Giving God V.9-15

C) And then we will answer the question – what should be our response to this God in V.16-18

He is the Reigning God V.1-3

1 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory,

A) One of the things that I have loved about seeing David in this time when he is King

B) He is continually pointing the people of Israel to the King of Kings

C) It is as if he is saying – Don’t look at me – Look at him!

What an incredible contrast to our current state of affairs – So much emphasis on Building your brand

A) I have to be honest with you – that has never set well with me.

B) There was a time here a few years ago – some people were trying to get me to do that

C) Personalize more of what I was doing here at the church.

1) The way of the future – Everyone is doing that

D) And I want to say-I am not judging anyone else who has done that –

E) But for me personally -It just didn’t sit well with me – Make Jesus Famous – Not Rob Salvato

So I love what David is saying here: Not to us but to your name be the Glory!!!

Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

A) We read in John’s gospel – these words about Jesus

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John saying the thing that stood out to us about the glory of God is Reflected in Jesus

A) Full of Grace and truth

B) Grace = God's underserved Favor

1) Truth is that which is perfect and Righteous

C) Jesus came reflecting - Perfect blending of Divine underserved Favor and righteousness

Consider 3 quick examples of this perfect blending of grace and truth that we will see in John's gospel.

A) #1 - John 3 - Nicodemus religious leader – comes to Jesus – We know that you are do

B) Jesus cuts to the Truth – He answers the unasked question that was really on – Nic's heart

1) Unless a man is born again – he cannot enter the Kingdom of God –

2) Truth { You need a spiritual birth – Problem how – what does that mean

C) Grace – John 3:16 here the solution For God so loved the world that He gave

1) That is how you are born again

Example #2 – Jesus meets a woman with a shady past at a well in Samaria –

A) Grace is seen he being a man talks to her – Culturally not normal

B) Grace is also seen in the fact that He being a Jew spoke to her a Samaritan – again culturally not normal

C) In the mist of the conversation: Jesus exposes her

1) He simply says – go get your husband – she says I don't have a husband –

2) Here comes the truth – Jesus says – You are right – Been married 5 times and the man you are living in sin with right now is not your husband

D) She is exposed – OUCH – how would you like it if you met someone – simply says –

1) Here is your life – thinking now – this is going on.

But Jesus doesn't leave her there

A) Grace is seen - She becomes the first person, a Samaritan woman, that he personally reveals himself as the messiah –

B) And He tells her if she believes in Him – He will satisfy the thirst for love and acceptance in her heart

C) Her life would no longer have to be marked by one broken relationship after another . – Grace

One more John 8 the Woman caught in the very act of adultery by the religious leaders of the day.

A) And they say to Jesus, the Law and Moses [THE TRUTH] say to stone her to death, what do you say?

B) Jesus sees through this – he knows it is a set up.

1) Expose him for being too gracious.

C) SO Jesus bends down and begins to write in the dirt, and he says to the men,

1) Let him who has no sin among you cast the first stone.

D) And then Jesus stoops back down and begins to write in the dirt again.

1) Was Jesus listing out each man's sin?

E) It is Possible because here is what happened –

Starting from the oldest to the youngest, the men dropped their stones and left.

A) Jesus said to the woman, “where are your accusers, does no one condemn you “And she says “ no one sir” And Jesus says, “neither do I”

B) That was grace, unmerited favor, the only one that had to the right to accuse her didn't.

1) But it doesn't stop there, Jesus says, “go and sin no more”

C) Here is God's heart – He doesn't want you to get stoned – He wants to see you set free.

Because the grace that He was showing to her and the grace that would be displayed in the Cross

A) This is what Jesus was saying to this woman and anyone else who has ever struggled in sexual sin

B) You're forgiven, but stop sinning. Don't let sexual sin master you.

1)It will wipe you out, it will destroy you, so put it out of your life.” But I want you to be Free!

Here the Psalmist pinpoints God’s Mercy and truth
A)Grace is getting what we don’t deserve – Mercy is not getting what we do deserve

Greatest example – the Cross – Truth – The wages of sin is death – the soul that sins will surely die

A)The TRUTH said – Doomed – DAMMED – LOST

B)Grace and Mercy says but here is the answer – My son will die in your place.

C)David is magnifying God’s Character as King – He is full of Mercy and truth

D)He is just and Gracious at the same time

2 Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?”

3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

God is on the throne in Heaven – He is Sovereign in all that he does

A)He is not held back by anything or Anyone

B)He is the Reigning King.

C)Now David is going to contrast him with the idols of men.

He is the Living God V.4-8

4Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands.

A)Notice the Psalmist says their idols – not their gods

B)I like that they are not really gods – they are just images of wood or stone.

C)They are Lifeless in comparison to God

The Bible tells us that God is a Spirit and does not have a body (John 4:24),

A)So when writers in Scripture speak about His eyes, ears, hands, and feet and so on,

B)they are using what theologians call “anthropomorphisms”

1)(*anthropo* = human; *morphos* = form, shape).

C)This is a literary device which uses human characteristics to describe divine attributes.

D)God uses the known to teach us the unknown and the unknowable.

But because the dead idols lacked the attributes of the living God,

A)they were unable to do either good or evil, yet the people worshiped them!

B)They have No mouths—They cannot speak to their people, make covenants, give promises, guidance, or encouragement.

C)Our God speaks to us! Promises to us Covenants

They have No eyes—They offer their followers no protection or oversight.

A)Our God’s eyes are upon us He is watching over us and we can trust Him.

B)They have No ears—No matter how much the idolaters pray, their gods cannot hear them!

C)Remember Elijah on Mt. Carmel – yell louder vacation / bathroom

Our God is the God who His ears open to our cries

A)Prayers never fall on deaf ears

B)They have No noses—This speaks of God receiving our worship

1)Sweet smelling aroma

(See John 12:1–8; Eph. 5:2; Phil. 4:18.)

They have No hands—

A)The workers whose hands made the idols have more power than the idols they call “gods.”

B)Our God is able to work for us as we seek to serve Him.

C)His fingers made the universe

D)and His arm brought salvation

They have No feet—

A)The people had to carry their idols

B)But our God carries us and walks with us. (See Isa. 41:10, 13.)

C)He is the Living God!!!

8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

A)Truth: We become like what we worship!

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

B)Said of Peter and John – they could tell they had been with Jesus!

C)Who can people tell that you have been with?
Joe Rogan? Jordan Petersen – FOX

D)I want people to see Jesus in me!

He is the Reigning God – He is the Living God
3rd He is the Giving God V.9-15

9 O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

12 The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.

13 He will bless those who fear the Lord, Both small and great.

14 May the Lord give you increase more and more, You and your children.

15 May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Notice the call to trust is given three times in these verses.

A)To- Israel – National exhortation

B)To the house of Aaron = The Priest – the Spiritual leaders

C)Then to those who fear the Lord! – The godly

Been said when God says something once – take heed

A)When he says something twice – pay carefully attention

B)When he says something 3X – put it into practice!!

C)Trust = Rest all your weight on him – do so to the point where it becomes 2nd nature

1)Chair – Car – Direct deposit – making withdrawals

Trust him because He is a Giving God!

A)He gives help

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15

B)He is the Giving God V.9-15

➤ He gives Help

➤ He gives protection – he is our shield

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped- Psalm 28:7 ESV

But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head," Psalm 3:3

"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word," - Psalm 119:14

C)He is the Giving God V.9-15

➤ **He gives Help**

➤ **He gives protection – he is our shield**

➤ **He gives Blessings**

D)Turn to Luke 12 – Jesus is talking to his Disciples about provision

²² Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing.

²⁴ Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶ If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest?

²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith? ²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these

things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. ³² “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom

It is his good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

A) Joy in blessing his kids –

B) Parents and grandparents we understand this right?

C) Great Joy in Blessing

But there is a mistake I think we often make when it comes to thinking about God’s blessing

A) We have the tendency to think that Blessing means a life free from problems

B) Not true – that can be a form of blessing

C) But there is also the blessing of trials

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-3

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. 1 Peter 1:6-8

D) Trials are a blessings – God allows to make us more like Jesus

Storms and Trials can also help us discover more of who Jesus is and wants to be in our lives – I AM

A) I am whatever you need

B) Storm – He is the one who stills the storms

C) Another storm – Jesus is not with them – He comes walking out on the water –

D) Storms over our head are under his feet

Paul’s thorn in the flesh –

A) He discovers the Blessing of experiencing God’s Grace being sufficient in his weakness

⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

So how are we to respond to this news that he is a Reigning God, Living God, a Giving God?

➤ **We are to be Faithful Stewards V.15-16**

15 May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. 16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

When God created the World he gave this mission to Adam and Eve

A) Love God – Love Each other – and take care of what he had put into their hands – Garden

B) God has given that same Mission to all of us –

C) Jesus summed up all the commandments in these two

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37

That is the mission he has given us too

A) The 2nd part is equally true – take care of what he has put into our hands – STEWARDS

B) Stewards of Time, Relationships, Resources, - what are we doing with what God has entrusted to us?

C) A steward is to be found faithful -1 Corinthians 4:2

D) Me: Heaven Husband to Denise- Faithful ?

Did I steward that relationship well

Note: Not was I perfect – Denise would be the first to say NOPE – me definitely not

A) Father to my 3 kids – Faithful ?

B) Pastor here – Faithful to this assignment?

C) Will I leave this place better than I found it ?

That is the question for all of us – Are we being faithful to what God has put into our hands

A) Did we steward our finances well – investing in the Kingdom of Heaven?

B) More than the Kingdoms on earth?

C) We are to be faithful stewards

2nd Response is to Bless His name V.17-18

17 The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor any who go down into silence. Once dead – too late for voluntary praise –

All will kneel and bow – confess – Jesus is Lord –

But we have an open invitation to do that now

18 But we will bless the Lord From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

Recognizing He is King and I am not!

A) It is allowing your life to be marked by an attitude of gratitude toward God

B) Dr. David Jeremiah emphasizes that gratitude should extend to all situations, not just the positive ones, as a way of trusting in God's plan.

C) When you are prone to have a heart that is always extending Blessing toward God – praise toward God

D) It makes you want to also Bless others

So maybe this was the catalyst for David saying in 2 Samuel 9 – Is there someone from the house of Jonathan that I can BLESS

Thankful for who God is and what He has done –

A) Makes you want to extend that same grace to others.