



HEBRON

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Dr. Landon Dowden

PRAISE THE LORD

Psalm 111

Passage in a Sentence: God is glorified when His Church knows Him rightly and worships Him passionately with their hearts, minds, mouths, and lives.

- I. **A HEALTHY CHURCH PRAISES THE LORD NOT JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE COMMANDED BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE COMPELLED.**
 - a. Regardless of what else we are doing – we are not worshiping if we are not thinking about God.
 - b. Why praise the Lord? The rest of the psalm gives reasons.
 - i. John Owen “We must not allow ourselves to be satisfied with vague ideas of the love of Christ which present nothing of His glory to our minds.”
 - ii. God’s works are great. (v. 2)
 - iii. God’s works are full of splendor and majesty. (v. 3)
 - iv. God’s righteousness endures forever. (v. 3)
 - v. God has caused his wondrous works to be remembered. (v. 4)
 - vi. God the LORD is gracious and merciful. (v. 4)
 - vii. God provides food for those who fear him. (v. 5)
 - viii. God remembers His covenant forever. (v. 5)
 - ix. God has shown His people the power of His works. (v. 6)
 - x. God has given his people the inheritance of the nations. (v. 6)
 - xi. God’s works are faithful and just. (v. 7)
 - xii. God’s precepts (every one of them) are trustworthy.
 - xiii. God sent redemption to his people. (v. 9)
 - xiv. God has commanded His covenant forever. (v. 9)
 - xv. God’s name is holy and awesome. (v. 9)
 - xvi. God’s praise endures forever. (v. 10)
 - xvii. Stott – All true worship is a response to the self-revelation of God in Christ and Scripture and arises from our reflection on who He is and what He has done. . . The worship of God is evoked, informed, and inspired by the vision of God . . . The true knowledge of God will always lead us to worship.

II. WORSHIP IN A HEALTHY CHURCH FLOWS FOREMOST FROM THE HEART.

- a. The psalmist says, "I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart." (v. 1)
- b. Matthew 22:37, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart . . . "
- c. Isaac Watts – The Great God values not the service of men, if the heart be not in it: The Lord sees and judges the heart; he has no regard to outward forms of worship, if there be no inward adoration, if no devout affection be employed therein. It is, therefore, a matter of infinite importance, to have the whole heart engaged steadfastly for God.
- d. Kauflin - Worship is not primarily about music, techniques, liturgies, songs, or methodologies. It's about our hearts. It's about what and whom we love more than anything.

III. IN A HEALTHY CHURCH, LOVING GOD WITH OUR HEARTS IS FUELED BY LOVING GOD RIGHTLY WITH OUR MINDS,

- a. The Psalmist says, "Great are the works of the LORD – studied by all who delight in them."
- b. We are not free to think anything we want about God. We are bound to think about God what He has revealed about Himself.
- c. The more accurately we know God through His Word, the more genuine our worship will be.
- d. Regardless of what we think or feel, there is no authentic worship of God without a right knowledge of God.

IV. IN A HEALTHY CHURCH, OUR HEARTS AND OUR MINDS ARE CAPTIVATED BY THE GOSPEL BECAUSE WE CAN ONLY WORSHIP GOD THROUGH JESUS.

- a. Again, let's look to the Psalmist – in listing the works of God – the Psalmist says, "he sent redemption to his people; He has commanded his covenant forever." (v. 9)
- b. Music nor anything else brings us into the presence of God. Only Christ and His death and resurrection bring us into the presence of God.
- c. Kauflin: Three reasons why the Cross is central to authentic worship:
 - i. Our access to God comes only through Christ. (1 Peter 3:18)
 - ii. Our worship of God is only acceptable in Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)
 - iii. Christ's work on the cross displays God's glory most clearly. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

V. IN A HEALTHY CHURCH WHEN OUR HEARTS AND OUR MINDS ARE CAPTIVATED BY THE GOSPEL, THEN WE WILL ALSO WORSHIP WITH OUR LIVES.

- a. The Psalmist says, "The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever; TO BE PERFORMED with faithfulness and uprightness." (v. 8)

VI. IN A HEALTHY CHURCH, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WORSHIPING TOGETHER WITH OUR FAITH FAMILY.

- a. The Psalmist says, "In the company of the upright, in the congregation" (v. 1)
- b. Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- c. Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."
- d. Living the Gospel will be countercultural and we live it best together.