

PSALM 115 2023 – The Futility of Idols and the Trustworthiness of God!

10/7/23 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – Graham Choir – (2:26)

To God be the glory, great things He has done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

PSALM 115 – This is one of the psalms sung by Jesus with the disciples in the Upper Room prior to going to the Garden of Gethsemane. (**Mat 26:30**) *And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.* In this Psalm, God is entreated to glorify Himself again, because the heathen, we presuming upon the absence of miracles, were all together denying the miracles of former ages, and insulting the people of God with the question, “Where is your God now?” It grieved the heart of the godly that Jehovah should be thus dishonored and treating their own condition of reproach as unworthy of notice, they beseech the Lord at least to vindicate His own name. The Psalmist is evidently indignant that the worshipers of foolish idols should be able to put such a taunting question to the people who worshipped the only living and true God; and having spent his indignation in sarcasm upon the images and their makers, he proceeds to exhort the house of Israel to trust in God and bless His name. As those who were dead and gone could no longer sing Psalms unto the Lord among the sons of men, he exhorts the faithful who we see then living to take care that God is not robbed of His praise and then he closes with an exulting Hallelujah! Should not living men extol the living God?

To Your Name Give Glory

Vs. 1-2 – An entreaty of God to vindicate His own honor.

Psa 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

- **There is something within man that desires admiration and glory.** Our flesh likes for people to admire us, to look up to us. So much of what we do in life is done to receive glory from fellow man. Many times, it’s done in a way to bring us more glory. Yet the psalmist says, “**Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory.** (**Jer 45:5a**) *And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh,” says the LORD. “But I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go.”*

Psa 115:2 Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?”

- **This is the taunt that we Christians often times receive,** especially when things go wrong. When something really bad happens there are always those around you that say, “Where is your God now? Look at what’s happened to you. You realize you’ve just been wiped out?” It’s sort of a taunt that the heathen throw at the Christian whenever something goes wrong that we don’t understand.
- **When we see the godly downtrodden while they themselves live at ease** and act the part of persecutors, they are very apt to speak as if they had triumphed over God Himself, or as if He had altogether left the field of action and deserted His saints.

Vs. 3-8 – A contemptuous description of the false gods and their worshippers.

Psa 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

- **Our God rules, our God reigns and my life is in His hands.** He has done what He has pleased but what He has done, He has done for my eternal good because He is interested in my eternal good much more than my temporal welfare. If God has stripped me from something it’s because He knows that that thing

could come in the way of our relationship, it could hinder my walk so God has removed it. He's in the heavens and He's done what He pleased. The psalmist recognizes that God is sovereign over my life.

Psa 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands (but always less than the maker).

- **Every man has a god.** There are some people who worship sexual pleasures and their whole life revolves around pornography and various forms of sexual pleasures. In the Old Testament they would have said that they worship Ashtoreth, the goddess of sexual delight. So just because we've quit making idols doesn't make it any less a god in your life. For whatever it is that is your master passion, whatever it is that is your great motivator in your life, that which keeps you going; that's your God. Though you may taunt the Christian and say, "Where is your God now," in reality you have a god.
- **He sees that everybody has a god** and that if men reject the living god in heaven then they make their own gods. The Bible says that "God created man" but here we read of man creating gods. Many times, they accuse us of that. They say, "Well God is just an invention of a man's mind. He needed to believe in something and so he invented the idea of God." Their gods are the inventions of their own hands. They made their own gods. Our God made us, we are His creation. We didn't create him, He created us. On the other side they are creating their own gods.
- **When a person does create a god, he creates his god like himself.** All of us love ourselves so much that when we are going to make a god we are going to make him like us. My god, if I reject the true and living God, is the projection of myself and I worship that projection of myself. If I were God this is how I would live, if I were God this is what I'd do, if I would God this is how I would handle that. You see how that many times our problem with God comes because He isn't like us. There are some people who, because things have not worked out to their own liking as they would have worked them out, actually turn from God because they have really made their own gods. This is what I would be if I were God.
- **When a man creates a god, he creates him after himself.** He carves out the mouths. He carves out the eyes, the ears, the nose, and hands. You see the little carvings of their gods made many times in the likeness of men and many times made like some kind of weird king of creature. The people who are into spiritism or demonism has these grotesque looking gargoyle type of gods quite often with their tongue hanging out. That tongue hanging out and down is a sign of demonic possession. That is why you see it often in some of the idols, it is a sign of demonic possession.

Psa 115:5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

- The heathen made their gods with all of the sense organs, but the gods don't use them; indeed, they cannot use them.

Psa 115:6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;

Psa 115:7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

- **The Folly of Idolatry** - In reality a man makes his god like himself but he makes him less than himself because when you carve a little idol the idol can't see though you've carved eyes on him.
- **Isaiah forty-four.** He really speaks of this issue of men making their gods. (***Isa 44:8***) *Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'* "
- **Talking about men making these other gods** he says, (***Isa 44:9***) *Those who make an image, all of them are useless, And their precious things shall not profit; They are their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed.*
- **Look how foolish it is to worship a god that can't see, that can't feel and doesn't know.** Gods where people do worship the gods, the money and all. (***Isa 44:10-12***) *Who would form a god or mold an image That profits him nothing? [11] Surely all his companions would be ashamed; And the workmen, they are mere men. Let them all be gathered together, Let them stand up; Yet they shall fear, They shall be ashamed together. [12] The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint.*
- **The molten gods, the little images molted out of gold and silver.** (***Isa 44:13-17***) *The craftsman stretches out his rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. [14] He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. [15] Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm*

himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it [16] He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." [17] And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

- **He shows how totally senseless it is.** You take a tree, part of the tree you cut up for firewood and you put it in the fire to warm the house. Part of the tree you fire up in the oven to bake your bread and to roast your roast. Then you take a part of it and carve out a little idol and set it in your house. You bow down to it and pray to it and all and say, "this is my god." How foolish!
- **What foolish things man will do when he has rejected the truth of God!** The Bible says, Because they did not want to retain the truth of God, God lets them believe a lie. God isn't being deceived. "Professing themselves to be wise" God said "they become fools. They make their gods, which are insensate; gods that can't see, gods that hear, gods that can't feel and gods that can't talk.

Psa 115:8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

- **When a man makes his god he makes it like himself, only less than himself,** but the truth is man becomes like his god. So, here's a fact that you cannot escape, no matter who or what your god is you are becoming like your god..
- **A person becomes like his god.** If your god is false you are becoming false, if your god is insensate you are becoming insensate; you are becoming blind to the spiritual realities, you are becoming deaf to the voice of God as he speaks in nature, you are becoming like your god. That is just a fact that you cannot escape. John said, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God it doth not yet appear what we are going to be but when He appears we are going to be like Him, we shall see Him as He is." What a glorious truth that is if you're serving the true and the living God, the God as who the psalmist said who is gracious and full of compassion and righteous. As you serve Him as He is your God you are becoming like Him. That's just human nature. A man becomes like his god. That is a truth that can be blessing to you or could be a curse to you. It all depends on who is your god because you are becoming like your god.
- **When a man makes a god, he makes his god less than himself.** Thus, becoming like your god, you are actually in the process of degradation, you're going down. If you are serving the true and the living God who is greater than us then worshiping him is always elevating, is always lifting a person up. So, you are on the way up or you're on the way down and it's according to what your god is!

Vs. 9-15 – An exhortation to the faithful to trust in God and to expect great blessings from Him.

Psa 115:9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

Psa 115:10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

Psa 115:11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

- **This three-verse, priestly admonition** (Psa 118:2-4; Psa 135:19-20) could apply to three different groups: (1) the nation of Israel; (2) the Levitical priests from the house of Aaron; and (3) proselytes to Judaism who are God-fearers. To all three groups, God is their help and shield.
- **In the midst of all the atheism, the materialism, and the immorality, trust the Lord.** Rest in Him. Draw near to Him. Cast yourself upon Him. Oh, this is a wonderful psalm! It will bring you very close to the Lord.

Psa 115:12 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.

- **God will bless you, too.** He will bless your friends, your house, your church, and your community, if only you will turn to Him. The thing that is so wonderful is that He is mindful of us. God has not forgotten me, and He has not forgotten you. I don't know your name and address, but He knows it. When I am in an airplane and look down and see all the subdivisions of a city, I think of the thousands of people who live there, and who knows them? Society is very impersonal. You are a number where you work and live; you are a number where you attend school, and you are a number to your government. But God knows you. God not only knows your number, He knows your name, and He knows all about you. Trust in Him.

Psa 115:13 He will bless those who fear the LORD, Both small and great.

- **This is a categorical, dogmatic statement.** Either you believe what it says, or you don't believe it. If you believe it, what a difference it will make in your life!

Psa 115:14 May the LORD give you increase more and more, You and your children.

Psa 115:15 May you be blessed by the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

V. 16 - An explanation of God's relationship to their present condition of things.

Psa 115:16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

- **Man is so blessed by the creator**, God who made the heavens and the earth, the heavens still belongs to Him, but He did give the earth to man. Look what we've done with it. Tragic the way we've polluted it, the way we are defiling and destroying it.

Vs. 17-18 – A reminder that, not the dead, but the living, must continually praise God here below.

Psa 115:17 The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor any who go down into silence.

- **While we are here on earth we are to praise the Lord**—here is where it counts.

Psa 115:18 But we will bless the LORD From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

- **Imagine Jesus singing this psalm.** God dwelling amongst men singing of the glory of God.

Summary:

- **May we turn our hearts away from the idols** of this world that would attract us and draw us after themselves, which is the greatest tragedy, ruining the potential that God has put in them.
- **May we turn our hearts towards God, worshiping Him, as we become like Him!** As we behold Him, may we be changed from glory to glory into that same image as His Spirit works in our lives! (2Co 3:18) *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.*
- **Though the dead cannot, and the wicked will not, and the careless do not praise God, yet we will shout "Hallelujah" for ever and ever. Amen!**

10,000 REASONS – BLESS THE LORD! – Redman (5:42)

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul, Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul. I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up. It's a new day dawning. It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass And whatever lies before me, Let me be singing When the evening comes

Refrain: Bless the Lord oh my soul Oh my soul, Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul. I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love And You're slow to anger. Your name is great And Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons For my heart to find (Refrain)

And on that day, When my strength is failing, The end draws near And my time has come.

Still my soul will Sing Your praise unending, Ten thousand years And then forevermore. Forevermore - Refrain (2X)

I'll worship Your Holy name Jesus I will worship Your Holy name, Sing like never before Oh my soul I'll worship your holy name

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE

OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!

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