

Psalm 145  
A Psalm for Uncertain Times

**A Song of Praise. Of David.**

**145** I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup>On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup>They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

<sup>7</sup>They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

<sup>11</sup>They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup>to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.]

- <sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.
- <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.
- <sup>16</sup> You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- <sup>17</sup> The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and kind in all his works.
- <sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.
- <sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.
- <sup>20</sup> The Lord preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- <sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Sermon Goal:

In the midst of the corona virus pandemic that is engulfing the world, to encourage believers to continue to praise God, to keep proclaiming the gospel, and to call upon God to save us from this virus.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, our Father, as we study your Word this morning, speak to us by your Holy Spirit and teach us how to live in these uncertain times. We need the strength and the stability of your holy Word. Give us, we pray, a guide, give us instruction, for living in these uncertain days. Give us your truth, give us your Spirit, teach us your Word today, in Jesus precious name we pray. Amen.

Intro:

God's Word is true and must be obeyed and relied upon, no matter what the circumstances of life - when times are calm and pleasant, or when times are stressful and confusing. These are truths that must always be trusted in and commands that must always be obeyed –like pledges of faithfulness in marriage vows – in sickness and health, in riches or in poverty.

Today as we study Psalm 145 we are going to discover some guidelines for helping us navigate these strange and frightful new waters of the corona virus outbreak. I remember attending my grandmother's funeral when I was a young teenager and at the beginning of his sermon the preacher said this: "It is at a time like this that we must turn to the Scriptures." So it is at a time like this that we are now in, an uncertain time because of the corona virus, that we too must turn

to the scriptures. As Peter said to Jesus, “To whom else can we go, Lord, for you have the words of eternal life.”

We are living in uncertain times. I remember when I was a teenager living in Houston and on the news we learned about the possibility of a nuclear war with Russia. It struck fear in our hearts because we realized it could happen at any time and if a Russian atomic missile came our way there’s nothing we could do to stop it. So there was this kind of dreadful fear that hung over many of us. It’s still true today, a nuclear war could wipe us out – but we’ve gotten used to it, I suppose, it hasn’t happened so I guess we don’t think much about it anymore.

But thankfully due to the kindness of our God we are not left alone in this world to be tossed about by the storms of life, by the threat of nuclear war and the danger of the corona virus, but we are given an anchor to hold us fast, to keep us steady. We have such an anchor in Psalm 145. Let’s see what the Lord will teach us today through this Psalm.

(The context of David’s life)

### **A psalm of praise. Of David.**

This is the last of David’s psalms in the Psalter (he actually wrote about 73 of them -nearly half the Psalter) and as James Boice said, it “is a fit summary of all David had learned about God during a long lifetime of following hard after the Almighty.” (P. 1250, *Commentary*). It is, in fact, a great psalm of praise. What about your own life? Is the story of your life one of praise to God? If it is, you have brought praise and honor to God, and no matter else you have done or not done, your life has been honoring to God, and he is pleased with you, and you have done the most important thing.

But if your life is lacking in praise to God, you can begin today to change that. “God’s mercies are new every morning: (Lam. 3:23).

*Consider David* – the trials of his life:

King Saul was jealous of him and chased him all over the countryside trying to kill him.

Later his own son, Absalom, tried to steal the throne from him.

He was often in fierce battle with the armies of the pagan nations surrounding Israel.

Then consider his great sin – he stole his faithful soldier Uriah’s wife from him and then arranged for him to be killed on the battlefield.

Yet in spite of his trials and in spite of his sins, he had unwavering faith and love for Yahweh his God. He had tremendous insight into the nature, the character of God. He understood God’s will

and ways. He was a committed worshiper and servant of Yahweh God. This man's close relationship with God is amazing, it is convicting, it is so instructive to us. In his devotion to God he was a type, a foreshadow of Christ himself.

Let's see what we can learn from this Psalm of David about how to live in uncertain times. He writes:

**I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.**

“extol” = lit. “to ascribe height to”

David was the great king of Israel, the greatest king they had ever had in the history of their nation, yet David knew there is a greater king than himself – it is the eternal God. Now in acknowledging God's kingship David is saying something that is crucial: that is, that God is King. So the Almighty God does not just give mere suggestions to his people, he does not just give recommendations to his people, as a salesman in a men's clothing store might recommend which coat he thinks look best on you. No, when God speaks, he speaks with divine authority and all his commands and directives must be followed. They are not suggestions or recommendations but commands that he intends for us to follow and implement and obey. Such is the relationship between a great King and his subjects; such is the relationship between our God and us. Are you willing and ready to submit to God's kingship over your life? Are you willing to submit to the rulership of the Lord Jesus Christ? If you are a Christian, you must.

David says here in v. 2:

**<sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

The verb “praise” here can be expressed in the joyful shout “hallelujah” - thus this is heartfelt and vocal praise – with the mind, emotions, and body.

Notice this phrase “forever and ever.” It doesn't just say “forever” but “forever and ever.” What this is showing is that David was dedicated to worshipping Yahweh not only through the days of this life, but also in the endless days of the Life to Come. He intended to continue worshipping and extolling God throughout this life and the life to come. What do we see if we look at the saints in heaven? What is their activity? Are

they playing dominoes, or doing needlepoint, or playing soccer on the heavenly playing fields?

Rev 15:3-4:

<sup>3</sup>And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,  
     O Lord God the Almighty!  
 Just and true are your ways,  
     O King of the nations!  
<sup>4</sup>Who will not fear, O Lord,  
     and glorify your name?  
 For you alone are holy.  
     All nations will come  
     and worship you,  
 for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Eternity will not exhaust neither the richness and depth within God that we will come to know more and more about, nor will be exhausted our desire to worship him

David declares:

<sup>3</sup>**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
 and his greatness is unsearchable.**

So what we see here in these first 3 verses is this truth that we learn from King David for the Uncertain Times we are living in:

**I. We Commit to worship God, no matter what. 1-3, 21**

In fact, the last verse in this Psalm reinforces the truth of the first 3 verses:

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
 and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

David is saying, “as for my mouth, I will fill it with the praises of God. Yes, I must speak of other things, for I am a man living in the world with great responsibilities. But the high point, the constant theme of my conversation, is the praise of Yahweh my God. I owe him everything; he has been so good to me.” We can say, “David, you are right. Let me join you in being a person whose life, whose speech, is marked by the praises of God.”

Let's look at a few examples from the scriptures of other people who were committed to worship God, no matter what.

We read earlier in the service about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Jews living in Babylonia during the exile and how they refused to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were hauled in before the king they declared:

...be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Dan. 3:18

So the King threw these three men into a firing furnace and when the king looked into the furnace he saw a 4<sup>th</sup> man walking like "a son of the gods." And the three men were not burned in the least. Then Nebuchadnezzar declared, "there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." (Dan. 3:29)

So these three Hebrews were committed to the worship of Yahweh, no matter what, even if it meant their death.

Acts 4:18-20

<sup>18</sup> So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, <sup>20</sup> for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

2 Thess. 1:3-5

<sup>3</sup> We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. <sup>4</sup> Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. <sup>5</sup> This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—

Current examples:

Churches in Iran and China

## **I. We Commit to worship God, no matter what.**

Let's look at the next section of Psalm 145: verses 4-13

**<sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

**<sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty,**

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

<sup>7</sup> They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

<sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

**[The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.]**

I want us to notice verse 4. What is it saying? “That one generation will commend your works, O Lord, to another and declare your mighty acts.” What is it telling us? It is saying that we who live in this generation have the responsibility of passing on the faith, the Christian faith, to the next generation.

The second major thing I want us to see here as we consider what king David would teach us about living in these uncertain times is that...

## **II. We Keep declaring the Gospel, no matter what. 4-8, 10-13**

Here in these verses we see the God who is to be proclaimed:

1. We see Yahweh’s worthiness to be worshipped
  - a. No god can come close to Yahweh’s greatness
  - b. -4-6 – His works
  - c. 7-9 – essential attributes:  
Goodness

Righteous  
 Gracious  
 Merciful  
 Slow to anger  
 Abounding in steadfast love

Look at verse 7:

***They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness***

What are we to do? We are to make God famous in the earth. We are to make him known, we are to proclaim the Gospel. What did Jesus say?

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:18-20

What is our job as Christians? It is make God famous in the earth, especially among those who do not know him. “By his deeds he has given a definitive account of Himself.” NBC, p. 544

Let’s look at a couple of examples from the Scriptures of those who are determined to keep proclaiming the gospel:

Acts 8:1-8

And Saul approved of his [Stephen’s] execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

<sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup> And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much joy in that city.

Acts 14:19-23 – Paul stoned at Lystra



<sup>19</sup> But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.<sup>20</sup> But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup> When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. <sup>23</sup> And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

### Current Examples:

Iran and China again- Christian's refuse to remain silent...

1. Are you passing on the truths of the gospel to the next generation of people? When did you last talk to someone about the gospel? When did you tell them about Christ's death, resurrection and ascension into heaven as their only grounds of acceptance with God and the only basis for the forgiveness of their sins? We must speak the truth...

So we too must not stop proclaiming the Gospel....

## **II. We Keep declaring the Gospel, no matter what. 4-8, 10-13**

Let's read the final section of Psalm 145:

- <sup>14</sup> **The Lord upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.**
- <sup>15</sup> **The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.**
- <sup>16</sup> **You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.**
- <sup>17</sup> **The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and kind in all his works.**
- <sup>18</sup> **The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.**
- <sup>19</sup> **He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.**
- <sup>20</sup> **The Lord preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.**

Look at some of these words in this section:

"The Lord upholds all who are falling..." v. 14

Verse 15: The eyes of all look to you.”

Verse 18: The Lord is near to all who call on him...

Verse 19b: ...he also hears their cry and saves them.

### **III. We call upon the Lord for his help, no matter what. 14-20**

We are faced today in our nation, in our community, in our world with this frightening reality of the corona virus. But this is not the first time God’s people, in particular, have had to face the possibility of death.

Exo. 14:10-14

<sup>10</sup>When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” <sup>13</sup>And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

In the faith of imminent slaughter and death under Pharaoh’s army.

So, we must not be afraid, but call on God and wait to see his salvation.

Isa. 37:15-20- The Assyrian king Sennacarib’s threat:

<sup>15</sup>And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: <sup>16</sup>“O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. <sup>17</sup>Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. <sup>18</sup>Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, <sup>19</sup>and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. <sup>20</sup>So now, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the Lord.”

Notice how Hezekiah began his prayer – with praise to God. This is the proper way to approach God in prayer.

He is worthy no matter our circumstances.

Other examples:

The Lord’s prayer

Acts 4:24-31

<sup>4</sup>And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers were gathered together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed’.—

<sup>27</sup>for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup>to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup>while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

We pray; we go to God.  
See book of James – we go to God first.  
We beseech God to hear us.

So...

**III. We call upon the Lord for his help, no matter what.**

How do we deal with Uncertain Times?

**I. We Commit to worship God, no matter what.** 1-3, 2

**II. We Keep declaring the Gospel, no matter what.** 4-8, 10-13

**III. We call upon the Lord for his help, no matter what.** 14-20

AP

1. We can must keep worshipping God and proclaiming the Gospel whether we get sick or not. Getting the virus or not is secondary; praising and declaring must go on

God is King. He owns all things. What can you, a mere creature, give him that he doesn't own already? You can give him your praise and worship...

## 2. We must pray

From Ronnie, Floyd, SBC:

"...we must call upon God in these uncertain times. But, the prayer does not need to cease or even slack (we're told in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray constantly"). Each of us personally -- and our churches collectively -- must increase in prayer. Together, this is a time for us to practice extraordinary prayer and seek the Lord. We join those who have gone before us by calling out these words to God: "We do not know what to do, but we look to you." 2 Chronicles 20:12

Each of us need the wisdom of God, the discernment of the Holy Spirit in decision-making, and the courage to face these times with faith, perseverance and hope. May this global crisis grant to each of us insight and innovation in ministry that we would not have had otherwise."

Summary:

Sermon Goal:

In the midst of the corona virus pandemic that is engulfing the world, to encourage believers to continue to praise God, to keep proclaiming the gospel, and to call upon God to save us from this virus.

In these uncertain times let us remember:

Isa. 59:1

Surely the arm<sup>(A)</sup> of the Lord is not too short<sup>(B)</sup> to save,  
nor his ear too dull to hear.<sup>(C)</sup>

Let us praise, let us proclaim the life, death and resurrection as the only hope of humankind, and let us pray to our God and look to him for his help in these uncertain times.

Let us pray:

Thank you, our God, that when life is uncertain, we have you, the living God, to look to, to depend on, to guide us. You are worthy of our worship every day, in good times and in fearful times, and your gospel remains the only hope for a lost world whose infection of sin is even worse than the corona virus. Help us hold forth the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Savior of sinners to those in our generation. And help us be diligent to pray, to be alert to pray for all the saints, and for the world. Send, O Lord, your healing mercy to us and to the world. Show forth your strong arm of salvation and enable us to be faithful to praise you, to proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to pray to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Jeff Gregory, pastor  
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Structure of the Psalm

Personal commitment to worship

Congregational commitment to worship

The Nature of our God v. 8-9

The Proclamation of the Kingdom v. 10-13

Yahweh's Universal Provision v. 14-16

Yahweh's Personal Care v. 17

**I. We commit to worship God no matter what. 1-3, 21**

2. This Psalm begins with praising God – the proper way to approach God in prayer.

Examples:

- a. Hezekiah's Prayer – Isa. 37:15-17

<sup>15</sup>And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: <sup>16</sup>“O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. <sup>17</sup>Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

- b. Lord's Prayer

- c. Acts 4:24ff

- d. Eph. 3:14-16

3. Because of Yahweh's worthiness to be worshipped

- a. No god can come close to Yahweh's greatness

- b. -4-6 – His works

- c. 7-9 – essential attributes:

Goodness

Righteous

Gracious

Merciful

Slow to anger

## Abounding in steadfast love

4. A commitment that only begins in this life. -1
5. Praising God is to be intrinsic to our daily lives -2
6. We fill our thoughts with thoughts of God - 5
7. We fill the sound waves with the praises of Yahweh -21

**We Keep Declaring the Gospel. 4-7**

1. We must pass on the faith to the next generation -4
2. We must pass on the Gospel to this generation by
  - a. Speaking of God's deeds and greatness – 4,6  
This generation, and in particular, v. 6 says "I" will declare your greatness  
Yes, the church does this, but as a member of the body of Christ I must do my part. I must add my proclamation to the church's proclamation. The church's proclamation is only as strong and clear as its individual members are strong and clear.
  - b. Declare the nature of God
    - 1) Abundant goodness – 7a, 9a
    - 2) His righteousness – 7b
    - 3) Gracious – 8a
    - 4) Merciful – 8a, 9b
    - 5) Slow to anger – 8b
    - 6) Abounding in steadfast love – 8b

**We call upon the Lord for his help, no matter what 14-20**

"His arm is not shortened..."

Surely the arm<sup>(A)</sup> of the Lord is not too short<sup>(B)</sup> to save,  
nor his ear too dull to hear.<sup>(C)</sup>