

May 8th, 2022AM

Psalm 111 – “Wholehearted Thanks to God”

- A. What does it mean to give God wholehearted thanks & praise?
1. The psalmist in **v1** said, **“Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart.”**
 2. This is something every true believer is called to strive after.
- B. We are not sure who the author of this beautiful psalm is; however, his encouragements & challenges are so vital for us to grow in our love & obedience to God.

God calls you to give Him wholehearted thanks & praise.	I. <u>WHY YOU ARE TO THANK & PRAISE GOD.</u> II. <u>HOW YOU ARE TO THANK & PRAISE GOD</u>
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I. WHY YOU ARE TO THANK & PRAISE GOD. This psalm gives us so many reasons:

- A. You are to thank & praise our Triune God for His **“splendid & majestic”** works according to **v3**.
1. Verse **4a** says **“He has made His wonders to be remembered.”**
 - a. The signs & wonders of the Exodus deliverance will never be forgotten.
 - b. His deliverance through Christ will be remembered & celebrated for all eternity.
 - c. If God’s wonders matter to you, you will not forget them.
 2. He provides for his people according to **v5a** **“He has given food to those who fear Him;”**
 - a. The many ways God cares for us.
 - b. One way we celebrate this morning is through our mothers. We will even sing about it as we give thanks & praise to God in singing:

“Now thank we all our God with heart & hands & voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, & still is ours today.”
 3. God reminds us how He gave Israel the promised land. → look at **v6**.
 - a. The Hebrew word for **“heritage”** is better translated as “inheritance” as the ESV does.
 - 1) “Heritage” first meant “that which may be inherited.”
 - 2) The modern usage of the word “heritage” can be understood as one’s inherited culture or upbringing such as one having a Cajun, German, Spanish, or Italian, or Christian heritage.
 - b. The Jews were strictly forbidden to inherit the culture or ways of the nations; the psalmist in **v6** clearly has in mind the physical wealth of the nations as an inheritance as when God said, **“I gave you a land on which you had not labored, & cities which you had not built, & you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards & olive groves which you did not plant” (Josh 24:13).**
 4. Another “splendid & majestic” work is God’s giving of His law. → Look at **vv7-8**

B. **Psalm 111** also teaches that you are to praise God for His person.

1. **2nd ½ of v3** says, **“His righteousness endures forever.”**
2. **2nd ½ of v4** says, **“the Lord is gracious & compassionate.”**
3. He is a promise-keeping God according to, **2nd ½ of v5: “He will remember His covenant forever.”**

C. We are to thank & praise God because of His covenant redemption. → Look at **v9**.

II. HOW YOU ARE TO THANK & PRAISE GOD

A. We are to thank & praise God with the whole heart as we imitate the psalmist in **v1: “Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,...”**

1. God does not want us to just go through the motions yet have our hearts— our affections— far from Him.
2. Jesus said citing Isaiah in **Mat 15:8-9: “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.”**
 - a. Some of us in modern America can point a finger at those compromising Pharisees, yet this passage is a call for us to examine ourselves.
 - b. Flee having a god of your imagination.

B. We are to thank & praise God in private worship yet especially in corporate worship according to the end of **v1**. Wholehearted praise is to be given to God “... **in the company of the upright & in the assembly.”**

1. A person who calls himself or herself a Christian yet repeatedly avoids corporate worship without a valid excuse is in sin & needs to repent.
2. True disciples who seek to give God wholehearted praise by worshipping Him in spirit & truth do not forsake the gathering of the saints as is the habit of some (**Heb 10:25**).

C. In **v2**, because “**Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.**”

1. If you are thankful for what He has done for you, you should study His great works.
2. This is a call for you to study the Word of God.

D. In response of God’s person & work which includes His covenant redemption, you are to fear Him. The psalmist says in **v10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”**

1. That statement is repeated verbatim in **Prov 1:7 & Prov 9:10**. When truths are repeated in Scripture, it is because God wants us to take special notice.
2. Let’s read all of **v10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.”**
 - a. Almost every translation except the ESV has “His commandments” in italic print because “His commandments” is supplied. It doesn’t occur in the Hebrew of this psalm.
 - b. The ESV has the most accurate translation of **v10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!”**
 - c. **Job 28:28** Gives us a good explanation of how you are to fear God: “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; & to depart from evil is understanding”
 - 1) To depart from evil is to depart from sin.
 - 2) **WSC 14: “Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.”**
 - 3) The law of God is necessary to teach us how to depart from sin & evil.
 - 4) This is why some translators supply the words “His commandments” in **Ps 111:10**.

Review, further application, & conclusion: