

Psalm 145:1-21 Thankful for God's Generosity Falls Ch. AM 11/19/2023

How do we lose our thankfulness, and how do we get it back again?

We lose our thankfulness when we lose our praise.

We lose thankfulness when our vision of God's greatness grows hazy.

How do we get it back again? By seeing our God more clearly.

The Book of Psalms is a book of praises, and psalm 145 is the only Psalm with this title "*A Song of Praise*." However, Praises is the title for the whole Book of Psalms. The previous Psalms - 140-144 - showed an attack on the King David's throne. Evildoers threatened the King with force, strategies, and pursuits. But here in Psalm 145, those threats are now easily dismissed. How? Because King David knows and celebrates that he has such a great God. Psalm 145 is a song of praise for the certain victory. The remaining Psalms, 146-150 are a grand conclusion for the whole Book of Psalms by singing 5 songs of praise in a row. So, the lasting impression the Book of Psalms gives us is to praise God and be thankful.

Psalm 145 is the last Psalm of David in the Book of Psalms. It is David's grand finale. This is one of the 8 Psalms that are acrostics – the letters of the Hebrew alphabet begin each line. This reminds us that David paid close attention to the words, message, and details. David certainly "pulls out all the stops" which is a metaphor from church organs to say that this Psalm is David's reaching effort to praise God the best that he can. In other words, here David used extravagant language with all the terms he can think of to express His praise to God and also in David's appeal to all creatures to join David in the praise of our God. Our main pt: **We praise our generous God.**

Remember that the devil was once an angel. How did the devil lose his thankfulness, and lose his position? How did the devil go from being an angel to being the devil? How did the devil go from serving in the presence of God, to falling down away from God? How did that happen? At some point, the devil began by frowning instead of smiling. The devil lost his thankfulness by skipping his morning Alleluias.

Has your heart gone sour? How do you get thankfulness back again?

Praise.

That's right, praise. Praising God. Worshipping God.

Keeping perspective.

What is praise? Seeing God's greatness. Worship is saying in our hearts that God is generous, and we're glad about that.

Any morning that we don't say God is generous, and we're glad about that, is a morning that we are starting to lose our thankfulness.

On the contrary, any morning that we say God is generous, and we're glad about that, is a morning we are starting to get our thankfulness back again.

**1. We commend God's works to the next generation. (v.1-7)**

Verse 1 – extol = to lift up, to elevate to the highest position.

Who? My God and King. Wait. King David is writing and King David has a king! The LORD God is the King of King David.

How long would David keep going on praising God his Heavenly King?

Verse 1 “...and bless Your name forever and ever....”

Verse 2 David wrote, “*Every day I will bless You...*” We come together on Sundays to bless and worship God. Will you lose your thankfulness by this time tomorrow? David is teaching us about daily praise.

Verse 3, “*Great is The LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.*” This Psalm is not just David being fanatical. There are solid reasons for God to be praised. God is most worthy of praise. God deserves it. God is great in a manner that no one can fully search out or fathom. God is so great that it is not enough for David and those gathered with David to acknowledge God that day, and consider the praise to be completed and adequate. God’s incredible accomplishments must continue to be proclaimed. David grasps that ongoing need of praise. Verse 4, “*one generation will commend your works to another...*”

What is presented here in v. 4 and continuing through verse 7 is the greatness of God as displayed in His mighty works. The word “*works*” is included 3 times (v.4,5,6), and two other words are included, “*acts*” (v.4) and “*deeds*” (v.6). As David wrote his last Psalm and considered the future for God’s kingdom, it seems that David sensed and predicted that the actions of God would reach a new climax later in the gospel events. Even beyond that, David’s use of the words forever and ever repeatedly show David’s understanding that the actions of God would keep moving towards their final consummation in God’s very presence.

David had a prediction in verse 5 that gave the sense that David had not yet seen all of God’s works, and David looked forward to a future time to review it all, “*On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.*”

Consider the stack of words David has so far used, “glorious, splendor, majesty, wondrous, great, greatly, greatness, mighty, awesome, fame, abundant.” David is balanced between the praise that David himself will offer, and the praise that David calls for the coming generations to offer. David will extol, David will bless God, David will meditate on God’s works, and we will commend God’s works and we will declare His mighty acts. But David keeps going. This morning when we sing God’s praises, David is not silent!

How is knowledge of God’s mighty actions passed along from one generation to another? By the verbs in verse 6 and 7, by speaking of God’s power by declaring God’s greatness, by pouring forth the fame of God’s goodness, and by singing aloud of His righteousness.

Here David has made known to all future generations in writing, David's last song about God's greatness in God's actions of generosity. And what a fulfillment the words of Psalm 145 have had since the death of David in these intervening generations and what a fulfillment this Psalm continues to have within our generation! Of course the highlight of the Psalm was its fulfillment in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, whose mighty work was his death and resurrection! In fact, there is embedded in the Psalm a forward motion towards the working of God in the world. God's workings are not all in the past. God's working is present within each generation. Today's generation is praising God. Today's church is commending God's work to the younger generation. In that way, God is at work today. Jesus said in John 5:17, "*My Father is working until now, and I am working.*" Both God the Father, and God the Son are working, and we know that the Spirit of God is also working.

And this pattern was continued from King David, in each generation, right down to us. We have King David, then King Solomon, and all the kings and prophets. Then we have our Lord Jesus, and His apostles such as John and Peter. We have testimony from the Apostle Paul's generation. The story of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 is suggestive. It is suggestive that the list of heroes is only a starting list, and that it is therefore still being completed and more names are being added. So, we add testimony of God's workings in other believers, such as Mother Monica's prayers producing Augustine's faith and so we hear spiritual coaching from Augustine's generation to us. We hear from Bernard of Clairvoux, and from Martin Luther, from Charles Spurgeon, and from Dr. J. Gresham Machen. From each generation, there are writings in the libraries of Christians alive today. We draw from all of them to study God's Word. It is not just that each generation repeats the story of God's workings. Rather, each generation adds interpretations and practical lessons to the story of God's workings in the world. In other words, God continues to act in us and through us in our generation. God's greatness can be seen here and now.

## **2. We give thanks to God for His love! (v.8-13)**

Just as the first section focused on God's works, now we move to verses 8-13, and we praise God for His best work – His eternal love for us.

God's love is a repeated theme in this section. In verse 8, God's character is described as gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In verse 9, God is good to all and has mercy over all. In verse 10, God's works give thanks, and God's saints bless Him. In verse 11, God's saints speak of His glory and power, in verse 12 it is saints who make known to others the mighty actions of God, and His splendor. In verse 13, God's everlasting character is, and notice God's kindness is extended to all of His works.

God's mighty power was seen in His love. In this next section, verses 11-13, God's love is seen in His rule. Here we find the rule of God in the theme of his kingdom. The word "kingdom" is in verse 11, again in verse 12, and two times in verse 13.

What did God say about His own love? God told us. Remember how Moses broke the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments? God told Moses to chisel out two new stones, and that command of God was God's act of love. In obedience, Moses did it - Moses went up Mount Sinai again a second time, as the Lord commanded him. Exodus 34:5-6, "*Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, The LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.'*"

God had previously built the world. After that, God was building His kingdom.

Hebrews 13:14-15, "*For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name.*"

God built the world, and then sin came into it.

God is loving and powerful enough to rebuild a new heavens and a new earth, and He is starting with building a people. Why is He starting with the people? Because the people are specially designed to praise God.

(v.10 – Your saints shall bless you.

(v.11 – [Your saints] shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom...")

(v.12 – and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

WHY?'

(v.12 – to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds.)

1 Peter 1:9-10, "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*"

God was willing to destroy His Son to save His people.

God loves His people. God is powerful.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? God loves us with an eternal love, and we respond by praising and thanking Him.

### **3. We make God known to others. (v.14-21)**

There is a universality to God's love and rule.

v.14 the LORD upholds and raises up those who are bowed down or backs which are bent over. God can revive lost hope.

v.15 the eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season...v.16 ...You open Your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing

A complex and beautiful image! We can go to the zoo, and open our hand to feed one animal. When God opens His hand, He feeds all. Generous God joyously provides for all. Jesus taught in Matthew 5:45 that God makes the sun rise and the rain on both good and bad people, so that they can all grow crops in the fields. In Matthew 6, Jesus spoke about God providing for the birds and lilies, and how much more will God provide for us.

v.17, the LORD is kind. Here it is a word that designates loyalty, unchangingness, consistency. When providing food and sunshine, this kindness of God is another aspect of our appreciation and praise!

Whenever we have called on the LORD, and He has saved us.

Our response is to praise and thank Him!!

Praise is not something we fit in when we have time.

Praise is for all the time.

### **Conclusion:**

When we are younger, the question is, can we gain things, and keep praising God? Can we gain height, gain good looks, gain strength, gain education and degrees, and new jobs and positions of influence and gain wealth and possessions, and still keep on praising God?

When we are middle age, the question is, can we be very busy and keep on praising God? When we are pulled in all directions at work and at home, and in the community and in the church, and in the family, can we keep praising God?

When we are getting older, the question is, can we lose things, and keep praising God? Can we lose hair, and strength, can we lose looks and positions, can we lose influence and possessions, and abilities, can we lose health and lose loved ones, and keep on praising God?

So, what does God say to you if you don't have much time left on earth?

Let me share with you, a message that was entrusted to us from King David.

Will you open your heart to hear it?

Verse 18 is for you, "*the LORD is near to all who call on Him.*"

Verse 19 is for you, "*He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him.*"

Verse 20 is for you, "*...the Lord preserves all who love Him.*"

God answers prayer. God draws near to those who call on Him in prayer.

Nearness means closeness.

Let's unwrap the gift of verse 21. Imagine David reaching the end of his life. What would David be thinking? What would David be singing? What would David be saying? Those are good coaching moments for us in our last years.

Here the last verse, verse 21, the last written words of King David, “*My mouth will speak the praise of The LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.*”

SI - A person is not crippled 'til his heart has ceased to praise. Louis Albert Banks tells of an elderly Christian man, a fine singer, who learned that he had cancer of the tongue and that surgery was required. In the hospital after everything was ready for the operation, the man said to the doctor, "Are you sure I will never sing again?" The surgeon found it difficult to answer his question. He simply shook his head no. The patient then asked if he could sit up for a moment. "I've had many good times singing the praises of God," he said. "And now you tell me I can never sing again. I have one song that will be my last. It will be of gratitude and praise to God." Right there, in the privileged doctor's presence, the man sang softly the words of Isaac Watts' hymn, "I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,/ And when my voice is lost in death,/ Praise shall employ my nobler power;/ My days of praise shall ne'er be past,/ While life, and thought, and being last,/ Or immortality endures."

Praise is not just for people who happen to really like church services, and who like to sing. Praise is for all of us.

We are each encouraged to take verse 21 along with us. We are to echo our spiritual coach, and join King David in saying in verse 21, “My mouth will speak the praise of The LORD.”?

Because of God’s mighty acts, especially His love for us at the cross, and because of his constant watchcare over us, if we had a final message to say to all the people of the world, let it be these same words that we picked up from our coach David, from verse 3, “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised...”, and from verse 21, “*let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever!*”