

Morning Worship – May 21, 2017

“God’s Praise-Worthy Providence” Psalm 145:17

The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.  
(Psalm 145:17 NKJ)

I. See this verse (Psalm 145:17) in its Psalm 145 setting,  
emphasizing PRAISE!

About Psalm 145 C.H. Spurgeon said –

“David had blessed God many a time in other Psalms, but this he regarded as his peculiar, his crown jewel of praise.”

1. This Psalm is David’s loudest praise Psalm –

<A Praise of David.> I will extol You, my God, O King; ... (Psalm 145:1A NKJ)

*Extol* means to raise, or to lift high with praise, to praise openly, loudly, to praise in such a way you are HEARD far and wide! This Psalm begins the fireworks of PRAISE PSALMS that conclude the Biblical Psalter.

2. This Psalm has in mind the FOREVER nature of God’s covenant with David –

<A Praise of David.> I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever.<sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. (Psalm 145:1-2 NKJ)

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.<sup>13</sup> "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.<sup>14</sup> "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. (2 Samuel 7:12-14 NKJ)

Who is David’s seed / Seed referred to in these verses?

A. Solomon – David’s direct descendent whose was kingdom established after David, he committed sin – 2 Samuel 7:14B.

B. Jesus Christ – He is David’s SEED also. He is truly God’s Son, only His throne is established FOREVER, though He committed NO INQUITY, however, He is chasten for our iniquity –

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 NKJ)

Because this Psalm has a Covenant in mind, which means promises, vows and even God’s promises to us, it like an engagement ring for Christ, the Son of David, Son of God and His beautiful bride, the true Church. This would make Psalm 145:17 one of shining jewels in this amazing ring! David’s saying “I will extol you” - :1

And starting verse :2 with the words “Every day” imply a joyous committed constancy would be characteristic of David’s PRAISE and should be characteristic of the PRAISES of all God’s people! Let’s praise God EVERY DAY! We are engaged to Jesus Christ, look here is the RING, and it is a RING that makes us sing! And keeps us SINGING! One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4 NKJ)

II. See this verse (Psalm 145:17) as praising all of God’s providential ways and regarding all His creatures -  
The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.  
(Psalm 145:17 NKJ)

WSC 11 What are the works of providence? A. God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions. (WSC 1:11 WCS)

God’s preserving and governing are mentioned in this Psalm –

1. His Governing –

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. (Psalm 145:13 NKJ)

A. God’s kingdom is His eternal rule – “Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom”

B. It endures throughout all generations. The “throughout” in Psalm 145:13 means His rule is continuous ...

C. He rules over all things, big and small – all His ways / all His works

C1. – All Big things like kings and kingdoms, like Heaven and Earth And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Daniel 4:34-35 NKJ)

C2. All Small things like dice, the lot -

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33 NKJ)

2. *His preserving –*

A. *God provides for everyone, even all His creatures -*

**The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season.<sup>16</sup> You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15-16 NKJ)**

B. *But God especially preserves those who are His own –*

**The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. (Psalm 145:20 NKJ)** *There is a temporary vs. a permanent preserving, see John 10:27-30.*

III. *See this verse (Psalm 145:17) as praising God's righteousness and grace in regard to His own people –*

**The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. (Psalm 145:17 NKJ)**

“The word “righteousness” as used of God denotes that necessary perfection by which God is most holy and just in Himself, and observes the strictest rules of equity in His every dealing with His creatures.”

H. Melvill

1. *This righteousness obviously includes the judgment of sinners ... but all the wicked He will destroy. (Psalm 145:20 NKJ)*

2. *However I believe David had in mind also how God had dwelt with him regarding his (David's) sins -*

**So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.<sup>14</sup> "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *who is born to you shall surely die.*" (2 Samuel 12:13-14 NKJ)**

*Commenting on Psalm 145:17 John Calvin said -*

“The ground upon which praise is here ascribed to God may seem a common one, being in every one's mouth; but in nothing is wisdom shown more than in holding fast the truth, that God is just in all his ways, so as to retain in our hearts an unabated sense of it amidst all troubles and confusions. Though all acknowledge God to be just, most men are no sooner overtaken by affliction than they quarrel with his severity: unless their wishes are immediately complied with, they are impatient, and nothing is more common than to hear his justice impeached.”

John Calvin

*Here Calvin is thinking of the kind of circumstance that Asaph saw, which he expounds in Psalm 73, the wicked SEEM to be winning, triumphing while God's people seem to be crushed –*

**<A Psalm of Asaph.> Truly God is good to Israel, (what we all know at least in theory) To such as are pure in heart.<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.<sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.<sup>4</sup> For *there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm.*<sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble as *other men*, Nor are they plagued like *other men*.<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them *like a garment*.<sup>7</sup> Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. (Psalm 73:1-7 NKJ)**

**Surely I have cleansed my heart *in vain*, And washed my hands in innocence.<sup>14</sup> For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. (Psalm 73:13-14 NKJ) ...**

**Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I understood their end.<sup>18</sup> Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.<sup>19</sup> Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. (Psalm 73:17-19 NKJ)**

3. *God is just and gracious, just and holy, just and kind in all our circumstances, even when men are unjust, liars, cheats and the CLOUD of SINS blocks our view of God's grace to us, He is still there, He is right and good in all of it –*

*Joseph's brothers threw Joseph in a pit, that, was their WRONG judgment about what was best for Joseph, but God was right in allowing it -*

**"But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is this day*, to save many people alive. (Genesis 50:20 NKJ)** *See also Romans 8:28-29.*

**The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.<sup>19</sup> He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.<sup>20</sup> The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. (Psalm 145:18-20 NKJ)**

IV. *Application because God is righteous and gracious and in control, and we will be saved, praise HIM –*

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever. (Psalm 145:21 NKJ)**

*Arnold Brevick*