

Evening Sermon Outline – August 22, 2021

“Trust in the LORD!” Psalm 115

I. The psalmist’s prayerful desire for God’s Name to be glorified on earth -

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. ² Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?” Psalm 115:1-2

1. This prayer probably comes from a place and time when it seems, “Gentiles” rather the ungodly are winning, even while sinning –

This would be similar to what was happening in Psalm 73 –

³ For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. ⁵ They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. ⁶ Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. ⁷ Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. ⁸ They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. ⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. Psalm 73:3-9 (NKJV)

2. In such a place, the ungodly could say - “So where is their God?” Psalm 115:2

We live in such a place today, where prayer and the Bible are banned from schools and government and those who have money and power say mockingly, “where is their God?”

3. In such a place we could want God’s help selfishly, we want to be on top, rather than on the bottom ...
4. Yet, here we find an UNSELFISH prayer, something like Hannah’s prayer –
 - A. She desired a son
 - B. Yet, she would give him to God’s service!

II. The psalmist’s prayer comes out of his knowledge of God’s superiority –

1. Our God is above everything. The world is His chess board, we are just pieces, whether pawns or kings we are all in His hands, and He is also playing, controlling both sides -

³ But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Psalm 115 :3 (NKJV)

2. The idols of an ungodly world are nothing like our God –

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶ They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷ They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸ Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. Psalm 115:3-8 (NKJV)

A. Our God is Creator, their gods are created - :4
“Silver and gold”—proper things to make money of: but not to make gods of.—Matthew Henry

- B. Our God is living and powerful, able to do all He pleases, theirs are lifeless / powerless / fakes - :3 vs :4-7

C. Trusting in a false god, makes a false, lifeless person - :8
Verse 8.—They that serve a base god cannot but be of a base spirit, and so can do nothing worthily and generously. Every man’s temper is as his god is.—Thomas Manton.

Verses 4–7.—In Alexandria there was a most famous building called the Serapion, a temple of Serapis, who presided over the inundations of the Nile, and the fertility of Egypt. It was a vast structure of masonry, crowning a hill in the center of the city, and was ascended by a hundred steps. It was well fortified and very handsome. The statue of the god was a colossal image, which touched with outstretched hands, both sides of the building, while the head reached the lofty roof. It was adorned with rich metals and jewels. The Emperor Theodosius, having commanded the demolition of the heathen temple, Theophilus, the bishop, attended by the soldiers,

hastened to ascend the steps and enter the fane. The sight of the image, for a moment, made even the Christian destroyers pause. The bishop ordered a soldier to strike without delay, with a hatchet he smote the statue on the knee. All waited in some emotion, but there was neither sound nor sign of divine anger. The soldiers next climbed to the head and struck it off. It rolled on the ground. A large family of rats, disturbed in their tranquil abode within the sacred image, poured out from the trembling statue and raced over the temple floor. The people now began to laugh, and to destroy with increased zeal. They dragged the fragments of the statue through the streets. Even the Pagans were disgusted with gods who did not defend themselves. The huge edifice was slowly destroyed, and a Christian church was built in its place. There was still some fear among the people that the Nile would show displeasure by refusing its usual inundation. But as the river rose with more than usual fulness and bounty, every anxiety was dispelled.—*Andrew Reed*

III. *Yet, we tend to be like sheep who go astray, we are prone to wander from the true faith, especially in difficult times, under peer pressure, so the Psalmist exhorts God's people to TRUST HIM -*

⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. ¹⁰ O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. ¹¹ You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. Psalm 115:9-11

1. *Three times trust in the LORD is repeated!*
2. *Three times He is their Help and their Shield is repeated!*
3. *Repetition is for emphasis!*
4. *The repetition is NEEDED!*

When David fought Goliath, how many other Israelite trusted God enough to go against the giant?

IV. *We need to believe God will bless us, even when He has not yet –*

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. ¹³ He will bless those who fear the LORD, *Both* small and great. Psalm 115:12-13 (NKJV)

1. *Note God's wonderful mindfulness toward us –*

³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? Psalm 8:3-4 (NKJV)

2. *Bless is repeated FOUR TIMES ---*

V. *This blessing should be our prayer, wish and desire for each other –*

¹⁴ May the LORD give you increase more and more, You and your children. ¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 115:14-15

VI. *Men rule this earth, it is why it is a mess –*

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

1. *This does not mean God is not in sovereign control.*

2. *Yet, sinful human beings are the cause of the trouble –*

²⁹ Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes." Ecclesiastes 7:29

¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good." Ecclesiastes 9:18

VII. *Praising God, living and Dead -*

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

This is not saying we don't praise God in Heaven –

³¹ But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³²'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. Matthew 22:31-32

This fits perfectly with verse :18 –

¹⁸ But we will bless the LORD From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD! Psalm 115:18-19

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