

## THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WORSHIP OF GOD - August 30, 2020

We are talking about the Psalms, and this is such an important book for it has a lot to do with your relationship with the Lord. Now today I want to talk about praising the Lord, but I want to start this time by looking at Psalm 1, and since it's the first Psalm of 150 Psalms, it must be very important, and it is. And so let's go through it.

Verses 1-3. We read about the person who is blessed, and he is one who is saved, who is a believer, who is a child of God. First we read what he doesn't do, he doesn't listen to the words of evil men. You see, a person can listen to the words of men or he can listen to the words of God. And most people in the world listen to the words of men, to the philosophers of the world, and therefore they become humanistic and worldly. Col. 2:8. Books, TV, Internet, Teachers

- Now the Bible talks a lot about the words and ways of evil people. That's because God wants you to know how bad and dangerous these people are, that they are spiritually and eternally deadly, and evil people like this will not be blessed, but instead will be cursed. Matt. 23 – false teachers

But what does the blessed person do? He listens to the words of God. But what does it say here? First, we see that God's word is his delight, is his pleasure. It's not men's words or food or money or possessions or worldly things that he delights in, it is God's word. And so, the blessed person delights in God's word, or we could say, he loves God's words. He loves God, and therefore he loves God's words, what God says. Person

And the person who delights in God's word will meditate on God's word, will think about His word, will ponder His word. We all think about lots of things, but what is most important is that we think about God's word. The result is that we will be fruitful. We read about a tree that's by a stream of water, and the roots of the tree are drinking up the water, and therefore, the tree bears fruit. So too, our roots need to be in God's word, need to feed on God's word and then we will bear fruit, then we will be spiritually prosperous and successful.

Vss. 4-6. These verses focus on the wicked people. First we read that they are not like the righteous. They don't love God and don't love His words, and therefore they are not thinking about godly things, but instead are thinking about worldly, fleshly and evil things. Therefore, they are like chaff. A lot of seeds have a covering that's called chaff, and it's worthless to humans, and is therefore gotten rid of. Judges 6 – beating the wheat

Then we read that the wicked will not stand in the judgment. I believe this is referring to the great white throne judgment which takes place at the end of the 1000-year kingdom age, a time when all unbelievers from all time will stand before Christ, be judged for their sins, and are then pronounced guilty of their sins. Rev. 20:11-15 And sinful and guilty people like this won't be able to stand before Jesus Christ. And it says they won't be in the assembly of the righteous, which means they are not going to heaven, where the righteous will be, where the believers will be.

Verse 6 says the way of the wicked will perish. And Rev. 20:15 tells us that the unrighteous will be cast into the lake of fire. John 3:16. This word perish in John 3:16 is from the same Greek word that is used in the Greek Septuagint for this word perish in Psalm 1:6. And this Greek Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew language of the OT. And this word perish means to destroy utterly. Vines Dict. says it is not the idea of extinction but of everlasting ruin. 2 Thess. 2 says unbelievers will pay the penalty of eternal destruction.

And so there are only two kinds of people in the world:

1. There are the righteous and the unrighteous, the believers and the unbelievers.
2. There are those who listen to God's word, who believe God's word and delight in it, and there are those who don't listen to God's word. And those who don't listen to God's words love the words of man, and are listening to the words of man, and not just the words of man, but the words of evil men, of sinners, and of scoffers. And an evil person can be a false teacher in a church, a professor in a university, a governor of a state, some famous singer, someone on a podcast, or on You Tube.
3. There are those who are spiritually successful, spiritually prosperous, whose lives have eternal value and purpose. And there are those who are like chaff, whose lives, when all is said and done, have no eternal value.

Now those who stand in the judgment, are ones whose names are written in the book of life. And those who don't stand in the judgment are pronounced guilty by Christ. And those who are righteous will be in the assembly of the righteous, and will be with Christ and the believers forever and ever. Heb. 12:22-24. And so we see the importance of Psalm 1, for it tells the truth, and gives a very clear picture about our lives, about those who are righteous, and those who are wicked.

But now I want to talk about worshiping the Lord, about praising the Lord. And we'll be looking at the Psalms to see what it says about this important subject. Now I want to mention a number of points before I begin to look at the Psalms.

1. In the book of Psalms, this subject of praising the Lord is the number one subject, for it is talked about more than any other subject.
2. Praising the Lord is your number one purpose, your number one objective in life. Mark 12:30 is the great commandment, and it says you are to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. And to love the Lord means you are praising the Lord.
3. Much of what we read in the Psalms about praising the Lord is written by David. And David was referred to as a man after God's heart. He is always looked upon as a very godly man, one who served and obeyed God. And that directly relates to the fact that David worshiped God, he praised the Lord - and we see that in the book of Psalms.
4. The phrase, "*Praise the Lord*," is a command, just like that phrase, "*Love the Lord your God*" is a command. And this command is not to be taken lightly, is not to be ignored, is not to be forgotten, but is to be obeyed.
5. The believer is to obey this command to "*Praise the Lord*," every day of his life and for his entire life. Psalm 145:1-2. It's the most important thing you can do. Psalm 113:3. "*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.*"
6. The phrase, "*Praise the Lord*," is similar to other words or phrases used in the Psalms, like worship, extol, exalt, exult, bless, or singing praises.
7. When you read the Psalms, many of them start with this phrase, "*Praise the Lord*," or some other similar phrase, like bless the Lord. And when you see that, you know that praising the Lord relates directly to what that Psalm is about. Psalm 103:1
  - a. The Psalm may talk about the life and character of a person who is praising the Lord, like David in Psalm 145.
  - b. The Psalm may speak about reasons to praise the Lord, like Psalm 146 and 147.
  - c. The Psalm may talk specifically about praising the Lord, like Psalm 148.
  - d. It may talk about how praising the Lord relates to the Jewish people, like Psalm 149.
  - e. It talks about the who, what, where, why and when of praising the Lord, like Psalm 150.

Let's now look at a couple of Psalms:

Psalm 146. Vss 1-2. These are key verses for this Psalm. We see that praising God starts in our soul, in our spirit, in our innermost being. That is, praising God is essentially a heart thing - praising God has to come from the heart. We also see that we are to have this mindset that we are to praise God while we are alive, and this is the most important thing we are to do while we are alive, while we have our being.

Verses 3-6. This says we're to put our trust and hope in the Lord, and not in the rulers of the world, which is quite applicable at this time with the elections drawing near. We can easily trust in men, but they can't help us at all in our area of greatest need, which is in the spiritual area, and specifically in the area of salvation. Real and lasting blessing comes from God, the Creator, the One who is the source of grace and truth. And so don't be praising or trusting in men, but praise God and trust in Him.

Verses 7-9. Here are a number of reasons why we should praise the Lord. And in fact, there are nine of them, and they all relate to God showing us love, mercy and compassion. I love this list for it shows the heart of God for the lowly, the poor, and the oppressed. And then we read that God *"thwarts the way of the wicked."* God sees what the wicked are doing and sooner or later, He thwarts them all, stops them all. Psalms 9, 10, 11 - Verse 10. This is the conclusion. The Lord reigns, He is in charge, He is sovereign, and He is forever the God of the Jewish people. And we are to praise the Lord for this, and for everything else that we have read in these verses.

Psalm 148. This is comprehensive, for it speaks about the whole creation praising God. And the whole creation should praise God. Verses 1-6 talk about praising God from the heavens, and this includes all His angels and hosts, but it also speaks of the sun, moon and stars. Now these heavenly bodies don't speak like we speak, but they praise God by their existence, by shining forth. Psalm 19:1 – Hubble

Then vs 7-13 speak about praising God from the earth – from the sea monsters to the weather to fruit trees and cattle. Vs 8 – stormy wind – hurricanes. Vs 10 – small animals and birds, which means pets, your cats and dogs. Then we have this list of people. It says kings, all people, princes, judges, young men, virgins, old men, and children. And they are to all praise the Lord, for they were all created to praise the Lord. And praising God is one of the main reasons we're here. God made all creation, the heavens and the earth, inanimate things as well as living things, animals as well as people. We are to all praise the Lord. - Then there's vs 14 and again, there is this focus on the Jewish people. And the word horn can mean King, and Jesus is the King of the Jews, these chosen people who are near Him. And we will see this much more clearly in the kingdom age. - Of course, the conclusion, like the introduction, is that we are to praise the Lord.

Psalm 150 –

- Who do we praise? Vs 1
- Where do we praise? Vs 1
- Why do we praise? Vs 2
- How do we praise? Vss 3-5
- Who is to praise? Vs 6
- When do we praise? Vss 1-6