

Psalm 111

- Psalm 111 is a psalm of praise, one of the hallelujah or “hallel” psalms, as the Psalmist thinks on the works of God.
 - To think, or to ponder, to consider carefully the works of the Lord. It seems like thinking, pondering, meditating - these things are almost a “lost art” or a rare thing in our entertainment driven culture.
 - This Psalm is the fruit of someone taking the time to simply meditate in God’s goodness and the works that He has done.
 - Things that we ought to be doing.
 - Psalm 111 is an acrostic psalm, every line begins with a consecutive letter in the Hebrew alphabet, making it easy for the Hebrew reader to memorize.
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V: 1 Exhortation, call to action: “*Praise the LORD!*” Hallelujah!

- We may not always be able to rejoice in our circumstances, but we can always rejoice in the Lord!

Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice!”

- “*I will praise the LORD!*” A declaration and a commitment in response to that exhortation. “*I will praise the LORD!*”
- “*I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.*” Not with 75% or 99% but with everything I have and am, I will praise Him!

This is exactly what Jesus exhorts us to:

Matthew 22:37 “... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- Jesus is simply repeating a timeless command from the OT.

The Shemah:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “⁴Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is One! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

“I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.”

- I will do this whole heartedly and I will do it publicly, un-ashamedly!

Jesus told us:

Matthew 10:32-33 “³²Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

Just as David declared:

Psalms 35:18 “I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.”

- Praising Him for what? For His great works!

V: 2 The works of the Lord are great - and yes they are studied and examined by those who have pleasure in them, who delight in them.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

- Psalm 1 speaks of that happy and blessed man who:

Psalms 1:1-2 “¹... walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

- He ponders it, he examines it, he studies it.

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate / think on these things.”

- The Works of God are great, but that can't truly be appreciated except through the lens of His Word, which is like a magnifying glass.

Psalms 119:15-16 “¹⁵I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. ¹⁶I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word.”

V: 3 “His work is honorable and glorious...” NASB “Splendid and majestic is His work...”

- God is good, and everything He does is good!

Deuteronomy 3:24 “O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?”

- His righteousness endures forever!

Psalm 119:142 “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is truth.”

- His righteousness is awesome, pure, and holy - not only does it endure forever, but if we are willing - **His righteousness can become our righteousness**. He invites us to partake in His righteousness through a personal relationship with His son.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

V: 4 God made His wonderful works with the intent that they would be remembered, not soon or easily forgotten. Creation itself is a great example.

Psalm 19:1-2 “¹The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ²Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”

- Everyday we see the sun come up at the break of day, and with it comes the realization that God did this. Every night we see the moon and the stars and can't escape the conclusion that God did this too.

Psalm 8:3-4 “³When 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?”

- His greatest work was that which He did on the cross - and that is why we are commanded:

Luke 22:19 “... do this in remembrance of Me.”

Again, the affirmation:

V: 4b “*The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.*”

Psalm 86:5 “For You, Lord are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”

- The Lord is so good! So gracious! So full of compassion! He is so ready to express that goodness, and grace, and compassion through His forgiveness.
- These things are all so overwhelming, but I can remember the day, the moment when His compassion overwhelmed me for the first time.

Matthew 9:36 “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”

- We read many times in the Gospels the same thing; Jesus was moved with compassion for His people, for the multitudes, for the sick and the lame, those in need - and every time I read it I realized that I did not have compassion, I didn't have that same compassion and love and seeing my lack, I desired it and have asked God to give that to me.
- Oh God, I want to be like you, give me, give us that compassion, that love.
- Help us to be gracious and full of compassion!

V: 5 He makes provision for His children, describing those who fear Him.

Psalm 37:25 "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."

- The fact that God provides for His children, those who fear Him is what is being emphasized here, but it doesn't negate the fact that he also provides for those who don't fear Him - yet.

Matthew 5:45 "... He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the un-just."

V: 5b "*He will ever be mindful of His covenant.*"

- God never forgets who He is, and He places an extremely high value upon His covenant, His Law, His Word, in what He has said.

Psalm 138:2 "I will worship toward Your holy Temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above Your name."

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

Hebrews 6:17-18 "¹⁷Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise (us) the immutability of His counsel (the unchangeableness), confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us."

- We can have hope because of the fact that God keeps His Word - that is our strong consolation, God keeps His word!

V: 6 He demonstrates that He is not just the God of words, but that He is able to perform that which He has said.

Luke 5:23-25 “²³Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “rise up and walk?” ²⁴But that you may know that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins” - He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ²⁵Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.”

- One of His covenants was that He would bring the children of Israel into the promised land. He has done that with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, giving the children of Israel the heritage of the nations / Gentiles / Canaanites.
- In other words God demonstrated His ability to keep His word in-spite of what might have appeared to be the seeming impossibility of it.

2 Timothy 1:12 “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

V: 7 Everything He does is done in absolute truth, and justice or righteousness.

- He sets the standard; He wouldn't call us to something that He Himself wasn't also doing, He leads by example.

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Psalm 119:160 “The entirety of Your Word is truth...”

“*All His precepts*”, all His commandments are sure - trustworthy.

Psalm 19:7-11 “⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.”

They are singing about this in heaven, as probably we will be also:

Revelation 15:3-4 “³They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of saints! ⁴Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.”

V: 8 “They” - The works of His hands, and His precepts, His commandments - they stand the test of time, they stand eternally, they stand forever!

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

1 Peter 1:25 “But the Word of the Lord endures forever.”

- The Word of the Lord endures forever, and His mighty works are done in truth and uprightness.
- We see the repetitious nature of Hebrew poetry. (V:7)

V: 9 Looking back, we know that He sent Jesus. God confirmed it to those who were waiting for Him.

Simeon prayed:

Luke 2:29-32 “²⁹Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³²a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Anna, prophetess:

Luke 2:38 “And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”

Galatians 3:13 “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become curse for us (for it is written, “cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”)”

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

“He has commanded His covenant forever:..”

- (Repetition) This is the 3rd time in the Psalm that He has declared that His word will stand forever. (V: 5, V: 7-8)

“Holy and awesome is His name.” (“reverend” - only time in Bible)

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus says the high and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:..”

V: 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - and so much more.

- Just looking at the proverbs: The fear of the Lord is a lot of things, all good!
Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,…”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way.”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Proverbs 10:27 “The fear of the Lord prolongs days…”

Proverbs 14:26 “In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence…”

Proverbs 14:27 “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom.”

Proverbs 19:23 “The fear of the Lord leads to life,…”

Proverbs 22:4 “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.”

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments…”

- Those who do (doers of the Word) His commandments receive understanding, understanding that others don't have.

Psalm 19:7 “The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

- Have you ever wished you could take a “smart” pill? Then the Word of God is just the thing for you!

Psalm 19:8 “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

“His praise endures forever.”

Psalm 45:17 “I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.”