

PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS MERCIES AND GRACE

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Psalm 145

A Song of God's Majesty and Love, a Praise of David.

"I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever."

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There are a total of 150 psalms in the Bible. Out of the 150 psalms, 73 are attributed to King David (12 to Asaph, two to Solomon, one to Moses, one to Ethan, and 12 to the sons of Korah). Psalm 145 has been entitled as "A Song of God's Majesty and Love, a Praise of David."

There are two things here that I can see, from this psalm, that blesses God, acknowledging God in who He is and then going to Him for who He is. As David said in Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's, and

all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." All things were created by God and for God. Speaking of who God is, we know from God's Word that there are three distinct persons, so to speak, that make up the godhead, that is, of who God is. We know from **1 John 5:7** that "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." Knowing God means that we come to the knowledge of the truth that God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, yet those three are one God. When God told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM", God was testifying of Himself alone being "God". He is THE God Almighty, the creator of all things, the Savior to all mankind, to all who will believe on Him, and He is presently testifying of Himself through the Word, being Christ and His written Word, and through His Holy Spirit that reveals that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God. Jesus stated clearly that it is through Him that the truth is revealed to us. Jesus said, "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." (Luke 10:22) Likewise, Jesus said, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

The evidence is before us to recognize that we live in a created world by intelligent design. Nevertheless, there are many people who don't want to be accountable to a God, according to His Way, even if it is abundantly obvious that He created all things and maintains all things. The Apostle Paul spoke of the evidence of God's creation saying, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." (Romans 1:20-21)

Do you ever just marvel at the greatness of God and of the depth of His wisdom and love and His unsearchable knowledge? David starts Psalm 145, saying, "I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." Extol means to exalt, lift up, or proudly proclaim. The more I seek to know God and understand Him, the deeper I get in just realizing that this feeble mind of mine is just not capable of understanding His Majesty and Glory. "We extol You, O God! Great are You, Lord, and worthy of our praise!"

Not every generation will look at God quite the same though. Adam and Eve had a certain perspective of God based on their time in the garden of Eden and then being forced out of the garden by choosing to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit on the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil. Their understanding of God was enhanced when God made for them clothing from animal skins, as that was pointing to the need for a sacrifice that was to be supplied by God. Noah and His family had a certain perspective of God, as they were the only survivors of God's wrath on mankind from the flood. The Jews had a distinct understanding of God when He led them out of bondage in Egypt and into the promised land. They also saw the wrath of God that swallowed some of them up in the earth, had some of them die by being bitten by snakes, and in having to wander around and around in the wilderness for forty years. But God spoke through Isaiah saying, "For I will not contend forever [with mankind], nor will I always be angry; For the[ir] spirit would fail before Me, and the souls which I have made." (**Isaiah 57:16**) In context, God said that, right after He said this, "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." (**Isaiah 57:15**)

While each generation may have a slightly different perspective on who God is, He says, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." That was good news to those children of Jacob looking for the mercies of God yet it is good news to us too, as God is full of mercy and compassion to those who will look to Him. The author(s) of Hebrews said the same stating, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (**Hebrews 13:8**)

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."

Our understanding of God's mercy has to begin for us in what we know of as **Romans 5:8-10**, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." That right there is the greatness of God's mercy AND grace. Mercy in that we do not receive the wrath of God that is due us in our sins against God and His grace in receiving from God what is not deserved.

That grace is spoken of also in **Ephesians 2:8-10**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Jesus paid the penalty of death that was due us, and took the wrath of God upon Himself for our sakes. That, is an amazing, powerful, and great love that God has shown us. Why would we not choose to walk in God's mercies and grace? To those who have believed on Christ and received Him, we are also living in His Wisdom, His Righteousness, His Sanctification, and His Redemption! So let "He [or she] who glories, let him [or her] glory in the Lord." (**1 Corinthians 1:30-31**) We extol You, O Lord!

First we recognize that God is Sovereign over all creation, He created all things for His pleasure and purpose, and that He loves us enough to have died for us! Great is Your love, O God! "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever."

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." We cannot manipulate or "play" God. When we come to Him in sincerity and call out to Him for His mercies and grace, He is "near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." God is full and mercies and grace! That's where **Romans 10:13** comes in, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." God desires for none to die in their sins. God is "longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (**2 Peter 3:9**) God is waiting for us to repent, to have that change of mind, to want His mercies and grace that is in Christ Jesus. He is wanting us to recognize Him as God Almighty, Creator of all things, and that He loves us enough to have died for us. He also then wants us to walk in the newness of life that we have in Christ Jesus. Our perspective, in this generation, is to praise God for who He is, for His mercies and grace, and for His great love for us. It was not meant to just be a trite, feel-good platitude when Peter spoke of God's people who are in Christ Jesus but should give us a sober and meaningful wake-up call. Peter stated, "you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (**1 Peter 2:9**) I want to be one of those spoken of in saying, "The Lord preserves all who love Him...My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever." Praise the Lord for His mercies and grace!