

- ***READ Psalm 145:1-7*** The final section of the Psalter opens with three simple yet profound words that perfectly describe the main idea of the last sixteen Psalms. Those three words are "Praise the Lord." (**Psalm 135:1**) Out of these remaining Psalms, seven are attributed to David, and this makes much sense. It is well noted in Scripture that David was a man of music. He would often play for Saul as a means of comfort and soothing. (**I Samuel 16**) Upon David's death he was referred to as the "sweet Psalmist of Israel." (**II Samuel 23:1**) All in between we find David, especially in the Psalms, put a great emphasis on the need to worship and praise God with music and song.
- While we could look to any number of the Psalms of David, I do believe that Psalm 145 gives us quite possibly the most concise picture of David's mindset towards worship and the praising of God. These twenty one verses are jam packed with great content which speaks to the way we ought to praise the Lord and why it is that God is worthy of such honor and praise. Let's conclude our series of studies from our Daily Bible Readings for 2017 by considering the 145th Psalm which is David's Psalm of praise to the Lord. Let's begin by considering four characteristics put forth by David that ought to be true of our praise to the Lord.

I. God is to be praised...

A. Continually (vv.1,2)

1. First, we will speak to the frequency of our praise to the Lord, and we'll notice that David indicates that our praise to God ought to be something that is constantly and continually happening. *"I will extol You, my God, O King. I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever."* (**Psalm 145:1,2**) In the mid of David, his praise of God wouldn't end here on earth, but he would truly be able to continue to praise God forever and ever. What a thought to be able to do something such as this...to praise God forever is such an awesome thought, but we must not think that this will be something that we will get to experience if we are not constantly praising God in this life.
2. Every single day David was convicted that there was something of God that was worthy of praise, and I believe that this should be our conviction, as well. While we might not praise God in song, can we not praise God in our prayers? Can we not praise God in the words that we speak to others? Certainly we can and our doing so will develop within ourselves the habit of continually having the praise of God upon our lips. Surely we, like David, are able to recognize those things about God that make Him worthy of our praise every day and forever and ever.

B. Heartily (v.7)

1. But it isn't that we should constantly offer up empty platitudes to God, but we must be a people who offer up our very hearts to God in praise to His name. Notice that David says that men of God *"shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness and will shout joyfully of Your righteousness."* (**Psalm 145:7**)
2. Those things that we are eager to speak of...those things that we can't wait to shout joyfully about...are those things that we don't have any sort of real interest in? Of course not! Those things that we are eager to shout about are those things that we feel from our very hearts. So the praise that we offer up to the Lord must be praise that is a result of our real emotional and spiritual investment into God. No one is going to truly praise the Lord forever and ever if their heart is not into it. That empty praise will eventually burn out and become nothing, but the true and enduring praise of godly men is a result of a heart that is fully invested in praise to the Lord.

C. Intelligently (v.5)

1. Let's also recognize that our praise of God must equally be a result of our minds having considered who God is and why it is that we ought to be praising Him. *"On the glorious splendor of your majesty and on Your wonderful works I will meditate."* (**Psalm 145:5**)

2. True praise to God, as David would offer up, isn't something that is done simply because we are all stirred up in our emotions, but it is done with the consideration of God and who He is. Our meditations upon God and His Word will quickly lead us to understand that the God of heaven is the only one who is worthy of our praise. In just a moment, we will focus on the two things that this Psalm puts forth as being quality reasons for our praise of the Lord, but first let's consider that our worship should not just be continual, heart felt, and mind driven... but it should also be praise that influences others.

D. Influentially (v.4)

1. Back up **Psalm 145:4**, we find David speaking to the fact that one generations worship and praise of God should be observed and recognized by the next generation. *"One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts."* What is the purpose of doing so? Why should we give any time or consideration for how our praise of God might influence others?
2. Let me suggest that this matters because our praise of the Lord can have a tremendous impact on the way that those coming up after us praise the Lord. If we look around us and we see the younger generations seemingly disinterested in worship, then could it be that they are simply doing what they observe being done all around them? If they look around and see those older than them disconnected from worship and praise and just going through the motions then why wouldn't they do the same. If they look around and see inconsistent worship, if they see worship that is missing heart and mindfulness then why would they do anything different?
3. Hopefully from the words of David in this Psalm, we see the great importance of praising God in the correct and appropriate manner. It isn't just about us and what we are doing, but it is about the example that we are leaving for those behind us. They must learn to praise God appropriately, and they must also come to recognize why it is that we do what we do. They, and others whether they be our brethren or unbelievers, must recognize why it is that God is worthy of our praise because proper worship and praise of God demands great effort on our part. It isn't easy, and people must be properly motivated to do that which is not easy. Let's continue by recognizing that proper motivation for our praise to God. Let's first recognize that the Lord is worthy of this effort from us in our praise to Him because He is a truly great God. **(Psalm 145:6)** What is it about God that makes Him great?

II. The greatness of God is to be praised.

A. He is majestic. (vv.1,5,11-13)

1. If we go back to the beginning of the Psalm, we recognize quickly from King David that he is actually offering up praise to the One who is the true King. He says, *"I will extol You, my God, O King."* **(Psalm 145:1)**
2. For one to be a king however, he must have a kingdom...and that is precisely what the Lord possesses. David speaks to the kingdom of God in **Psalm 145:11-13**. *"They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power; To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations."* But it isn't just that a king demands a kingdom, but that kingdom must actually be something of consequence. It must be a kingdom that truly radiates the majesty of its King **(Psalm 145:5)**, and that is exactly what the kingdom of God does for it is a truly powerful kingdom of a powerful King.

B. He is powerful. (vv.4-6)

1. Notice how it is that the Lord is described and how we can't but acknowledge that He is truly powerful and mighty. David writes of His, *"Your works," "Your mighty acts," "Your wonderful works," and "Your awesome acts."* **(Psalm 145:4-6)** This paints a true picture of power and might.

2. This picture is why it is not outlandish to understand that by the words of His mouth the worlds were spoken into existence. Not only were they spoken into existence, but everything continues to be held together by His great power and might. In an instant God could totally and completely cause us to cease to exist...but instead He allows for us to continue to exist. This great King is the almighty King who possesses a kingdom of equal power, and that power is seen in the fact that the King and His kingdom are infinite.

C. He is infinite. (v.13)

1. It isn't just that God is worthy of our praise because He is King and a powerful at that...but He also demands our praise through the fact that His power and kingdom are infinite in their scope. *"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations."* (Psalm 145:13)
2. It isn't just that his kingdom endures throughout generation after generation, but it is the fact that it continues to stand while other nations, kingdoms, dynasties, and peoples rise and fall. They all come and go...the come to power and they lose it, but the God of heaven who is King over this everlasting kingdom...He remains and thrives and is not brought down low like the kings of earthy kingdoms. His reign and dominion only continues to thrive and grow while the others fall and crumble. But why and how? How does the kingdom of God continue to grow and thrive as it does? Let me suggest that it is because this kingdom is one that is ruled by a King who is perfectly holy in His dealings and ruling of His kingdom.

D. He is holy. (vv.17,20,21)

1. In **Psalm 145:17,20,21**, David speaks to the holy nature of God. *"The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds...The Lord keeps all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever."* While the kings of earth rule from their foolishness, the God of heaven who presides as King over His kingdom will only rule perfectly in His holiness.
2. The holiness of God demands that He executes justice in all that He does and that is exactly what David says in **Psalm 145:17**. In everything that God does, He does it right. In everything that He does, He makes the right decisions. Whereas other kings might make mistakes and execute injustice, the God of heaven only does that which is right. He will only ever protect those who love Him. He will only ever punish and destroy those who are wicked. In doing so, He confirms that His kingdom will last as long as He desires for He does all things well, and He is able to do things well because of our last point that shows the worthiness of God to be praised and that is His goodness. He is not just a great God, but He is a good God.

III. The goodness of God is to be praised.

A. He is benevolent.(v.9,14-16)

1. David says of the Lord that He is *"good to all, and His mercies are over all His works."* (Psalm 145:9) Our Lord is mightily good to all of His creation. From the smallest of beings...the birds of the air to the crown jewell of His creation of mankind...God is endlessly benevolent to towards those who are in need of His mercies.
2. *"The Lord sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."* (Psalm 145:14-16) Why is God worthy of praise that demands so much from us? It is because He gives us the means and ability to give it all back to Him. Everything that we need, He provides. His benevolent goodness towards us should more than be enough motivation in and of itself to praise Him, but there is still much more that makes Him worthy.

B. He is gracious and compassionate. (v.8)

1. As parents of children who sometimes misbehave, we understand the need for grace and compassion when they mess up, but that grace and compassion falls far short of the gracious and compassionate nature of our God that demands our praise to be offered to Him. *"The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness."* (Psalm 145:8)
2. Focus in on that portion where the Lord is *"slow to anger."* If ever there was a quality of God's goodness that was worthy of praise from us, then it must be the fact that God is compassionate towards us in our weaknesses. Of course, He can be compassionate as He is not just because He is God, but because Jesus came in the flesh and lived this life and experienced what it is that we go through. Therefore, He can be gracious and compassionate towards us for He knows the struggle and He seeks to strengthen us in our times of need. Certainly this grace and compassion is worthy of our praise towards Him.

C. He is patient and forgiving. (v.9)

1. Even more than just His compassion towards us in our weaknesses is the fact that He is patient and willing to forgive us when we fail to accept His help in times of temptation. He truly is *"good to all and his mercies are over all His works."* (Psalm 145:9)
2. When we fall short of His glory, whether in the smallest of matters or in matters of extreme wickedness, He is ever ready to forgive. Certainly we know that His patience is present because He is not willing that any should be condemned, but His desire is for all to come to repentance. We should be overjoyed and thankful beyond measure that our Lord is patient and forgiving towards us because nothing demands that this be the case, and it makes Him all the more worthy of our praise for His goodness of patience and forgiveness towards us.

D. He is responsive. (vv.18,19)

1. Finally, David points towards God's worthiness of our praise to Him for the fact that the Lord, the God of heaven who created all things with His words is willing to listen and be responsive towards our requests of Him. *"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 will also hear their cry and will save them."* (Psalm 145:18,19)
2. For all of the things that are going on in this world at one time...we serve and offer up praises to a God who is willing to give each of us individually an ear to listen to our requests of Him. Think about that...out of the billions of people who are alive at once, God is willing to hear our individual cries of need from Him. What a thought to behold! What a God it is that we serve who will listen to us when we need Him most. If ever one was worthy of praise, it surely is the great and good God of heaven who answers us when we cry out to Him, and David was keenly aware of this truth.

The picture that King David paints for us in this Psalm is a truly spectacular one shows a blueprint of true worship and why it is that God is worthy of such from us. Whether it be in our songs, in our prayers, or in our conversations God is always worthy of our praise for His greatness and goodness, and may we always be a people who will continually praise Him with our hearts and minds and may we influence many around us to be the same. He is worthy, and may we offer to Him our very best at all times.

PRAYER *Our great and good God in heaven...we approach you this evening recognizing that you alone are the God who is worthy of our praise. We thank you for the words of David that we have considered this evening, and we pray that his words and thoughts will become our words and thoughts. May we continually praise You for You alone are great and good. We pray that Your mercy and compassion would be upon us as we go throughout this week. Strengthen us in our weaknesses by the power of Your might to stand against the evil one, and may we always praise you in everything that we do. Be with our shepherds as they watch over this flock, and may all things be done to your glory. In Christ we pray...amen.*