

## Psalm 145 – Declaring the Greatness of the Lord

I was speaking with someone just recently about the importance of what it means to always remember to praise the Lord. Often when we get our focus off the Lord and onto circumstances and difficulties, we find ourselves more with a complaining attitude rather than a praising attitude. Well this Psalm is all about what it means to praise God as we look at and study the character and nature of the God that we love and worship. David in this Psalm gives us a number of God's wonderful attributes such as His Greatness, His Grace, Goodness, Compassion, Glory, Might, Righteousness, Kindness and Providential Care. So what David is doing is vividly declaring to us why we should worship God and also when we should worship God. As we do this we realise that whatever the situation or the circumstances that we find ourselves in, our God is able to overcome all of these, and do way beyond what we could ever think or imagine. So the first point is -

**1. Praise God from day to day verses 1-2.** We need to see that each day should be a day filled with praise and thanks to God but unfortunately for many of us we rush into the day without really giving God due time to speak into our lives through His word and for us to be able to speak to Him through prayer. I know that there are many demands made upon us in this rather frantic paced world but we must resist getting drawn into it so that we can pull aside to praise God day by day and moment by moment. For many of us when we go through difficult and dark times there is always something we can praise God for. I know when something happens to me such as the car breaks down or there are some financial struggles the tendency I have is to focus solely on those things, rather than say, 'well Lord what are you teaching me from this occasion'? The importance of asking that question is that we learn to seek the lesson that we might praise God for what He is doing in us and through us.

**2. We need to praise God from generation to generation verses 3-7.** I think we must understand that each generation needs to take on the responsibility to teach the next generation about the Lord. If you go back to the book of Judges chapter 2 and verse 10 it says this **"When all of that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work that He had done for Israel"**. You can see from this particular verse that there are real dangers when we fail to pass on to the next generation the wonderful God that we know and love and worship. Now you might ask why this is so important. Well the reality is whether we are willing to admit it or not each local church is one generation away from extinction.

The reality is friends that if we as mums and dads and mentors and models fail to pass on to the next generation the baton of knowing and loving, worshipping and praising the Lord, then we have failed that generation and ultimately we helped that church to decline and ultimately into extinction. The reality is that as we look around at many of our churches today we see that our youth are not progressing in the way that we had hoped. We are seeing many of the struggles and battles of the world coming into the youth groups of our churches and causing all sorts of problems. Now this has happened because we have failed to pass on the baton.

In this entire struggle of passing the praise of God from one generation to the next we need to instruct our children in the greatness of God as we see there in verses 3-6 which says "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and His greatness is unsearchable". That word unsearchable means that the character and the greatness and the attributes of God are often beyond our understanding. We also need to see God's works and how He does things. The idea here is remembering how God delivered, for example, the nation of Israel from Egypt, and how that was passed on down through the ages to each generation. It is interesting that again and again God makes reference to the many things that He did to assist the nation of Israel whilst they were out in the wilderness such as bringing water from a rock. What we need to do is to pass on the works of God and how He has blessed us in our lives. For example one way we can do that is to share how God saved us, and then again sharing how God has provided for us and so on.

We need to also pass on God's majesty to our next generation. Often what we find is that we lose sight of the nature of the God it is that we worship. I have noticed at times when I have heard people pray that they have been really lacking in what I call holy relevance for God and it does trouble me because I think there is a real lack of understanding of the majesty or in another sense the 'royal-ness' of who God is. As we meditate on His majesty we grow in our understanding of just who it is that has saved us; just who it is that we are growing in the grace and knowledge of and just who it is who sovereignly and providentially works in this world and more particular in our own lives.

Then we need to see and speak of God's awesome acts. Again and again you see this come out in the book of Acts where you have eight sermons that really make reference to the resurrected Lord Jesus. You will read something like this where Peter says **"this man whom you crucified God has raised from the dead"**. One  
(Please turn over)

of the great acts that we can speak of course is that we worship a risen Saviour. If we don't worship a living Saviour then of course all we are is religious and no different from all of the other cults and isms we see in our community. Declaring the awesome acts of God and in particular the resurrection of the Lord Jesus is what makes us distinct and what makes our Christianity true and real and alive and delivers us from the ritual of religion. So we need to make sure that we declare the wonderful works and the wonderful acts of God and as we do that we are revealing to those who don't know him that we worship a living Saviour and He is in the world today changing lives and transforming hearts.

Then we need to see God's goodness and righteousness in all that He does. This speaks of the motivation behind what God does in terms of working sovereignly and providentially in our world and in our lives. We need to see that when God is working out His wonderful works and acts that they are righteous or they are right in their motivation and in what God wants to achieve. Also we need to see that the motivation behind all of that is goodness and not an evil desire. God is perfect in all that He does and He is perfect in His Goodness and His Righteousness and His Mercy and His compassion and so on. So let us dwell upon the wonderful God that we know and love and worship and it helps us to focus not only on **who** He is but **what** He can do.

*To be continued next edition*

## Praise

1. We want to praise the Lord for an incredibly faithful team of hard workers here at Challenge. As many of you are aware the majority of the team have worked long term in this ministry and it goes without saying that their contribution has been an amazing one.
2. We want to praise the Lord for our team of writers and occasional contributors to the Challenge newspaper. We are so grateful for all that they have done and for their obvious love for the work and desire to make known the good news of Jesus Christ
3. We want to praise God for our Board. We have been expanding our board in recent years and we are so grateful for the input of Ian Sigsworth who is our Chairman, Rob Adams who is our Treasurer; Graeme Jacques who is our Secretary and also the involvement of Bob Walker, Gareth Morris, Steve Blizard. Having a good board is critically important to the growth and development of a work like Challenge.
4. Praise God for our partner organisations in South Africa, Kenya, New Zealand and Argentina. It is a joy to work with a group of people with a kindred spirit in their desire to get out the good news of Jesus Christ. We also want to praise God for our first United States edition going out this month and we are really excited about what God has in store for the Challenge newspaper in that country.
5. Praise God for those who do representative work for us in the United States, South Australia and Victoria and pray that the Lord will continue to bless and encourage them in all that they do.

## Prayer

1. As you can imagine the work of Challenge is being stretched both in terms of demands on staff and resources and also financially. We would really value your prayer for the appointment of a new editor in the near future. We would also value your prayer for the doubling of our budget for Southern and Central Africa as we endeavour to consolidate the work in that continent.
2. Pray for our writers as they write for various editions of the paper particularly with our Easter edition coming up next month and then also for other special editions throughout the year.
3. I have a great burden in asking our prayer warriors to really pray for the growth of the distribution of the paper in Australia and also for the effectiveness of that distribution. Our desire is to really see the paper growing month by month in distribution and we realise that prayer is a key aspect of seeing that happen. Our motivation is always to see that the Kingdom of God is expanded and that God is glorified in all of that.
4. Please pray for the Challenge building and its contents as we are so aware that security is a constant need. We realise that we have an enemy and he is certainly trying to frustrate the work as it expands.
5. Please pray for our staff and in particular their financial needs. With the cost of living in recent years increasing dramatically some of the staff are really struggling to make ends meet. We would value your prayer for that and where possible to see the personal support of staff members grow.
6. We want to remember in prayer our partner organisations in Multi Ministries in South Africa, Peace Makers Fellowship International in Kenya, Word of Life in Argentina, Challenge Weekly in New Zealand and also for Doug and Mary Cornelius as they represent Challenge in the United States. We would value your prayer for them as we work with wonderful people and ask for the Lord's blessing and encouragement for them.
7. Please pray for the future prospects into countries like Nigeria, Egypt and India. We are looking to work in India with Asia Evangelistic Fellowship headed up by Jonathon James here in Perth. We would value your prayer for a Hindi edition of the paper in July of 2008 starting in the state of Andhra Pradesh working out of the city Hyderabad.



**Challenge Literature Fellowship**

PO Box 978, Cloverdale 6985

Phone (08) 9453 3311 Fax (08) 9453 3006

Webpage: [www.challengenews.org](http://www.challengenews.org) — Email: [challenge@clf.org.au](mailto:challenge@clf.org.au)