

Praising God's Work & Worth

Psalm 111

Main Idea

As the people of God we're called to join together in praising God for his work and worth.

Overview

The Call: Let Us Praise the Lord (vv. 1, 10)

- The Psalm begins with a command/summons: Praise the Lord/Hallelujah!
- The focus of the Psalmist's praise is the Lord
 - Note the covenant name, LORD, 5 times
 - Note the personal pronouns "he," "his," "him" 19 times
- The Psalmist is offering praise privately ("with his whole heart") and publicly ("in the congregation")

The Cause: Let Us Praise the Lord for His Work & Worth

- The Psalmist praises God for his work in creation (vv. 2-3)
 - Verses 2-3 refer to the broad works of creation (cf. Ps. 8:3; 19:1; 102:25, etc.)
 - The great, splendid, majestic works in creation point to a great, splendid, majestic Creator
 - This Creator is evident to Christians and non-Christians alike (cf. Rm. 1:19-20)
- The Psalmist praises God for his providential work in redemption (vv. 4-6)
 - In context, the wonders of verse 4 probably refer to the Exodus (cf. Exodus 15:11-12)
 - After the Lord brought them through the exodus, he then provided food in the wilderness (v. 5)
 - Eventually, God kept his promise and brought them to the promise land (v. 6)
 - "He sent redemption" (v. 9)
- The Psalmist praises God for his worth
 - As the Psalmist discusses the works of God he's drawn to the worth of God
 - Verse 7 lists several of God's attributes and those attributes of God's word, which is a reflection of his character
 - The entire Psalm bounces between God's actions and God's attributes
 - Verse 3: "Full of splendor and majesty is his work (action); and his righteousness endures forever (attribute)."
 - Verse 4: "He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered (action); the Lord is gracious and merciful (attributes)."
 - Verse 9: "He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. (action); Holy and awesome is his name (attribute)."

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Are there particular ways you've been encouraged in our brief study in the Psalms?*

1. Read Psalm 111. The Psalmist commands us to "Praise the Lord." What does it mean to do that with a whole heart? What are some obstacles to doing that with a whole heart?
2. Notice where the Psalmist is declaring his praise: publicly. What's unique to praising God in the congregation as opposed to only doing it privately?
3. Notice the focus of the Psalm: the LORD. What's the danger in a "me-centered" approach to praising God?
4. How does examining/studying the works in creation help us delight in the Lord?

5. In verses 4-6 the Psalmist is remember God's providential work in redeeming the Israelites from Egypt/Pharaoh, providing food in the wilderness, and giving them the Promise Land. How does this story help us understand the gospel story?
6. It seems as though the Psalmist moves between praising God for his action and his attributes. What attributes of God do you see listed in the Psalm and how can you praise him
7. What's the danger in praising God only for what he's done?
8. Take time to praise God for his providential care and redemption in your life; and praise him for the attribute that lead him to act in these ways.
9. Notice the repeated refrain of "forever" throughout the Psalm. Why is it important to have "forever" in mind, and how can we do so?

Accountability Question: *Are there areas of your life that are lacking in praise to God?*

How have you seen God at work recently? Praise him for this work, and for his attributes behind those works.