

PSALM 138 – The LORD’S Goodness to the Faithful!

12/4/21 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

Psa 9:1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

Psa 111:1 Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

Psa 138:1 I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You.

I WILL PRAISE HIM! Margaret J. Harris, Bill & Gloria Gaither (4:23)

When I saw the cleansing fountain Open wide for all my sin,

I obeyed the Spirit’s wooing, When He said, “Wilt thou be clean?”

Refrain - I will praise Him! I will praise Him! Praise the Lamb for sinners slain;

Give Him glory, all ye people, For His blood can wash away each stain.

Though the way seems straight and narrow, All I claimed was swept away;

My ambitions, plans and wishes, At my feet in ashes lay. (Refrain)

Blessed be the Name of Jesus! I’m so glad He took me in;

He’s forgiven my transgressions, He has cleansed my heart from sin. (Refrain)

For His blood can wash away each stain.

PSALM 138 - The LORD’S Goodness to the Faithful!

Give Thanks to the Lord

Psa 138:1 A Psalm Of David. I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods (judges, princes, rulers) I will sing praises to You.

- *Psalm 138 begins with praise. I will praise You with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto You.*
- The word god, Elohim, was used of the judges, of the princes, of the rulers of the land. In the book of Exodus when God gave the instructions for the judges he called them the Elohim, the gods, the rulers and the princes of the land. Thus, before the gods it is thought that it was making reference to the princes, the nobles, the judges of the land.

Psa 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 all Your name.

- *I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness, another word for mercy. and for Your truth: Praising God for lovingkindness and truth. You have magnified Your word above all Your name*
- ***(Mat 24:35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*** In this respect, the divine Word has a preeminence over every other form of manifestation. Moreover, the LORD lays all the rest of His name under tribute to His Word: His wisdom, power, love and all His other attributes combine to carry out His Word.
- The name of God, the Yahweh or Jehovah, was held in such high reverence by the Jews. They would not pronounce the name of God. They felt that it was too holy to cross the lips of mortal man. That is why we don’t know how to pronounce it. In writing their text, it only had the consonants of YHVH. There were no vowels placed so it leaves it unpronounceable. When you read the text they didn’t want you in your mind to even pronounce that name.
- So sacred did they hold the name of God that when the scribes would be copying the text and they came to the place in the text where they were to write the consonants YHVH to represent the name of God, they would go through a ritual of sorts. They would go in and take a bath, put on fresh clothes, get a new pen, dip it in fresh ink and then write the letters YHVH. That’s how high they held in reverence the name of God. You can imagine the blaspheme they felt of a person would take the name of the Lord in vain. In order to keep a person from doing that they left the pronunciation of His name to die so no one could really know how to pronounce God’s name.

- They held the name of God in highest reverence. It was something that to the Jew was the most sacred word, too sacred for a man to pronounce or even in his own mind to think of it. Thus, when reading the text and they come to the YHVH, rather than trying to pronounce the name they would just say “the name.” “The name” became synonymous with the name of God, the creator of the universe. Never any endeavor to pronounce His name. Here the psalmist declares that ***He has magnified His word above His name.*** The name of God was magnified above everything else as far as the Jew was concerned but here that God has magnified His word above His name.
- We have the word of God. God has revealed Himself to man. The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to man and God has honored His word. He magnified His word even above His name. What a blessing it is for us to be able to study the word of God and thus learn about God and learn about the character and nature of God. Here in the text, what does it teach us concerning God? I will praise Your name, the name of God, for Your lovingkindness and for Your truth.

Psa 138:3 In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul.

- An immediate answer to the prayer, in that same day You answered me and strengthened me. No proof is so convincing as that of experience.
- *Made me bold with strength in my soul.* This was a true answer to His prayer. If the burden was not removed, yet strength was given so as to bear it!

Psa 138:4 All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, When they hear the words of Your mouth.

Psa 138:5 Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, For great is the glory of the LORD.

- This extolling of God and the extolling of the word of God, the kings of the earth praising the Lord when they hear the words of Your mouth, singing in the ways of the Lord for great is the glory of the Lord.
- Just think of it! There will be a day when all the kings of the earth shall gather to hear the Word of the Lord, to praise and to worship Him!

Psa 138:6 Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards (sees with concern) *the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.*

- It is interesting that the scripture extols as a great virtue humbleness and looks upon as a great evil and a great sin pride. It is interesting that the world seems to honor the opposite, the world seems to extol the man that is proud. They look up and almost worship that man that is proud. They sort of look with disdain upon the humble person. It is interesting the characteristics that God respects and admires and compare them with the characteristics that the natural man respects and admires.
- To be proud is to be blind to the truth. To be proud is a sign that a person really hasn’t had yet a true vision of God the creator. God is so high. God is so great, that to really come into a real consciousness of God the eternal creator of the universe, He is so vast and so great that to come into a true awareness or consciousness of Him just is probably the most humbling thing that any man can experience. No man can walk away from the presence of God with any sense of pride or haughtiness in himself.
- The Lord says that we are using the wrong standards. “I know I’m not very righteous but I’m better than he is.” In comparing ourselves with each other we are making a mistake because I’m not the standard for righteousness Jesus Christ is the standard for righteousness. You look at me and you can feel pretty good about yourself. You may see a pastor and look, he gets angry and upset on the freeway when someone cuts him off.” You feel pretty good about yourself, but Jesus Christ is the standard! When you start holding up that standard of another person, then “woe is me.” All these messages of pride go.
- The Lord has a way of dealing with prideful people. God has a way of dealing with them and bringing them down. The Bible says, “Pride goeth before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” If your heart gets lifted up with pride God has his means of bringing you down to size. The Bible tells us “Humble Yourself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.” God exalted the meek but He abases the proud. Here the humble are the people that He is interested in. God has

not chosen many of the great people of the earth, many of the wise and mighty but He has chosen the simple, the common people. If you are just a simple common person than you're the kind that he chooses. If you are very outstanding and mister citizen of the century and president of the United States then you've got a hard road to hoe as far as the Lord is concerned.

- Peter, when he saw the Lord said, "Depart from me Lord, I'm a sinful man." When he saw God's work he realized who Jesus was and he said to depart because he's a sinful man. Daniel had his vision of the Lord and he said, "Then that beauty that was in me turned to ugliness." I saw myself now in the light of God, in the standard of God and all of that pride that I might have had in what I accomplished or who I was goes when I stand there in the presence of God. He has respect for the lowly but the proud he knows afar off. The proud are not close to him at all.

Psa 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.

- God will preserve me. Even in the midst of trouble, the Lord is going to be the One who keeps me going.
- God will be my defense. It's glorious to have God defending you, keeping you.
- The right hand was always considered the hand of strength, God's hand upon my life.

Psa 138:8 The LORD will perfect (accomplish, complete) that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

- ***The LORD will perfect that which concerns me:*** The Lord is going to complete that work that He started in your life. "Having begun a good work in you, He shall continue to perform it unto that day." God never starts something He doesn't intend to finish. The Bible says, "He is the author and the finisher of our faith." If you have come to a faith in Jesus Christ it is because the Lord has planted that faith in your heart. He has called you, you are one of His chosen. He has put that faith in your heart. "For by grace are you saved through faith" and that's not of yourself it is a gift of God. God gave you that gift of faith to believe in Jesus Christ. He was the author of that faith. He was the One that planted that faith there. He was the One that by His spirit drew you to Himself and convicted you of your sin and made you aware of your need of a Savior and brought you to Jesus Christ. Then, He planted the faith in your heart to believe for salvation is of the Lord.
- Having begun that good work, having planted that faith in your heart, He's not only the author but He's the finisher. Here's where a lot of people get confused in a way. They say, "Pray that the Lord will just help me to hold on till the end" this endurance type of thing, like a marathon race. Have you seen the start of the Boston Marathon? Thousands of people start the Boston Marathon every year and some of them only go two blocks and then they wear the T-shirt "I ran in the Boston Marathon." They go around everywhere wearing this T-shirts so proud they ran in this marathon for two whole blocks. Thousands of people start that race and not too many finish. If you go to the finish line and watch for those who finish but not many finish although thousands start the race.
- In this race of eternal life are many people that start. They start of their own. They start many times with no intention of finishing. Things are exciting, things are happening, let's go jump in. They are like the seed that's planted on the stony ground, it may come up quickly but there is no root, there's no foundation underneath. When troubles come the house built on the sand, it collapses. It's a genuine work of God planting that faith in your heart to believe in Jesus Christ. "The Lord, having begun that work, He is going to continue to perform it for He's not only the author but the finisher of your faith." You don't have to worry about hanging on or enduring to the end. He will perfect or complete that which concerns you.
- The word perfect unfortunately means something different to us today than when the translated the Bible. You talk about being perfect you think of no flaws, and you think of something that is absolutely pure. In the Bible the word meant complete. It was just a completeness. The Lord is going to complete His work that he began in you. Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever. Yes Lord, I think I got the message.

- Then the prayer of David to close this psalm. ***Do not forsake the work of Your hands.***
- God has taken my salvation as a personal work of God. He is molding me and forming me into the image of Jesus Christ. That is God's purpose for your life, that we might be conformed to His image by the power of His spirit working in us. The prayer of the psalmist is Lord, don't forsake the work of your hands. You are His handiwork, His workmanship created in Christ Jesus to the good works that God has before ordained that you should walk in them. This is a glorious promise, the Lord will complete His work.

O PRAISE THE NAME (*Anástasis -Resurrection*) (4:06) Hillsong

I cast my mind to Calvary Where Jesus bled and died for me I see His wounds, His hands, His feet, My Saviour on that cursed tree His body bound and drenched in tears, They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb The entrance sealed by heavy stone, Messiah still and all alone

(Refrain) O praise the name of the Lord our God O praise His name forevermore For endless days we will sing Your praise Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

And then on the third at break of dawn, The Son of heaven rose again O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King (Refrain)

He shall return in robes of white The blazing sun shall pierce the night And I will rise among the saints, My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face (Refrain)

Oh Lord, oh Lord our God, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Kim Boo-kyum – South Korea.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL: