**Psalm 145 – Reasons to praise the Lord** Clint Le Page

Main Point – Praise God the King for his greatness, goodness and grace

Today we finish our series in the Psalms.

Next week Neil will be back and starting a 12 week series on The Christian God, as we go through the Nicene Creed.-------

Our Psalms series was entitled,(**SLIDE**) Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits, from Ps 103.----

And I hope it has blessed your soul and enriched your faith, as we’ve thought about the God who redeems and forgives sin, who rescues and shepherds; the God who is with us in our darkness, and suffering.--------

And today we come full-circle, and think again about the many reasons we have to praise the Lord.----------------------

Today I hope we can sit back and marvel & wonder at our great and good God.----

Maybe when you pray and think, ‘What can I praise God for?’ nothing comes to mind.

Or maybe we’re focused on what we feel we need; or we’re just overwhelmed.-----

But brothers and sisters, praise can be like a gate, that leads us out of the dark path, and down a brighter road.--------------------

Many suffering believers have testified that considering Why they can praise the Lord, helped them to get a new perspective on their circumstances, and it helped them to remember the Lord, and his promises.---------

So I hope & pray that for each on of us, we will leave today with new reasons to praise the Lord, and a renewed desire to do so.-----------------------------------------

Psalms 145-50 are like a closing doxology – songs giving glory to God.

They’re like a Fireworks display of praise.(**SLIDE)**--------------------------------

Ps 145 is the last Psalm of David, and it’s like a reservoir full of words for praise.

‘I exalt you, my God the King; I bless your name for ever and ever.

2I will bless you every day, I will praise your name for ever and ever.’

The psalm has many words for praising God, and so many reasons to praise Him.----

It’s been called an Alphabet of Praise. Because each verse in the original Hebrew begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, like Psalm 34 did.

It’s wonderfully written!----------------------------

Coming back to **v1**, exalt means to raise up, in priority or esteem.

King David wants to lift up God’s name, his God who is The King.------------------

He says he wants to bless or praise, God’s name for ever and ever.----------------------

His desire n’ commitment is to extol (or boast) in God day after day, & never stop.----

His really wants to praise God forever, for who God is and what he has done.

David would find joy and satisfaction if he can keep-on doing this.------------------

Now desiring to praise God is a wonderful sentiment.

But if we are going to understand Why David wants to keep on praising God, we need to read further.

For it is all that David goes on to say that gives the real reasons for his praise.(**SLIDE**)

And the **first reason** to praise God the King is… His **Greatness**.

**v3 ‘**The Lord is great and is highly praised; his greatness is unsearchable.’

Or more literally, ‘Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.’-------------

David’s God, who is Our God, is great and awesome, powerful, and incomparable.

His sovereignty, wisdom, knowledge and holiness are beyond our comprehension.---

And God’s being, is so infinite and great, that no finite mind, no human mind, can grasp and understand it.-------------------------------

And God’s greatness is expressed n’ displayed in **great deeds**.-----

vv4-6 speak of God’s great deeds in multiple ways, don’t they?----

We read of God’s work, mighty acts, wondrous works, & powerful awe-inspiring acts.

We can’t be sure what David was thinking of here?--------------

Maybe of God’s marvelous creation.---------------------------------------

**Matt was in the car** with his 3 teenage kids, and he says,

‘We came around the mountain curve, and I was floored.

“Whoa! Oh my goodness. Look at that sunset!”**(SLIDE)**

We curve again… out of glory’s view.

“Oh my goodness. Hey guys, did you see that?!?”

I look in the rearview mirror. (Crickets.)

Every face is illuminated by a smartphone.

Every ear plugged by headphones.----------------------------------------------------

Perhaps the worst effect of the fall is that we have lost our ability to focus, on God, and the world. We tinker with everything and behold nothing.

We skim beauty.-----

We must behold the glory of God in creation. And linger.-------- Really look.------

Because it shows us something of the artist.-------------------------

The greatness of the artist.--------

And moves us to praise.----------------------------------------------------------

Or maybe in Ps145 David was thinking of God saving his people from Egyptian slavery with 10 great plagues – Ex 7-11.----

Or God parting the waters of the Red Sea, and preserving his people in the desert, with manna from heaven n’ water from a rock.

God bringing down the walls of Jericho(**SLIDE**), **in Josh 6**, and bringing his people into the Promised Land.--------------------------------------------------------------

Maybe David recalled God leading him in victory over his enemies time after time, until, as 2Sam7 says, ‘the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him’.

God’s great deeds.----------

Things to praise God for.----------------------------------------------------------------------

But more than all this, we 3000 yrs later, remember God coming to earth **in Jesus**.

We remember the Son of God born as a baby.

We remember Him who calmed the storm with a word, who raised dead Lazarus with a word; who died for sinners(**SLIDE**) then came back from the dead.------

The resurrection of Christ, and the life everlasting we have because of him, is truly a wonderful work.---------------------------------

And whatever’s going on in our lives, this, we can remember n’ praise God for.--------

Most of us are controlled by the immediacy of the present. Our schedules are busy, life seems full, and we have little time to eat and breathe, much less remember.

But if we desire to live a life of praise in the presence of the Divine King, then remember we must.

Our history, both our individual histories and as a community of faith, are marked by moments that remind us God is still at work. David calls us to the task of remembering those moments… not by remembering ‘the good ole’ days, desiring to return to them.

Rather we recall those moments so that we will remember the faithfulness of the God we serve, as we lean into the future.

We remember those moments so we can be reminded of our hope.

In our moments of weakness and powerlessness, fear and dread, when it seems as though the powers of this world hold sway, we remember and confess that God is King; the one enthroned in the heavens, has the power to act.

And in our moments of brokenness and waywardness, apathy and disillusionment, when we are not sure who we are, the compassionate God who is fiercely loyal steps toward us in love.

He came to us in Jesus, and he meets us in our need now.--------------------------

Remember what God has done.-------------------------------

As David reflected on God’s great deeds, look at what he says would happen in **v4**?

‘One generation will declare your works to the next’.

But declare more-means praise and commend, so it’s not just telling a story.

It’s celebrating, joyfully singing about, gladly telling all God has done.---------------------

And Sunday School Teachers, Youth leaders, and Parents, you’ve been entrusted with this task – proclaiming gladly the great things God has done.--------------------------

We can say with confident faith and joy, God made us, he sent Jesus, who saved us, his Spirit is with us, and working in us.--------------

God has done great things.------------------------

Doesn’t it make you want to Praise God?--------- & commend God to others?-----------

Do children n’ younger people ever see you celebrate what God has done?--------

Do others ever hear you declare God’s greatness?---------------------------------------------

**The next reason to praise God is his Goodness to all.(SLIDE)**

**v7** speaks of each generation giving a testimony of God’s great goodness.------

God in himself is the very definition of what is good, right and true.---------

And **v9**, ‘The Lord is good to everyone; his compassion rests on all he has made.’

This is the theme in **v14-17** too.-------

**v15:** he gives creatures their food at the proper time, or in due time.(**SLIDE**)

It’s called God’s common grace.--------------------------------

God has an open hand not a clenched fist with his creatures.--------------------

He is a King who gives! Gives food to people and animals.----------

It’s just what the apostle Paul said to the Turkish Gentiles in **Acts 14,(SLIDE)**

“we are proclaiming good news to you, that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them.[ **16**In past generations he allowed all the nations to go their own way, **17**although he did not leave himself without a witness, since he did what is good by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.”---------------------------

**James 1:17** says, ‘Every good and perfect gift is from above’, from the Father.-----

But you may say, Clint, ‘There are animals and people who **starve to death**, and miss out on basic necessities.’-----

Or maybe you or your friend asks, ‘In a world with natural disasters, dirty water, floods n’ famines, ‘How can God be good if he lets these happen?’------------------------

Maybe we can highlight that these came into the world when people rejected the good God who made us.-------

Maybe we can also remember the truth of Ps 145 **v14**: God cares about those who fall or are bowed down, and oppressed. And God wants us to care for them too----

Maybe we can highlight that v15&16 is not meant to be an absolute statement, true of every single creature.

Yes, some people n’ animals die of starvation.---------------------------------

But people sharing what they have is a bigger problem.

And we should all remember that the great majority of Us have food, and many desires met.

We should ask, Do I have food on the table, money to pay the heating bill, a roof over our heads, clothes, clean water, a school or job to go to, or government benefits, bodies that recover from many an illness, access to quality medical care?

Who do we think gives us all these?------------------

Don’t Aussies ignore the God who gives them all these good gifts?--------------

So encourage people to consider their response to the God who has been good to them; and not ignore him.------------------------------------

We should thank the God who gives us good gifts.

Let’s Praise our great Provider.-----------------------------------

There may be things you lack.

Maybe you’re going without a loved one, or work, or a caring friend.

Maybe you’re going without health or strength. And maybe that’s very hard.-----

But we can so quickly forget all we do have.-----------------------

We always have reasons to Praise the Lord.-------------------------------------

And one particularly marvelous thing we Christians have, **is a place in God’s glorious Kingdom. (SLIDE)**

**v10-11** speak of God’s people, the faithful or saints, telling of the glory of God’s Kingdom, which is everlasting, v13.

God’s kingdom refers to his royal power; and his rule.

It’s about God’s people, in God’s place, under his rule, experiencing his blessing.---

God is the King of Creation, and rules it all, but only some people have submitted to his rule.----------------------------------

God’s people living in God’s place under God’s rule, began to be fulfilled through God’s appointed ruler, David in Israel.

But because of sin and death, it was never perfect and would never last.

However, in **2 Sam 7** God said to David,(**SLIDE**) ‘When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.’

And the offspring of King David, the man from David’s line who will live forever, and rule forever, and have a Kingdom forever, we know is Jesus Christ.---------

In Mark 1 Jesus declared, ‘the Kingdom of God has come near’, because he’d come.---------

When he entered Jerusalem the week before he died the crowd praised him as King.

When he comes again to judge the world everyone will know he’s the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.[Rev19.16]**SLIDE**

Jesus Christ is King.-------------------

He won the victory over sin and death, by his death, resurrection, and exaltation.

Christ is the King, and his Kingdom will endure forever.-------------------------

God’s Kingdom is here n’ growing now, in the hearts and lives of his people, all who’ve turned to Christ in faith and live under his rule.----------

He died and rose so we could have a place in God’s kingdom.

So we could be blessed under God’s good and righteous rule.---------------------

And the Lord’s Supper reminds us of the blessings come through our King’s crucifixion.

But one day when Christ the King returns to judge all people, n’ renew all things, He will bring the Kingdom fully.[Lk17.20-35]

He will bring in the new heavens and earth where God’s people will live in God’s perfect place, under God’s rule, without death, sin, or separation.

And there in the fully realised perfect Kingdom to come, we shall praise God for ever and ever.---------------------------------------------------------------

And if we have a relationship with Christ the King by faith, then God also wants us to do **v11**.---------------------------

To ‘**speak of the glory** of your kingdom and declare your might’.------------------

But why speak of the glory and goodness of being saved by King Jesus?

Why would we tell of God’s greatness in raising Christ from the dead?-------

**v12**, so that all people may know of God’s mighty acts and glorious kingdom;

and come under his rule & be saved too.---------

God wants us to speak of Christ so that others can also come to know of his greatness, his glory, and become members of his kingdom.---------------

And because God is compassionate and slow to anger (v8), he’s giving people everywhere, even our friends and family, time to repent.----------------------

Who might you see in the next week or two, who you could share about Jesus’ greatness or goodness with?-------------------------------

Something else we can tell others, and praise God for, is **the Grace God shows to his people, final brief point.(SLIDE)-----------------------------------**

The Lord is good all he has made, but being one of God’s people is even better; way better.-v8 told us God is gracious, and while **vv18-20** don’t mention the word, God’s grace is behind all those things.----------------------------

David speaks about those who call out to God with integrity, or in truth and faith.

These are the same people who ‘fear him’, v19, and love him, v20.--------------

This describes people who’ve turned to God in repentance and faith, by trusting in the mighty Saviour Jesus.

God loves his saved people and deeply.-------------------------------------

**V18** promises the Lord is near all who call on him.

For if you have called on the Lord, you will be heard; and you will be saved.------------

**Romans 10** promises, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus, ­will be saved.[v13]-----------------

You can bank your life on that.-------------------------------------------

He hears their cry and saves them.------------------

God’s people won’t be destroyed with the wicked on judgement day,v20, they, we will be saved.

And until then, you will have the Lord with you, all the days of your life.

He’ll never leave you.-----------

And **v19** God fulfills his people’s desires.---------

Jesus gives us life to full.[Jn10.10]

It’s not all now, but perfectly and fully in the life to come.------------------------

But it’s real now.--------------------------

In this life God will guard n’ preserve you.------

God protects his people, n’ keeps them trusting him to the end.----------------------

The Lord gives us so many good things we don’t deserve.---------------

And that’s because **v8,** the Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love.----------

As some of us heard at the Winter Teaching last Wed, that word, faithful or steadfast love, as an Israelite, would ‘push all your buttons’.-----------

God’s love for us is covenant keeping and sure.-----

So do you love your Lord?-----------------------------------------

And brothers and sisters, don’t we have many reasons to praise God.--------------------

**Steve** struggled with depression, and his friend Ed thought a dose of positive thinking would help Steve out of his depression.

So he tried to convince Steve that there really were some good things in his life.

He still had a job, friends, basic needs met, abilities and more.

It all sounded good, and Ed thought he was encouraging Steve.---------

But it didn’t take long for Ed to hear that to Steve those words sounded like,

“Blah, blah, Steve, Blah blah blah.”--------

Ed apologised for his lame attempts to look on the bright side.-------

But Ed, journeyed with Steve, and they looked together at just one Psalm.--------

And counsellor Ed Welch says the praise of the psalms could discourage a depressed person, as one thinks that enthusiasm is hard to match.

But don’t despair.

To move from the depths to hope and praise takes time; and practise.-------

By in remembering what was true, Steve made progress.-------------------------------

Through the Psalms Ed helped Steve to praise the Lord.---------------------------------

Maybe there’s someone you could help like that too?---------------------------------

In **v21** David concludes by calling himself, all creatures, all people, to lift up praise to God.---

For nothing less than everyone praising our great God is sufficient.---------------

Because of God’s greatness, goodness and grace, we have reasons to praise the Lord.------

So as you leave I hope you’ll leave saying to yourself:

I exalt you my God the King.-----------------

Bless, the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits”.------------------------

Let’s **pray** that will happen.