

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning

Week 47 (November 19-25, 2017)

We are entering the week of Thanksgiving, so we will turn to Psalms for this time of praise, worship and thanksgiving. (Reprinted and updated from week 48, 2014)

Sunday, November 19 (read Psalm 145:1-7) *One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4)*

This is one of my favorite psalms for praise and worship. The first three verses speak directly to the subject of praise, adoration and exaltation. After declaring that he praises God daily (v. 1-2), the psalmist reminds us of the greatness of God. Then he turns his attention to **our calling** to testify to others about our faith. The gospel message is only one generation away from extinction except that, “One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts” (v.4). I challenge you to tell others about Jesus and **His** marvelous works and refrain from telling them only about your church, your pastor, or your family’s contributions to the local church (v. 5-6). Then you will be able to adequately celebrate His goodness and sing of His righteousness (v. 7)!

Monday, November 20 (read Psalm 145:8-12) *All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will extol you. (Psalm 145:10)*

In verse 8, the psalmist reminds us of God’s wonderful attributes (gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love). God gives a similar description of Himself in Exodus 34:6-7. You can trust in His goodness and compassion even when He doesn’t seem to be answering your prayers according to your timetable (v. 9). We must join all of nature in giving praise to the Lord for His constant care for all He has created (v. 10). In this way, “all men may know of (His) mighty acts and the glorious splendor of (His) kingdom” (v. 11-12). We are called to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). How well are you presenting the message of redemption through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

Tuesday, November 21 (read Psalm 145:13-16) *The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made. (Psalm 145:13b)*

I hope you have become familiar with the section of our website (20:20visionministries.org) entitled “Praying God’s Promises.” It has become a wonderful blessing to many people, especially those who are nearing the end of their earthly journeys. Even while we are in the prime of our lives, we should follow the Lord’s model prayer and pray “Thy Kingdom come” in anticipation of the return of Jesus to the earth to set up His kingdom (v. 13a; see also Revelation 20:1-6). Looking forward to the fulfillment of the promise of His kingdom, the psalmist reminds you that, “the Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made” (v. 13b). He promises to uphold “all those who fall” and lift up “all who are bowed down” (v. 14). When you continue in the Lord’s Prayer and pray, “Give us this day our daily bread,” do not forget God’s promise given in v. 15-16. Trust His promises and your worries will disappear as you learn to accept His wonderful provisions!

Wednesday, November 22 (read Psalm 145:17-21) *The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)*

You can trust the Lord’s promises and His loving provisions toward all He has made (v. 17). Why then do so many Christians become disillusioned? You’ll find the answer in v. 18 printed above! Many preachers, especially on TV, have taught people that, if they want something, to “name it and claim it,” even though God has not promised it to them. They get discouraged and soon start to doubt God’s promises. That’s why we are commanded to “**call on Him in truth**” (v. 18, emphasis mine). You can trust Him completely

to fulfill all the promises found in His Word. Often, He will supply some of our desires that are not specifically promised in the Bible, but we must leave that option to Him (v. 19-20). Will you join all of nature in praising His holy Name (v. 21)? Our part is to praise Him through faith; His part is, basically, everything else!

Thursday, November 23 (read Psalm 146) *Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Psalm 146:1-2)*

Today is Thanksgiving Day, so I hope you desire to spend your day in praise to the One who has provided everything for your enjoyment. God wants this praise to come from deep within your **soul** before it overflows to your lips (v. 1-2). He doesn't care whether you have a beautiful singing voice or whether you prefer hymns, psalms or spiritual songs; He wants you to sing with "gratitude in your hearts to God" (see Colossians 3:16). The next two verses warn against putting your confidence in human leaders who will soon die and leave their kingdoms to others (v. 3-4). Of course, this refers to government leaders, but it is also true of preachers and church leaders as well. Be sure to follow the message of God's Word, and not the person who delivers it. Most of my time these days is spent in fulfilling the words of John the Baptist: "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30). These devotions are my effort to leave a legacy of God's truth as He has revealed it to me. My death will not erase my writings and my CD's. Praise God all day for His wonderful care for His sheep!

Friday, November 24 (reread Psalm 146)

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the Lord, who remains faithful forever. (Psalm 146:5-6)

Your worship of God must begin the same way God reveals Himself—with the creation story. Man did not evolve, nor did he get here by chance! He is God's design as well as everything else you see and enjoy each day of your life (v. 5-6). The Lord gives us this beatitude in v. 5 to remind us that our hope (assurance) rests in the Hands of the One who created everything for His pleasure and our enjoyment. He will never let us go hungry, nor will He allow us to be permanently imprisoned by the politically correct laws of this world. He will open our eyes to see what non-believers cannot see, and He will give new energy to those who faint under their heavy loads (v. 7-8). He cares for all the weak while He "frustrates the ways of the wicked" (v. 9). The Lord reigns **forever** (v. 10)! Praise Him as long as you have breath!

Saturday, November 25 (read Psalm 147)

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. (Psalm 147:7)

In order to survive the days of persecution that are coming upon Christians, we need a better understanding of just how awesome our Heavenly Father is. Our God can call each star by name (v. 4). He cares not only for you, but also for each animal He has created (v. 9). He is all-powerful and does not need our strength to accomplish His tasks; instead, He delights in our weaknesses so that we will learn to trust Him completely (v. 10-11; see also 2 Corinthians 12:9-10). While all of this is important, the most powerful message in this psalm is His care for Israel, the people who were charged with the responsibility of receiving and keeping His Word before the Church was born (v. 12-20). If your church does not believe that Israel is God's chosen nation or that the Lord is still fulfilling His plans for this tiny nation, get out and worship in a place that honors the Jews! His Word is being fulfilled right before your eyes as the surrounding nations plot to destroy Israel! Don't miss what He is doing for the world!