

GREAT ARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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PSALM 111:1-10 PRAISE YE THE LORD. I WILL PRAISE THE LORD WITH *MY* WHOLE HEART, IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UPRIGHT, AND *IN* THE CONGREGATION. ²THE WORKS OF THE LORD *ARE* GREAT, SOUGHT OUT OF ALL THEM THAT HAVE PLEASURE THEREIN. ³HIS WORK *IS* HONOURABLE AND GLORIOUS: AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURETH FOR EVER. ⁴HE HATH MADE HIS WONDERFUL WORKS TO BE REMEMBERED: THE LORD *IS* GRACIOUS AND FULL OF COMPASSION. ⁵HE HATH GIVEN MEAT UNTO THEM THAT FEAR HIM: HE WILL EVER BE MINDFUL OF HIS COVENANT. ⁶HE HATH SHEWED HIS PEOPLE THE POWER OF HIS WORKS, THAT HE MAY GIVE THEM THE HERITAGE OF THE HEATHEN. ⁷THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS *ARE* VERITY AND JUDGMENT; ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS *ARE* SURE. ⁸THEY STAND FAST FOR EVER AND EVER, *AND ARE* DONE IN TRUTH AND UPRIGHTNESS. ⁹HE SENT REDEMPTION UNTO HIS PEOPLE: HE HATH COMMANDED HIS COVENANT FOR EVER: HOLY AND REVEREND *IS* HIS NAME. ¹⁰THE FEAR OF THE LORD *IS* THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM: A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO *HIS COMMANDMENTS*: HIS PRAISE ENDURETH FOR EVER.

LET US TAKE A VERY QUICK LOOK AT THE TIMES OF THIS PSALM, AND SOME THINGS WE MIGHT LEARN ABOUT THE WRITER

THE FIRST THING WE SEE. HOW HE STARTS HIS PSALM, HE PRAISES THE LORD.

FOR JUST A MOMENT THINK ABOUT THIS WORD, PRAISE. THE HEBREW HAS A BROAD SCOPE OF MEANING IN OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE. IT MEANS; TO *SHINE*; HENCE TO *MAKE A SHOW*, TO *BOAST*; AND THUS TO *BE CLAMOROUSLY FOOLISH*

SO WHEN THIS WRITER SAYS PRAISE YE THE LORD, WITH HIS WHOLE HEART, HE PROBABLY DID IT LIKE SOME OF US WOULD YELL FOR THE COWBOYS. TO SEE THE TYPE OF PRAISE THAT THIS WRITER IS SPEAKING OF, ALL WE HAVE TO

DO IS THINK ABOUT A PRO FOOTBALL GAME BEING HELD IN GREENBAY THE FIRST WEEK END OF JANUARY. AS THE TV CAMERA PANS THE AUDIENCE THERE IS ALWAYS THREE GUYS SETTING THERE IN SUB ZERO WEATHER WITH THEIR SHIRTS OF, WITH GO PACKERS PAINTED ON THEIR CHESTS.

THE NEXT THING THIS WRITER WOULD BRING TO OUR ATTENTION IS WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO, CONTINUE TO PRAISE THE LORD. ALSO WHERE HE WAS GOING TO DO IT. "IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UPRIGHT", THIS IS THE HOME STUDY GROUP THAT MEETS TO FIND OUT ALL THEY CAN ABOUT THE LORD. OF COURSE IN THIS SETTING IT WOULD BE EASY TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY FOR THE LORD

BUT HE ALSO SAYS, I AM GOING TO DO IT IN THE CONGREGATION, IN HIS TIME THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN DOWN AT THE LOCAL SYNAGOGUE. THIS JEWISH PERSON WOULD HAVE HAD FOUR PLACES WHERE THEY WOULD HAVE PRAISED THE LORD. IN THE HOME, IF THIS PERSON WAS THE FATHER OF THE HOUSE HE WOULD HAVE ALSO BEEN THE PRIEST OF THE HOUSE. HE WOULD HAVE TAUGHT HIS CHILDREN THE WORD OF GOD AND LED THEM IN EVERY HOME CELEBRATION OF THE LORD. IN THE SYNAGOGUE, WHERE AT TIMES HE WOULD HAVE STOOD BEFORE THE CONGREGATION AND TOOK HIS PART IN THE PRAISE AND TEACHINGS OF THE SYNAGOGUE, FOR THAT WAS ITS PURPOSE. HE WOULD HAVE GONE TO JERUSALEM TO THE TEMPLE ON THE FESTIVALS DAYS REQUIRED OF HIM. AND HE WOULD HAVE PRAISED THE LORD IN PUBLIC BY HIS DRESS. DIFFERENT PARTS OF HIS CLOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN SAYING TO ALL WHO SAW HIM, PRAISE THE LORD.

WE MIGHT THINK THAT IS A VERY UNUSUAL WAY TO ACT, BUT WE DO IT TODAY. THINK ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT THEM, BY WHAT THEY WARE.

THE NEXT THING HE WANTS US TO KNOW, THE WORK OF THE LORD IS GREAT, AND THOSE WORKS ARE SOUGHT BY THOSE WHO TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN THEM. TWO THINGS HERE TO FOCUS ON. ONE - THE WORK OF THE LORD IS GREAT

SECOND - THE WORKS THAT GOD DOES IS SOUGHT BY THOSE WHO TAKE

GREAT PLEASURE IN THEM.

THE FIRST THING DISCLOSED IN THIS PSALM IS THE CHARACTER OF GOD AS SHOWN BY HIS WORK; WHAT KIND OF GOD DO WE SERVE. HE REVEALS THIS TO US BY HIS CHARACTER.

HIS WORK IS HONORABLE, WHEN THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER CRIES OUT TO HIS GOD, “**PSALM 4:1** ANSWER ME WHEN I CALL TO YOU, O MY RIGHTEOUS GOD. GIVE ME RELIEF FROM MY DISTRESS; BE MERCIFUL TO ME AND HEAR MY PRAYER. [WHEN HE FINISHES WITH HIS REQUESTS, WE HEAR THESE WORDS]. **PSALM 4:8** I WILL LIE DOWN AND SLEEP IN PEACE, FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD, MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY. **FOR THE WORK OF OUR GOD IS TO HONOR HIS WORD.**

HIS WORK IS GLORIOUS. **EXODUS 15:1** THEN SANG MOSES AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THIS SONG UNTO THE LORD, AND SPAKE, SAYING, I WILL SING UNTO THE LORD, FOR HE HATH TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY: THE HORSE AND HIS RIDER HATH HE THROWN INTO THE SEA. **EXODUS 15:6** THY RIGHT HAND, O LORD, IS BECOME GLORIOUS IN POWER: THY RIGHT HAND, O LORD, HATH DASHED IN PIECES THE ENEMY. [ALL THIS POWER OF GOD, HE DESIRES TO SHOW IN OUR LIFE], **ROMANS 6:4** THEREFORE WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM [JESUS] BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH: THAT LIKE AS CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. **IT IS HIS GLORIOUS WORK THAT GIVES US NEWNESS OF LIFE.**

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURETH FOR EVER -PSALM 85:10 MERCY AND TRUTH ARE MET TOGETHER; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE HAVE KISSED *EACH OTHER.* **ROMANS 3:25-26** WHOM GOD HATH SET FORTH *TO BE* A PROPITIATION THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD, TO DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS THAT ARE PAST, THROUGH THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD; ²⁶**TO DECLARE, I SAY, AT THIS TIME HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT HE MIGHT BE JUST, AND THE JUSTIFIER OF**

HIM WHICH BELIEVETH IN JESUS.

HE HATH MADE HIS WONDERFUL WORKS TO BE REMEMBERED: - PSALM

9:2-5 I WILL BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN YOU; I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH. ³MY ENEMIES TURN BACK; THEY STUMBLE AND PERISH BEFORE YOU. ⁴FOR YOU HAVE UPHELD MY RIGHT AND MY CAUSE; YOU HAVE SAT ON YOUR THRONE, JUDGING RIGHTEOUSLY. ⁵ YOU HAVE REBUKED THE NATIONS AND DESTROYED THE WICKED; YOU HAVE BLOTTED OUT THEIR NAME FOR EVER AND EVER. **JOHN 10:32** BUT JESUS SAID TO THEM, **"I HAVE SHOWN YOU MANY GREAT MIRACLES FROM THE FATHER. FOR WHICH OF THESE DO YOU STONE ME?"** **ACTS 10:38** **HOW GOD ANOINTED JESUS OF NAZARETH WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND POWER, AND HOW HE WENT AROUND DOING GOOD AND HEALING ALL WHO WERE UNDER THE POWER OF THE DEVIL, BECAUSE GOD WAS WITH HIM.**

THE LORD IS GRACIOUS - THE GRACE OF GOD -EXODUS 34:6-7 AND HE PASSED IN FRONT OF MOSES, PROCLAIMING, "THE LORD, THE LORD, THE COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS GOD, SLOW TO ANGER, ABOUNDING IN LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS, ⁷MAINTAINING LOVE TO THOUSANDS, AND FORGIVING WICKEDNESS, REBELLION AND SIN. ." **ROMANS 5:15** BUT THE GIFT IS NOT LIKE THE TRESPASS. FOR IF THE MANY DIED BY THE TRESPASS OF THE ONE MAN [ADAM], **HOW MUCH MORE DID GOD'S GRACE AND THE GIFT THAT CAME BY THE GRACE OF THE ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST, OVERFLOW TO THE MANY!**

AND FULL OF COMPASSION.- ISAIAH 40:11 HE TENDS HIS FLOCK LIKE A SHEPHERD: HE GATHERS THE LAMBS IN HIS ARMS AND CARRIES THEM CLOSE TO HIS HEART; HE GENTLY LEADS THOSE THAT HAVE YOUNG. **MATTHEW 14:14** WHEN JESUS LANDED AND SAW A LARGE CROWD, HE **HAD COMPASSION ON THEM AND HEALED THEIR SICK.**

WHAT THE PSALMIST HAS JUST DONE, GIVEN US A DESCRIPTION OF THE HEART OF OUR GOD.

NOW THAT WE KNOW THE HEART OF GOD, WE WILL SEE FOUR WORKS OF GOD THAT PROVIDE FOR HIS PEOPLE

GOD PROVIDES FOOD **PSALM 145:15** THE EYES OF ALL LOOK TO YOU, AND YOU GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD AT THE PROPER TIME. **MATTHEW 6:11**
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

HE CONSTANTLY SEEKS TO CARRY OUT HIS COVENANT RESPONSIBILITY -
EZEKIEL 16:62 SO I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT WITH YOU, AND YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD. **HEBREWS 13:20** MAY THE GOD OF PEACE, WHO THROUGH THE **BLOOD OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT** BROUGHT BACK FROM THE DEAD OUR LORD JESUS, THAT GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP,

HE MANIFESTS HIS GREAT POWER AND WORKS TO HIS PEOPLE ;
MATTHEW 21:22 IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE
WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."

HE PLANS THAT HIS PEOPLE SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH AND ITS FULNESS;
MATTHEW 5:5 **BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.**

THE FOURFOLD CHARACTER OF HIS WORK AND WORD

THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS ARE TRUTH AND JUDGMENT; **NUMBERS 23:19**
GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE, NOR A SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD CHANGE HIS MIND.? JESUS SAYS, **"I AM TRUTH"**

ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE SURE. DOES HE SPEAK AND THEN NOT ACT? DOES HE PROMISE AND NOT FULFILL

THEY STAND FAST FOR EVER AND EVER, **HEBREWS 13:8** JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

AND ARE DONE IN TRUTH AND UPRIGHTNESS. **JOHN 18:20** **"I HAVE SPOKEN OPENLY TO THE WORLD,"** JESUS REPLIED. **"I ALWAYS TAUGHT IN**

SYNAGOGUES OR AT THE TEMPLE, WHERE ALL THE JEWS COME TOGETHER. I SAID NOTHING IN SECRET.

THE FOURFOLD REDEMPTION POWER OF GOD

⁹HE SENT REDEMPTION UNTO HIS PEOPLE: **2 COR. 4:15** ALL THIS IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT, SO THAT THE GRACE THAT IS REACHING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE MAY CAUSE THANKSGIVING TO OVERFLOW TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

HE HATH COMMANDED HIS COVENANT FOR EVER: **MARK 13:31** HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL NEVER PASS AWAY.

AND REVEREND *IS* HIS NAME. GOD HAS GREAT AWARENESS OF HIS NAMES, HE HAS TWELVE RECORDED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU. WE MAY KNOW THE WORK AND POWER OF GOD BY THE NAMES HE CALLS HIMSELF; GOD OUR CREATOR, OUR ETERNAL GOD, GOD OUR SUPPLIER, MASTER-LORD, GOD OUR PROVIDER, GOD MY HEALER, GOD MY BANNER, GOD MY SANCTIFIER, GOD MY RIGHTEOUSNESS, GOD MY SHEPHERD, AND GOD THE ABIDING PRESENCE.

JOEL WRITING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WANTED ALL TO KNOW THIS; AND EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON **THE NAME OF THE LORD** WILL BE SAVED; WE SHOULD ASK, “SAVED OR REDEEMED FROM WHAT”

HE JUST TOLD US, HE SAYS, I AM THE ONE WHO CREATED YOU, I AM FROM THE BEGINNING TILL THE END, I AM THE ONE WHO WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH A SAVIOR, I AM YOUR MASTER, I AM THE ONE WHO WILL PROVIDE ALL YOUR NEEDS, I AM THE ONE WHO HEALTH YOU, I AM THE ONE WHO SUPPLIES YOU WITH A NAME TO BE KNOWN BY [CHILDREN OF GOD], I AM THE ONE WHO SETS YOU APART FOR WHAT I HAVE CALLED YOU TO BE, I AM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, I AM THE ONE WHO GUIDES YOU, TAKES YOU IN AND OUT OF YOUR HOUSE, I AM THE ONE WHO IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

PRAISE BE HIS HOLY NAME.

HE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ALL THIS IS FOR HIS PEOPLE AND IT IS FOR EVER..

¹⁰THE FEAR [THE AWESOME RESPECT] OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM:

A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO *HIS COMMANDMENTS*: HIS PRAISE ENDURETH FOR EVER.

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE THIS SERMON WITH AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPEN IN MY LIFE. SOMETHING I HARDLY EVER DO. BUT THIS WRITER SAID I WILL PRAISE THE LORD IN THE CONGREGATION, AND THAT IS WHAT I INTEND TO DO HERE.

IN MAY 1981 I WAS AN AT&T ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR IN KANSAS CITY. WE WERE JUST FINISHING A BIG ENGINEERING JOB FOR EXXON. IT WAS A WEDNESDAY MORNING, I WAS AT MY DESK SIGNING OFF THE ENGINEERING DOCUMENTS WHEN MY MANAGER CAME BY AND SAID THAT HIS BOSS WANTED TO SEE ME IN HIS OFFICE.

I THOUGHT VERY LITTLE ABOUT IT AS HE AND I WENT TO THE CORNER OFFICE. ENTERING THE OFFICE I SEE A NUMBER OF MY FRIENDS FROM ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS.

I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE KANSAS CITY DISTRICT OPERATIONS MANAGER AND HE ASK IF I WOULD LIKE TO BE THE KANSAS CITY PRIVATE LINE OPERATIONS MANAGER. AT FIRST I AM STARTLED, AT&T HAD MORE THAN 100,000 EMPLOYEES AND THIS WAS ONE OF THE JOBS THAT GAVE A LOT OF EXPOSURE TO LOOK GOOD OR VERY BAD. THIS WAS A JOB FOR A PERSON THAT HAD AMBITIONS TO GO A LONG WAY IN THE COMPANY. THAT WAS NOT ME. BEFORE I ANSWERED, I ASK MY SELF WOULD I HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND DRIVE TO DO THIS JOB. I EXPECTED TO BE PROMOTED TO A MANAGER SOME DAY, BUT OUT IN SOME SMALL TOWN, NEVER A PLACE LIKE THIS. THEN I REMEMBERED, I SERVE JEHOVAH EL SHADDAI, THE GOD WHO IS OUR SUPPLIER, THESE MEN WERE OFFERING ME THIS POSITION, BUT THE JOB WAS REALLY BEING OFFERED BY MY GOD. I TOLD THE MEN THANKS, I WOULD TAKE IT. THEY SAID YOU WILL TAKE OVER THE OFFICE MONDAY MORNING.

RETURNING FROM LUNCH WITH THESE MEN, I WENT TO MY DESK TO FINISH UP

THE WORK ASSOCIATED WITH MY ENGINEERING DUTIES. AS I WAS SIGNING OFF ON THE LAST DOCUMENT, ALL AT ONCE I SAW TWO DOCUMENTS. NO MATTER WHAT I DID I WAS SEEING TWO OF EVERYTHING.

I WENT TO THE WASH ROOM TO THROUGH SOME WATER ON MY FACE, NOTHING HELPED, IN FACT THINGS SEEM TO BE GETTING WORSE. I TURNED TO A FRIEND OF MINE AND TOLD HIM I NEEDED TO SEE THE COMPANY DOCTOR. WE HAD ONE IN THE BUILDING. THE DOCTOR SEEING THAT MY EYE DID NOT MOVE RUSHED ME TO THE HOSPITAL. I WAS LOSING MORE FEELING AND CONTROL ON MY LEFT SIDE. I COULD NOT EVEN REMEMBER MY IN-LAWS NAMES WHO LIVED IN KANSAS CITY. I HOPING THEY WOULD CALL FRAN MY WIFE AT WORK AND LET HER KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON.

THAT NIGHT AT CHURCH THEY DID ONLY ONE THING, THEY CALLED OUT TO JEHOVAH-RAPHA, GOD MY HEALER, FOR MY HEALING.

ALL WEDNESDAY, AND THROUGH OUT THE NIGHT, ALL THE TESTS THE DOCTORS DID UNCOVERED NO REASON WHY MY LEFT SIDE WAS GOING DEAD.

THURSDAY AROUND NOON THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE. MY LEFT SIDE WAS COMING BACK ALIVE. MY MEMORY RETURNED. THE DOCTORS WERE WITH ME THE ENTIRE TIME RUNNING DIFFERENT TESTS. THEY NEVER FOUND A REASON WHY THIS HAPPENED TO ME. THE ONLY THING THAT I HAVE TO DAY TO REMIND ME OF THAT TIME, IF YOU RUN A SHARP OBJECT OVER THE BOTTOM OF MY LEFT FOOT, THE TOES GO THE WRONG WAY.

I TAUGHT BIBLE STUDY AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY AND TOOK MY NEW POSITION ON MONDAY. I SERVED IN THE POSITION FOR THREE YEARS, THINGS WENT GLORIOUS. I TOLD MY BOSS THAT I WANTED A POSITION IN CALIF TO BE NEAR MY SONS, THAT WAS AT NOON. AT FOUR O'CLOCK, HE SAID THEY HAD A JOB FOR ME. I TOLD HIM I DID NOT WANT THAT JOB BECAUSE IT WAS DOWN AT THE L.A. AIRPORT, I WANTED A JOB IN SAN FRANCISCO CLOSER TO MY SONS. HE SAID A.T.&T. DID NOT HAVE ANY JOBS IN SAN FRAN AND THEY DID NOT WANT ME TRANSFERRING TO PACIFIC BELL. HE SAID WE WOULD TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN THE NEXT DAY.

WHEN I CAME IN THE NEXT MORNING, THERE WAS A NOTE ON MY DESK TO CALL MY BOSS, HE SAID THEY HAD CREATED A JOB FOR ME AND IT WOULD BE WAITING FOR ME WHEN I GOT THERE.

YOU AND I SERVE A GOD WHO SAYS HIS NAME IS; JEHOVAH EL SHADDAI, GOD OUR SUPPLIER, AND HE SAYS HIS NAME IS JEHOVAH RAPHA, GOD MY HEALER.

GOD IS REAL. HE SAYS IF WE WILL BE HIS CHILD, HE WILL REVEAL HIMSELF TO US. THAT HE WANTS TO REWARD THOSE WHO WILL DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.

HE DOES ALL THINGS WELL AND HE WILL BE PRAISED FOR EVER.

FOR THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM FOR HE IS THE GREAT "I AM"

A MEN