

Praise for the Lord Psa. 147

Introduction:

1. Throughout Scripture the evidence is that we are the objects of God's attention. Nothing is dearer to him than you. This is one of the reasons why the Lord deserves our praise.
2. The writers of the Psalms are willing to give it.
3. Nowhere is this any clearer in evidence than in the Psalms that compose the ending of the great book of the Psalms.
4. Examples abound.
 - a. Psa. 145:1-5, 8, 14, 17
 - b. Psa. 146:1-7.
 - c. Psa. 148:1-6.
 - d. Psa. 149:1-4.
5. The focal point of the lesson: Psa. 147:1-6.
6. Three things . . .
 - a. Praising the Lord is good, pleasant and becoming.
 - b. The Lord's actions are worthy of praise.
 - c. Recognizing the greatness of God leads to praise.

Discussion:

I. Praising the Lord is good, pleasant and becoming.

- A. What it means to praise.
 1. "Halal"- a primary root *to be boastful*. Ex. Psa. 44:8.
 2. Most parents are good about boasting about their children. But grandparents are especially adept at it.
 3. To praise God therefore means to boast about him, to exalt him, to lift him up to others.
 4. Example: Psa. 145:8ff; 146:7-9.
 5. If you perceive of God negatively you will not boast of him.
- B. It is good, pleasant and becoming to praise the Lord.
 1. That parent or grandparent who boasts about their child is glad to do so. They find pleasure in it. So we should be about the Lord.
 2. It is becoming to those whom the Lord has blessed for them to respond this way.
- C. The Psalmist mentions singing praises to God.
 1. Indeed they were commanded to praise God with singing and dancing. The singing was often accompanied with timbrel and lyre (Psa. 149:3).
 2. 2 Chron. 29:25-28 indicates that this was a command from God, through his prophets, David, Gad, and Nathan.
 3. The N.T. is silent on dancing in praise to God. It is not silent on singing. Singing is demanded (Col. 3:16). The N.T. is silent on singing accompanied by instruments, unless Eph. 5:19 means to make the human heart the instrument. It may be that the human heart is the instrument of worship in spirit and truth, while timbrels and lyres characterized the worship of the types and shadows of the O.T. (Jn. 4:23; Heb. 10:1).

II. The Lord's actions are worthy of praise.

A. Specific actions enumerated here in Psa. 147.

1. Builds up Jerusalem.
2. Gather's the outcasts of Israel.
3. Heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
4. He counts the stars and gives names to all of them.
5. Supports the afflicted.
6. Brings down the wicked.

B. There are many other actions of God deserving of praise.

1. Gracious and merciful and slow to anger and great in lovingkindness (145:8).
2. He is good to all (145:9).
3. His kingdom is everlasting (145:13).
4. Sustains the fallen and raises up those bowed down (145:14).
5. Provides rain (147:8).
6. There is a song that we sometimes sing that capitalizes on this concept of the actions of God deserving praise. "Count your many blessings, see what God has done."

III. Recognizing the greatness of God leads to praise (verses 5-6).

A. Too often I fear that we become like God in a negative way.

1. God's attention is absorbed with us.
2. Our attention is absorbed in ourselves.
3. Not ourselves as a group because that would mean that we are absorbed with others, and I am just one of those. But my attention is focused on me.

B. Our attention to ourselves needs to be diminished and more attention focused on our God in response to His attention to us.

C. Our attention to ourselves needs to be diminished and more attention focused on others.

1. He supports the afflicted.
2. Bringing down the wicked. I take this to mean that he brings down the wicked in protection of those that they would afflict.

Conclusion:

1. Are you giving praise to God?
2. Are you concerned about the one's He is concerned about?
3. Overly concerned with self?