**Jesus is Worthy to be Praised**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Psalm 154:1-9**

**Sunday Morning**

**November 21, 2021**

**Psalm 145:1-9**

1 I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. 6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness.

7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

**What do you think would be the hardest part of living life as a fugitive and constantly being on the run from the authorities?**

**1. GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP**

Saints, King David could easily have fallen into the trap that many of us do when we face reversals, trials, and troubles in our lives. David could have blamed God.

He could have asked how God could allow him, the hero of Israel and slayer of Goliath, to be hunted like a dog across the deserts and mountains of Israel.

But while we do at times see David being heartbreakingly honest with God about his desperate situation, far more often we see him worshiping and praising God.

David decided, as we must as well, that no matter what the circumstances in his life might be, God was still worthy to be worshiped.

**1 Samuel 20:1-3 (Living Bible Translation)**

1 David now fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan. "What have I done?" he exclaimed. "Why is your father so determined to kill me?" 2 "That's not true!" Jonathan protested. "I'm sure he's not planning any such thing, for he always tells me everything he's going to do, even little things, and I know he wouldn't hide something like this from me. It just isn't so."

3 "Of course you don't know about it!" David fumed. "Your father knows perfectly well about our friendship, so he has said to himself, 'I'll not tell Jonathan-why should I hurt him?' But the truth is that I am only a step away from death! I swear it by the Lord and by your own soul!"

**2. God Is to Be Feared above All Gods**

Saints, worship is connected to holy reverence, or fear of God:

**Psalm 96:6**

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth”

Saints, it is an understanding of who God is:

**Psalm 96:4-5**

4 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

Saints, David saw this fear of the Lord as a positive thing. Since God is so powerful, He is a mighty ally:

**Psalm 33:18**

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy”

Saints, God allowed David to see that:

**Psalm 34:7**

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,

And delivers them”

Saints, even in the cave, David could worship because he was certain his mighty God had deliverance waiting for him.

**3. Creation Worships the Lord**

**Psalm 150:6**

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD”

**Romans 8:18-22 (Living Bible Translation)**

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. 19 For all creation is waiting patiently and hopefully for that future day when God will resurrect his children.

20 For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death, and decay --the things that overcame the world against its will at God's command-will all disappear, and the world around us will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God's children enjoy. 22 For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event.

Saints, all creation points to a Creator. All creation worships the Lord with a single possible exception: us. Humanity alone, of all God’s creation, has free will. We decide whether we will praise Him.

The sun shines forth God’s glory, the moon reflects God’s glory, and the stars remind us of God’s glory and infinite majesty

**4. We will Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness**

Saints, worship goes much deeper than singing and shouting and dancing and clapping. David said it best,

**Psalm 96:9**

“Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth”

Saints, it could be argued that holiness brings even more glory to God than our praise and worship at church on Sunday. It is possible to sing and shout on Sunday but then go out and live in such a way that it undermines our supposed high regard for God.

If we truly have fear—awesome reverence and respect—for God, it will not only come out in our praise, but it will also manifest itself in the way we live day- to-day.

**5. GOD IS GREATLY TO BE PRAISED**

King David said it Best:

**Psalm 96:4-6**

4 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Saints, much has been said and written about the difference between worship and praise. These are clearly closely related and are sometimes used interchangeably.

Some say worship is what we do because of who God is and praise is what we do in response to what God has done. Others would say worship is directed toward God alone for Him to hear, while praise is when we tell others about what God has done.

David made this connection between praise and other people when he wrote,

**Psalm 96:3**

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples”

Saints, whether we are aiming our praises to God directly or praising Him to others around us, we certainly have a lot to praise God for.

**Psalm 100:5**

“For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations”

**6. The Lord Is Good**

Saints, think for a moment about how important it is that the Lord is good. God is all powerful. Imagine if He were evil instead of good? What if God were cruel or capricious, like the false gods of many nations in history?

Who would survive? What would our lives look like? But instead, over and over the Bible assures us the Lord is good. He gives goods gifts to His children. He sends rain—a symbol of blessing—on the just and the unjust. He makes the sun to shine on both, because He wants all people to know He loves them:

**James 1:17**

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”

Every good thing in life comes from the Lord.

**7. God’s Mercy Is Everlasting**

Saints, God’s mercy never expires. It is new every morning. Time and again David would sin and fail and fall, but he always turned back to God. He always got up again. He always repented. And he always found that God’s mercy was everlasting.

We, too, often stumble and fall. There is a non-stop war between our flesh and our spirit, between the carnal and the spiritual. And while we all like to pretend we are perfect when we come to church on Sunday, the truth is we are not.

**1 John 1:7-10**

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Saints, we are not perfect, but we are redeemed. We are not perfect, but we are loved. We are not perfect, but we are forgiven and made righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ.

**In Closing:**

**8. I Will Praise and Bless the Name of the Lord**

**Given all of this, what should be our reaction?**

David had a suggestion:

**Psalm 100:4-5**

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Saints, when we come into the church, we should come with words of thanksgiving and praise on our lips and with thankfulness in our hearts. And every day we should enter into His presence in prayer and praise.

We should bless His name for all He has done and give Him glory.

**What glory do we have to give God?**

Any and all glory that we may have—anything good we do, we give the glory to God; any achievement we may attain, we give the glory to God; any talent we may have, we give the glory to God.

**Praise Him, bless Him, and give Him glory for what He has done in your life.**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**