

## Let Us Worship the Lord Our God

Psa. 95

### Introduction:

1. Worship is defined as the showing of great honor, the demonstration of respect, and the communication of reverence.
2. While men have worshiped the heavens, nature, various gods that they have created, and even themselves, there is only one God and He alone is worthy of worship.
3. But why is He alone worthy of our worship? What actions should we take in honoring the true and living God? What is the appropriate response to our great God?
4. Psa. 95 gives us answers to these great and fundamental questions.
5. As we read verses 1-7a look for the reasons the Psalmist gives for worshipping the Lord.

### Discussion:

#### I. Why the Lord is worthy of our worship.

##### A. God gives the blessing of salvation (1b).

1. We are here in this place today because we need the forgiveness God has to offer.
2. We need a keen sense of our need.
  - a. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). We need to understand our spiritual bankruptcy and desire the Lord who can balance our account.
  - b. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." We need to grieve over our own sin and the sin of others.
  - c. When one woman observed that they did not hear much about sin in their church, another commented that if you preach on sin people would stop coming. Psa. 95 indicates that it is those who recognize the need for salvation that shout joyfully to the Lord.
3. We need to remember where we have come from (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11) and come before the presence of God with thanksgiving (Psa. 95:2) and shout joyfully to Him with psalms (Psa. 95:2).
4. Diminished awareness of personal sinfulness can lead to self-centered worship (Lk. 18:9-14).

##### B. The Lord is greater than all other gods (3).

1. Through the prophet Ezekiel God spoke to the idol worshipers of Jerusalem. He warned them of the impending judgment because of their unfaithfulness and said repeatedly, "Thus you will know that I am the Lord" (ex. Ezek. 13:23).
2. The apostles spoke of those who turned from idols to serve "the living and true God" (1 Thess. 1:9).
3. God's greatness is what makes Him worthy of our worship. To allow anything to come between us our giving Him the ultimate respect is to exalt another god over Him.

##### C. He rules the earth (4-5).

1. Col. 1:17: "In Him all things hold together." (Perfect tense. Implying beginning

- point with continuing effect.)
2. Heb. 1:3: “He upholds all things by the word of His power.” (Present tense. Suggesting continued action.)
  3. We owe our very existence at this moment to God (Acts 17:28).
  4. We are completely dependent upon His rulership therefore we should worship Him.
- D. The Lord is the Maker, even ours (6-7a).
1. As the created we owe allegiance to our Creator. All mankind owes this allegiance.
  2. But as the people of God we owe a special allegiance to Him.
  3. Israel was chosen. God placed His identity with them. He said, “I will be your God and you will be my people.” They were unique among all the people’s of the world.
  4. We are the people of God. Specially privileged. Bought with the blood of God’s own son. Therefore above all creation we should worship Him.

## II. What actions are appropriate to the worship of God?

- A. Sing for joy; shout joyfully with psalms.
1. Such an emphasis is seen throughout the Psalms. Indeed they are songs designed to worship God.
  2. Examples Ps. 96:1-6; Psa. 98:1-4.
- B. Indeed the worship of N.T. Christians involves joyful singing.
1. Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi but were praying and singing hymns of praise to God (Acts 17:25).
  2. James asks, “Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises” (5:13).
  3. Eph. 5:19 speaks of those “filled with the Spirit” as “speaking to one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with their hearts to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
  4. Col. 3:16 says, “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
- C. Both of these last passages mention thankfulness. Psa. 95 identifies coming before the presence of God with “thanksgiving” (2).
1. God is the rock of our salvation.
  2. How appropriate it is to come before Him with thanksgiving.
  3. It is natural for those who recognize the forgiveness they have experienced from God to respond with thanksgiving. How futile was the Pharisee’s attempt at thanksgiving in Lk. 18:11. “I thank You that I am not like other people . . .”

## III. What is the appropriate response to our great God?

- A. Soft, humble, dependent hearts(7b-11).
1. Contrast Israel at Meribah (test) and Massah (quarrel) (Ex. 17:1-7).
  2. We must believe that the Lord is good, gracious and kind if we are to have soft hearts to place our trust in Him.
  3. But there seem to always be grumblers. They complain, they oppose, they are angry

with the Lord's words.

B. Hard hearts are not hearts of faith.

1. Through ignorance, misunderstanding, false messages they have come to not believe in God's graciousness. This interferes with their joyful singing and giving of thanks.
2. These do not believe that "they are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of His hand."
3. They grumble and quarrel and do not enter into His rest.

C. Those of soft heart respond in humble obedience to the voice of God motivated by their confident trust in Him as their Shepherd.

Conclusion:

1. What kind of heart do you have?
2. Do you recognize the Greatness of God?
3. Is your worship characterized by joyful singing and thanksgiving?