

The Fear of God

Part 17

Psalm 111 – Those Who Fear God They Value His Work And They Seek Opportunities To Serve Him

“1 Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. 2 The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. 3 His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. 4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. 5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. 6 He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. 7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. 9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” (Psalm 111:1-10 KJV)

“1 Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. 2 Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. 3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. 8 They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. 9 He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name. 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.” (Psalm 111:1-10 NIV)

Psalm 111 is one of the wonderful Psalms that encourage us and motivate us and ultimately mobilize us toward the work of God and to take part in His work. David wrote this Psalm and he started and proceeds through it in this way:-

1 Praise ye the LORD. 1 Praise the LORD. King David is praising God in the beginning of this Psalm motivate us to praise God with Him. Many people when you start to speak about the work of God and you would try to mobilize them little bit from their comfort zone into serving the Lord; you would find them really not happy and are sad about it. But David to the contrary he was joyous that things moved forward toward speaking about God’s work and God’s service.

I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. David was so elated to praise God, for he was so glad with God’s work that ultimately he will take part in it. David made from himself a good example to others and even to us today of how we should be and with good attitude toward the work of God. David would made the praise of God known **in the assembly of the upright (in the council of the upright)** among those who had committed themselves to serve God and are now in high position to lead the people of God and His church, **and in the congregation, and in the assembly,** among the

common members of the congregation. Put one thing here in your mind, that the **assembly of the upright, and the congregation** are not of different level of commitment. Both their hearts are focus on God, but that the **assembly of the upright** are those who are from long time are walking with God and they are serving Him, while **the congregation** are the newly people who are now starting seeking God and discovering His ways and will. **The congregation** they are the new believers who are nurtured and are helped and led by the elders who are the **assembly of the upright**. In experience, the **assembly of the upright** are of more advance and for this they are called to lead others. But both these categories, the **assembly of the upright, and the congregation** are people who fear God and are employed in His work and service. David had made from himself a model to everyone around him to know the will of God in living for Him and serving Him.

Each and every one of us should be a good example to our families, our children, and to other around us; they should see in us our priority in living for God and in serving Him, and how we are happy when it comes to His work, David said, *I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.* This then how we can personalize what David said, *‘My heart, my whole heart, being devoted to his honour, shall be employed in this work.’* We must praise God both in private and in public, in less and greater assemblies, in our own families and in the courts of the Lord’s house; but in both it is most comfortable to do it in concert with the upright, who will heartily join in it.

2 The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. 2 Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. David recommends to us the **works of the Lord** as the proper subject of our meditations when we are praising him, **Great are the works of the LORD,** and as the following:-

- A- **2 The works of the LORD are great,** God’s works are very magnificent, great like himself; there is nothing in them that is mean or trifling; they are the products of infinite wisdom and power, and we must say this upon the first view of them.
- B- **Sought out of all, or they are pondered by all:** The word, ‘All,’ is not denote for all but the meaning of ‘All,’ that everyone who fear God would seek and inquire and put himself into the work of God. Those who fear God are humble people and as they would ponder on the work of God they will discover the secrets of God for the secret of the Lord is with those that fear him, **“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”** (Psalm 25:14) Those who fear God are not burdened or have troubled toward His work, but **that have pleasure therein and who delight in them.** All that truly love God has pleasure in his works, and reckons all well that He does. Their thoughts dwell not upon any subject with more delight than on the works of God. The more we are looking into the work of God, the more will give us pleasant surprise.
- C- **3 His work is honourable and glorious, 3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds:** Those who fear God they honour and appreciate His work. His work is glorious and majestic for them. But to those who do not fear God they are ashamed when it comes to leave the world and get involved in His work. Those that fear God have pleasure in the works of God and will not take up with a superficial transient view of them, but will diligently search into them and observe them, and soon will discover the greatness and glory of God’s works.

- D- *His righteousness endureth for ever:* They are all justly and holy; whatever He does, He never did, nor ever will do, any wrong to any of his creatures; and therefore his works endure forever, ***“14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”*** (Ecclesiastes 3:14)
- E- ***4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: 4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered;*** Because the righteousness of God, His work endures. They are admirable and memorable, fit to be registered and kept on record. Much that we do is so trifling that it is not fit to be spoken of or told again; the greatest kindness is to forget it. But, notice is to be taken of God’s works and an account to be kept of them. *He has made his wonderful works to be remembered;* He has done that which is worthy to be remembered, which cannot but be remembered, and He has instituted ways and means for the keeping of some of them in remembrance, as the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt by the Passover. He has made himself a memorial by his wonderful works; by that which God did with His *glorious arm He made himself an everlasting name*, that we are challenged every day to serve Him.
- F- ***The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. the LORD is gracious and compassionate.*** The works of God are very kind. In them the Lord shows that he is *gracious and full of compassion*. As of the works of creation, so of the works of providence, we must say, they are not only all very great, but all very good. The name which God has made to himself by his wonderful works, the same with that which he proclaimed to Moses, The Lord God is gracious and merciful; God’s pardoning sin is the most wonderful of all his works and which ought to be remembered to his glory. ***“6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”*** (Exodus 34:6-7) Those who fear God will haste toward repentance and will not abuse the gracious and the compassionate God, otherwise that will turn to their judgment.
- G- ***5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.*** It is a further instance of His grace and compassion that He has given meat to those that fear Him. He gives them their daily bread, food convenient for them. God do that to others by common providence, but to those that fear Him He gives it by covenant and in pursuance of the promise, for it follows, ***He will be ever mindful of his covenant; he remembers his covenant forever***, so that they can taste covenant-love. Some refer this to the manna with which God fed his people Israel in the wilderness, others to the spoil they got from the Egyptians when they came out with great substance, according to the promise, ***“And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.”*** (Genesis 15:14) When God broke the heads of leviathan he gave him to be meat to his people, ***“Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.”*** (Psalm 74:14) Those who fear Him are those who value His work and take part in their work. He not only feed those who fear him but enriched them, and given their enemies to be a prey to them. They are earnest of what He will do, according to His promise: He will ever be mindful of his covenant,

for he has ever been so; and, as He never did, so He never will, let one jot or tittle of it fall to the ground. Though God’s people have their infirmities, and are often unmindful of his commands, yet He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

6 He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. We are here taught to give glory to God for the great things He has done for His people, for His people Israel, of old and of late: ***He has shown his people the power of his works*** in what He has wrought for them; many a time He has given proofs of his omnipotence, and shown them what He can do, and that there is nothing too hard for him to do. Two things are specified to show ***the power of his works***. *First*, The possession God gave to Israel in the land of Canaan, ***that he might give them***, or in giving them, ***the heritage of the heathen***. This he did in Joshua’s time, when the seven nations were subdued, and in David’s time, when the neighbouring nations were many of them brought into subjection to Israel and became tributaries to David. Herein God showed his sovereignty, in disposing of kingdoms as He pleases, and His might, in making good His disposals. God gave the land of their enemies to them when He found among His people individual who delight to serve Him. The Church of God will be expanding when God will found people who delight to serve Him and who honour and delight in His work. *Second*, the deliverance He wrought for His people when by their iniquities they had sold themselves into the hand of their enemies. ***9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. 9 He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name.*** At first He took His people out of Egypt, and often afterwards the deliverance of God provided during the time of Judges; these redemptions were typical of the great redemption which in the fullness of time was to be wrought out by the Lord Jesus, ***he hath commanded his covenant for ever: he ordained his covenant forever*** that redemption in Jerusalem which so many waited for, ***Holy and reverend is his name***. Deliverance is accompanied by repentance, faith and obedience. The Church of God will go through deliverance when God will found in us repentance, faith and willingness to do His Work and will.

7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. What God has done shall never be undone. This assures us of the stability both of His Word and of His works and the great things He will do for us. He will not undo it Himself. Men and devils cannot undo His work, ***The works of his hand are verity and judgment, The works of his hands are faithful and just.*** And that is how those who fear God stand against persecution knowing that, ***all his commandments are sure. all his precepts are trustworthy;*** What God has said shall never be unsaid: ***all his commandments are sure. all his precepts are trustworthy;*** all straight and therefore all steady.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. 8 They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. All the work of God stand to eternity, ***They stand fast for ever and ever, They are established for ever and ever,*** and are done according to His truth and uprightness; all done according to the counsel of His wisdom and the purpose of His will; all well done and therefore there is nothing to be altered or amended, but His works are firm and unchangeable.

His precepts, the rule of our actions, are unquestionably just and good, and therefore unchangeable and not to be repealed; His promises and threatenings are all sure, and will be made good; nor shall the unbelief of man make either the one or the other of no effect. They are established, and therefore **they stand fast for ever and ever**, and the scripture cannot be broken. The wise God is never put upon new counsels, nor obliged to take new measures, either in His laws or in His providences. All is said, as all is done, in truth and uprightness, and therefore it is immutable.

9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. 9 He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name. Men's folly and falsehood make them *unstable in all their ways*, but infinite wisdom and truth for ever exclude withdrawal and revocation: **He has commanded his covenant for ever.** God's covenant is commanded, for He has made it as one that has an irrefutable authority to prescribe both what we must do and what we must expect, and an unquestionable ability to perform both what He has promised in the blessings of the covenant and what He has threatened in the curses of it, **"He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."** (Psalm 105:8) That is why, **holy and reverend is his name**, therefore


10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. It is not only reasonable that we should fear God, because His name is reverend and His nature is holy, but it is advantageous to us. It is wisdom; it will direct us to speak and act as becomes us, in a consistency with ourselves, and for our own benefit. It is the head of wisdom that is (as we read it), **it is the beginning of wisdom**. Men can never begin to be wise till they begin to fear God; all true wisdom takes its rise from true relation with God, and has its foundation in Him. They manage well those who always act under the government of His holy fear. When the fear of the Lord rules in the heart, there will be a constant conscientious care to keep His commandments, not to talk of them, but to do them. Those who fear God, their obedience is graciously accepted as a plain indication of their mind that they do indeed fear God. Those obedient are accepted as the most intelligent; they understand themselves and their interest best by making God's law their rule and are in everything ruled by His law. A great understanding have those that know God's commandments and who learned them and do them and walk according to them as the Word of God says: **A good understanding are they to all that do them; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.**

My dear and beloved: The fear of the Lord and the laws of God that give men a good understanding will make us wise unto salvation. And we will go forward in doing His will, and live to do His work and take an active part of God's service and ministry. We will be filled with joy and gladness that we are called to serve Him and take part in His Kingdom, and His church and service. For this we praise Him, and others who fear God will join us to praise Him for, **his praise endureth for ever. To him belongs eternal praise.**

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that shows me the truth of your work and your covenant with me. Lord, great is your work, magnificent honourable and glorious. All your commands are true and your covenant is everlasting. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to take an active part of your work and ministry. Lord sustains me and provide for me to continue to be firm in my commitment to you and to the work that you entrusted to me to do. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

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