

The Fear of God Part 20

Psalms 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)

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

“1 Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.” (Psalm 111:1 KJV) King David in saying, ***“Praise ye the LORD”*** in the beginning of this Psalm is motivating us to praise God with Him. Many people when you start to speak about the works 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. ***Always be happy and glad and praise God whenever you are called and asked to serve God.***

David proceeded and said, ***“I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.”*** 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 works of God. David would made the praise of God known ***“in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.”*** That he would praise God among those who had committed themselves to serve God and are now in high position to lead the people of God and His church, 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; they fear God and are employed in His work and service. Some of them are those leaders who are from long time walking with God and are serving Him. Others are the new converted people who are now starting seeking God and discovering His ways and will. They are the new believers who are nurtured and are helped and led by the elders. Therefore, ***“in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation”*** we can see the well experienced people who are long time walking with God and those who are newly had believed Christ and made their commitment to follow God, and now are led by others who are the elders in faith than they. David in praising God and serving Him with his whole heart in the assembly of the upright,

and in the congregation, had made from himself a model to everyone around him to know the will of God in living for Him and in serving Him.

In the same way, 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 honor, shall be employed in His work.’* ***We must praise God both in private and in public, in less or in 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, those who are faithful, who will heartily join with us in worship and service unto God.***

“2 The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.” (Psalm 111:2 KJV) David recommends to us the works of the LORD as the proper subject of our thoughts and meditations as they are sought by all those who delight and have pleasure in Him. Notice they are works and not work, so they are multiple and even many. Great are the works of the LORD, and as the following:-

A. “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. ***Therefore be encouraged to get involved and put your hand in the works of God for there is nothing magnificent and great like the works of God and we shall be proud of such.***

B. “Sought out of all”: The word, ***“all”***, is not denote for all the people but the meaning of ***“all”***, is that everyone who fear God would seek and inquire and put himself into the works of God. Those who fear God are humble people and as they would ponder on the works of God they will discover the secrets of God, for the secret of the Lord is with those that fear him, ***“14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.” (Psalm 25:14 KJV)*** Those who fear God are not burdened or have troubles toward His work, but they have pleasure and delight in them. All that truly love God has pleasure in His works, and have honor to all that He does. The thoughts of their hearts and minds are focus not on anything else but on God and on His Works. ***Therefore and in the same way let the thoughts of your heart and mind focus on God and His works;*** as Paul wrote to us to set our affections on things above, the things of God and not on earthly things as we read here, ***“1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4 KJV)*** The more you are looking into the things of God and on His works then the more you are with clear mind, blessed and ready when Jesus will come to take us with Him to Heaven.

C. “3 His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.” (Psalm 111:3 KJV) Those who fear God they honor and appreciate God’s 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 works. Those that fear God have pleasure in the works of God and will not take superficial views of them, but will diligently search into them and observe them, and soon will discover the greatness and the glory of God’s works. ***In***

the same way fear God by honoring His works and take them seriously, for each and every works of God there is a noble purpose behind it.

D. “His righteousness endureth for ever”: All the works of God are justly and holy. He never did, nor ever will do, any wrong to any of His creatures; and therefore His works endure forever as we can read here, **“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 KJV)** Therefore consider this and value all the works of God as beneficial and glorious things that God did and is doing for your good and for the goodness of all mankind.

E. “4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.” (Psalm 111:4 KJV) Because the righteousness of God, He had caused His wonderful works to be remembered: His works; they endure, admirable and memorable, fit to be registered and kept on record. Much of our work is not fit to be spoken of or told again. But notice is to be taken of the works of God and an account to be kept of them. God had instituted ways and means for the keeping of some of them in remembrance, as the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt by the Passover. **Therefore as He had made for Himself a memorial by His wonderful works, He made himself an everlasting name, that we are challenged every day to serve Him as we are seeing and reflecting on the impacts of His works in our lives..**

F. “The LORD is gracious and full of compassion”: The works of God are very kind. In them the Lord shows that He is gracious and full of compassion. As in the works of creation of how God created the world and in a perfect way that comes out of His grace and compassion. Also in His works in providing for all those that He created, that is the works of providence. Therefore we must say about His works that they are not only very great, but also they are very good. The name which God has made to Himself by His wonderful works, is the same name which He proclaimed to Moses as we read here, **“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 KJV)** The Lord God is gracious and merciful; God's pardoning sins is the most wonderful of all His works and which ought to be remembered for His glory. 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. **Therefore, take heed, repent of all your sins so the gracious and compassionate God shall forgive you and restore you back to Him.**

G. “5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.” (Psalm 111:5 KJV) It is a further instance of His grace and compassion that mark His works; that He had given food and provided for those who fear Him. He gives them their daily bread; the food convenient for them. God do that to others by common providence, but to those that fear Him He gives it by a covenant and in pursuance of the promise, for it follows, **“He will be ever mindful of his covenant.”** God remembers His covenant forever to those who fear Him, so that they can taste covenant-love. Some refer this to the manna with which God fed his people, the Israelites in the wilderness, or to the much spoil and plunder they got from the Egyptians when they came out with great materials, according to the promise made to

Abraham as we read here, **“14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.” (Genesis 15:14 KJV)** When God broke the heads of leviathan He gave him to be meat to His people, **“14 Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.” (Psalm 74:14 KJV)** Those who fear Him are those who value His works and take part in them. Therefore, for those who fear Him, He will not only feed them but enriched them, and give their enemies to be a prey to them. Because according to His promise He will ever be mindful of His covenant, though God's people are often unmindful of His commands, yet He is mindful of His covenant, that those who fear Him He will continue to bless them. **Therefore, let us continue to fear God and be faithful to Him and so His love, care, provision, protection and favor will continue to reach us.**

“6 He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.” (Psalm 111:6 KJV) God had shown His people the power of His works, by giving them the lands of other nations. We are here taught to give glory to God for the great things He had done for His people Israel. He had 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, and **“that he may give them the heritage of the heathen”**, that He did in Joshua's time, when seven nations were driven out and subdued, and in David's time, when the neighboring nations were many of them brought into subjection to Israel and became tributaries to David. Here God showed His sovereignty, in disposing of kingdoms as He pleases, and according to His might and power. God gave the Israelites 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 honor and delight in His work.** *Second*, the deliverance He accomplished 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.” (Psalm 111:9 KJV)** At first He took His people out of Egypt, and often afterwards the deliverance of God provided during the time of Judges when His people were repeatedly sinning and such sins brought troubles to them but God through the judges was delivering them and giving them a new chances as they repent and bear the consequences of their sins. The same also when they sinned and He handed them to the Babylonians and after seventy years He redeemed them and brought them back to the land of Canaan. He provided redemption for them because His covenant with them stands forever. This is the redemption works of God in the life of His people. Those works of redemption were typical of the great redemption which in the fullness of time was to be accomplished out by the Lord Jesus, that through Him deliverance is accompanied by repentance, faith and obedience. **“8 He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.” (Psalm 105:8 KJV)** 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 had promised in the blessings of the covenant and what He has threatened in the curses of it, that is why, **“holy and reverend is his name”**. **Therefore, and in the same way, the Church of God will go through deliverance when God will found in us repentance, faith and willingness to do His Work and will. Therefore we are admonished to repent and amend our ways so the redemption works of God will be manifested in our lives.**

“7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.” (Psalm 111:7 KJV) 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, of both 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 reverse His works, **“The works of his hand are verity and judgment;”** and that is how those who fear God stand against persecution knowing that what God had said shall never be unsaid, for **“all his commandments are sure”**, and He will accomplish them and will come true in our lives. **Therefore let us stand firm in front of all the pressures and the persecution, trusting God that He will accomplish what He had promised.**

“8 They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” (Psalm 111:8 KJV) All the works of God stand to eternity; they are established forever and ever, and are done according to His truth and enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. For 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.

“They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” His precepts, the rule of our actions, are unquestionably, they are just and good, and therefore unchangeable and not to be repealed; His promises and warning 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 forever 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.

My dear and beloved: “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 111:10 KJV) It is not only reasonable that we should fear God, because His name is revered and His nature is holy, but it is advantageous to us. It is wisdom; it will direct us to speak and act in a consistency with ourselves, and for our own benefit. To fear God is the head of wisdom as we read 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 awareness to keep His commandments; not only 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 have all they that do his commandments:”** All who follow his precepts have good understanding.

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 works 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.

Let us pray

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 honorable and glorious. All your commands are true and your covenant is everlasting.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Renounce your pride, renounce your selfishness, and renounce doing your own will and your own plan. Renounce all your idols. Renounce your worldliness, the lust of your eyes and the lust of your heart. Renounce your sin of leaving your service and ministry. Confess your sin of not reading your Bible. Renounce your arrogance and self-righteousness. Confess your non willingness to get involved with God’s work and service while you are wasting your time with friends and with the Media and games. Confess your laziness and your sins of immoralities, stealing, telling lies, etc.

Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to serve you and to take an active part of your work and ministry. Lord I commit myself to honor and appreciate all the good works that you are doing in my life and in the life of your church and your people. Lord I cry out to you to deliver me out from the following hardship and trial that I am in now _____.

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.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to come back to you, and to obey your Word and to fulfill their vows and renew their commitment to do and to honor all your good works; Lord bless them and restore them back to you that once again to serve you and be a good example to others, that people can see you through their lives. Lord rebuild them up with your Word and with your grace. Lord provide for them of what is needed and protect them and make them fruitful.

Lord we pray for us as a church to empower us so we will continue to teach your people and stand firm on your Word. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit, and give us the spiritual gifts to go and evangelize and make disciples and bring them to your feet. Lord enable us to train more workers to go and serve you. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming that you will take us when you will come. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Fear of God Part 20. Psalm 111 – Those Who Fear God They Value His Work And They Seek Opportunities To Serve Him. Psalm 111:1-10. Psalm 25:14. Colossians 3:1-4. Ecclesiastes 3:14. Exodus 34:6-7. Genesis 15:14. Psalm 74:14. Psalm 105:8.

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