

“All Consuming Praise”
Psalm 145
(Preached at Trinity, December 29, 2013)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we come to **Psalm 145** we enter the final psalms of the Psalter. Each of these final psalms has but a single subject – praise. In fact **Psalms 146-150** begin and end with the same two Hebrew words: הַלְלֵנוּ יְיָ -
2. **Psalm 145** doesn’t begin with this phrase but is a psalm of praise nonetheless. It contains four different words translated praise. This is the last of the Davidic psalms. In fact, **Psalm 145** is designated as David’s Psalm of praise, just like **Psalm 86** is David’s psalm of prayer. Spurgeon called it David’s “crown jewel of praise.” It carries the title, “*David’s Psalm of Praise.*” No other psalm carries this title.
3. Another characteristic of this psalm is that it is the last of the acrostic psalms.
 - A. Remember, an acrostic psalm is one where the beginning of each verse begins with a consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
 - B. There are nine acrostic psalms in the Psalter including Psalms 9, 25, 34, 37. The best known acrostic psalm is Psalm 119 because the sections are so clearly defined. We don’t know for certain why they used this acrostic pattern. Possibly it was used for poetic beauty. It might have aided in memorization which is why we still use acrostics today.
 - C. In most Hebrew texts **Psalm 145** contains all of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet except nun – which explains why it has 21 verses instead of 22. One Masoretic text, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the ancient Syriac version add a verse which supplies the nun. The ESV, CSV, and NIV add these words at the end of **Verse 13** in italics:
Psalm 145:13 ESV - “*The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.*”
4. I want us to see three aspects of praise in this psalm.
 - I. First of all, there is Private or Personal Praise – **Verses 1-5**
 - II. Second, there is Public Praise – **Verses 6-13**
 - III. Third, there must be Proclaimed Praise – **Verses 14-21**
 - I. Private or Personal Praise – **Verses 1-5**
 - A. David declares *his* praise of God.
 1. David begins by declaring God as his King
 - a. David was the king of Israel and yet he knew he was under the authority of the King of kings.

- b. I know of no king upon the face of the earth today, no head of state that recognizes God as the supreme authority over all things.
Psalm 2:2-4 KJV - "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. ⁴ He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."
- c. It is wise for all to recognize the King of kings.
Psalm 33:12 KJV - "Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD"
2. Then David declares his worship of God for His greatness as displayed in His mighty works.
Psalm 145:3 KJV - "Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable."
- B. These verses stress the importance of personal praise
1. Notice the number of times he says "I will praise," or "I will bless"
 In **Verse 5** he declares, "I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty"
 2. In **Verse 4** he says that God's praise extends from generation to generation.
 It is the duty of one generation to extend God's praise to the next. We must declare the greatness of God to our children
 3. David's life was a life of praise
Psalm 145:2 KJV - "Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever."
 - a. "for ever" is endless, yet David multiplies the extent of his praise: "for ever and ever"
 - b. David's life was characterized by unceasing praise.
Psalm 9:1-2 KJV - "I will praise *thee*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. ² I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High."
Psalm 30:12 KJV - "O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever."
 The word for "thanks" is תַּיָּדָוּ which means "praise."
- C. This has particular application for the New Covenant
1. Christians exalt the King of kings. To extol means to exalt above all others. This is the nature of Christianity—to exalt Christ above all else.
 2. It is an ongoing, continual praise.
 - a. "Everyday" – Not just the Sabbath but every day.
 Not just the good days but every day. There are days of great joy. There are days filled with trial and suffering. The Christian praises God on all occasions.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV - "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Philippians 4:11-13 KJV - "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

- b. Is this your experience? Is your life a life of praise and worship?
- c. As Christians we continue to press towards Christ. Our praise of Christ will continue into eternity when all things present will be but a memory; when all things earthly will pass away.

When we've been there ten thousand years

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we've first begun

II. Public Praise – **Verses 6-13**

A. David's talk of praise switches to the plural

1. **Verse 7** - "They shall"

Verse 10 - "thy saints shall bless thee."

Verse 11 - "They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom"

2. In many of the Psalms David called the entire congregation to join with him in corporate praise.

Psalms 21:13 – "Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power."

Psalms 22:22 – "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."

Psalms 34:3 KJV - "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."

3. The saints join in chorus to sing praises to God's faithfulness.

a. Of His "goodness & righteousness" – **Verse 7**

b. Of His "graciousness, compassion, and love" – **Verse 8**

c. Of His "goodness & mercy" – **Verse 9**

d. God's wondrous "works" – **Verse 10** – all of creation praises God. But the saints of God in particular praise Him.

Creation praises God without intellect; without feeling. The saints of God with heart and soul and delight – and with love praise God

e. Of God's "kingdom" & "power" – **Verses 11-13**

Verse 11 KJV - "They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power"

These are the things the people of God talk about.

f. Of God's care and provision – **Verses 14-15**

B. At the heart of the New Covenant is our corporate unity

Jeremiah 31:33 KJV - "will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Jeremiah 31:34 KJV - "they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them"

1. This was displayed from the earliest history of the church

Acts 2:46-47 NAU - "Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking

their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

2. As God's people we gather continually to praise and worship God
Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV - "let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

III. Proclaimed Praise – Verses 14-21

A. In **Verses 14-20** David again enumerates the wonders of God

1. His blessings upon humanity - **Verse 14-16** – He fills the needs of every creature
2. His divine uprightness – **Verse 17** -
Psalm 145:17 KJV - "The LORD *is* righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."
3. His nearness – God turns to those who seek Him – **Verses 18-19**
Psalm 145:18-19 KJV - "The LORD *is* nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.¹⁹ He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them."
4. God's salvation to those who love Him – the essence of salvation – **V. 20**
Psalm 145:20 KJV - "The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy."

B. David then makes a wonderful declaration – That he will declare the glorious praises of God to all men

Psalm 145:21 KJV - "My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD"
"and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever."

1. What a wonderful progression we see in **Psalm 145**
David expresses personal praise, then corporate praise. Then he declares God's praises before all men.
David "spoke" of God's praise - **Psalm 145:21 KJV** - "My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD"
2. We saw this in **Verse 4** – one generation declares the glories of God to the next.
We saw this also in **Verses 11-12** – God's people publish abroad His excellence
Psalm 145:11-12 KJV - "They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;¹² To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom."
3. This was the testimony of David's life
Psalm 26:7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."
Psalm 57:7-9 KJV - "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.⁸ Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I *myself* will awake early.⁹ I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations."

- C. This is the progression in our own lives
1. We embrace God as our God. We praise Him as our God. He fills our heart with His glory.
 2. We then join with His people and praise Him together.
Psalm 34:3 – “O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.”
 3. Then we declare His glories before others
Our hearts must be filled with praise before we can lead others to praise.
Spurgeon: “To sound abroad the worthy praises of the God of all grace should be the every-day business of a pardoned sinner. Let men slander us as they will, let us not defraud the Lord of his praises; let dogs bark, but let us like the moon shine on.
Whatever others may do, I will not be silent in the praise of the Lord: whatever others may speak upon, my topic is fixed once for all: I will speak the praise of Jehovah. I am doing it, and I will do it as long as I breathe.”

Conclusion:

1. God is worthy of all praise, individually and corporate. This should occupy our lives.
2. And if God is worthy to be praised He is worthy for all men to praise Him. May others see our hearts of praise for our great God.