

Praise To The Lord For The Great Things He Has Done

It is written in the word of God from 1Sam.12:24:

"Only fear the Lord -- and serve Him in truth with all your heart -- for consider how great things He hath done for you!"

And, also, it says in Ps.71:19:

"Thy righteousness, also, O God, is very high! Who hast done great things! O God -- who is like unto thee?"

It is written in the word of God -- and well known to be in all three of the synoptic gospel records -- the words of the Lord Jesus Christ when He said that: "Heaven and earth shall pass away -- but my words shall not pass away!" And, this statement is made intending to emphasize -- who is saying -- what is being said! That the source of what is spoken -- is what gives credible evidence enough -- as to the veracity -- to the truthfulness and certainty -- of the statement. It is the Lord that is speaking! And, He says: Heaven and earth -- all of creation -- in its entirety -- shall pass away -- but what He, as being the Savior Son of man -- from the realms of eternity has to say -- shall never, never pass away! His *words* carry with them the weight of being *truth* -- which always has -- and always will be *truth*. And, when we understand the magnitude of Him being the Lord -- then we see -- that all the integrity of all of scripture as a whole is to be included. For all of God's word is -- *truth*!

1Tim.6:3-5 says: "If any man teach otherwise -- and consent not to wholesome words [I.e. lit., heathly; sound words] -- even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ -- and to the doctrine which is according to Godliness [or, to what is said in Titus 1:1 -- to the: "acknowledging of the truth which is after Godliness"] -- (4) he is proud, knowing nothing -- but doting about questions and strifes of words [I.e. harping about things that are trivial] -- whereof come envy, strife [I.e. quarrels], railings [I.e. blasphemies], evil surmising [I.e. evil suspicions], (5) perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth -- [lit., misemployments of thinking and reasoning by men of fallen minds -- who are deprived of the truth concerning Christ] supposing that gain [I.e. is something of this world] is Godliness [I.e. something totally other than this world] -- from such withdraw thyself."

It is to a much greater end that the elect have been called...by God. This calling makes you to be a man, or woman, of God! And, it is to another aim that you have been called. Vs.11-12 says -- without reservation --

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things! And, follow after righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. (12) Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life -- whereunto thou art called...”

Here we have it! Here it is elucidated for us! It says, lit., “anthropos of God...” -- or, human being of God -- Son or daughter of God! Flee these things of pride and perversity! Be mindful of the things of God -- as they are listed here! These are the things of value! These are the invisible things -- of righteousness apart from the law. These are the things of the aspirations and motivations of: “Godliness -- faith -- love -- patience -- meekness.” Then right next to meekness -- strange as it may seem -- there is the heat of fighting! But, it is to “fight the good fight -- of the faith”. We are to fight for the integrity of -- the defense of -- the faith of -- our Lord Jesus Christ! And, in doing so, we will “Lay hold on [I.e. lit., seize and keep] eternal life -- whereunto thou art also called”.

Ah, but this is the rub -- is it not?! How exactly do we lay hold on to eternal life -- since we know that it is a gift? “The wages of sin is death -- but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Ron.6:23

We'd like to think that just because we want it -- the gift of God is always being *offered* to us -- but it is not. We imagine that we make God out to be some sort of ogre -- if eternal life in His Son is not *offered* to everyone -- at all times! But that is just not true!

Ps.145:17-18 plainly clarifies: “*The Lord is righteous in all His ways -- and holy in all His works. (18) The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him -- to all that call upon Him in truth.*”

It is the things of the truth concerning Him that we are talking about. The truth -- is the gift of God. And, the truth is received but one way -- by the grace of God!

Earlier in Ps.145:8 we read: “*The Lord is gracious -- and full of compassion -- slow to anger -- and of great mercy.*” It is of the Lord's great mercy that we receive the truth! But, it is also a known truth that

He does not have mercy on everybody! “For He saith to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy -- and compassion on whom I will have compassion.’”

“Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy -- and whom He will He hardeneth.” Rom.9:15 and 18

But, just exactly what does His mercy -- cause us to receive the *truth* about?

God is merciful to reveal the truth about Him and His eternal Kingdom.

Listen to His word from Ps.145:10: (10) “*All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.*” [We are called to be *saints* -i.e. holy ones of God. And, it is to all of them that His goodness and His tender mercies are displayed. “*For we are His workmanship -- created in Christ Jesus -- unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*” Good works like those of...] Ps.145:11-13>(11) “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. (13) Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom -- and thy Dominion endureth throughout all generations.”

We shall speak of things which we cannot come to know -- or find out about -- apart from direct divine intervention:

Rom.11:33-36 tells us: “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments -- and His ways past finding out!*” (34) *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or, who hath been His counselor?* (35) *Or, who hath first given to Him -- and it shall be recompensed unto him again?* (36) For of Him -- and through Him -- and to Him -- are all things. To whom be glory forever. Amen.”

But, why are His judgments so unsearchable and His ways past finding out? Even because He is holy God -- and the things of Him are way beyond us fallen creatures -- even the wisest of us all!

Is.40:13-15 inquires of us: (13) “*Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord -- or being His counselor hath taught Him?*” (14) *With whom took He counsel -- and who instructed Him -- and taught Him in the path of judgment?* And, *taught Him knowledge -- and showed to Him the way of understanding?* (15) *Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket -- and*

are counted as the small dust of the balance..."

Is.40:17 tells us: "*All nations before Him are as nothing -- and they counted to Him -- as less than nothing and vanity!"*

In the face of these eternal truths -- is it further asked of us: **Is.40:18** "*To whom then will ye liken God? Or, what likeness will ye compare unto Him?"* And then, in **vs.21 and 22** it continues:

(21) "*Have ye not known? Have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the beginning? Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?* (22) *It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth -- and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers! That stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain -- and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in..."*

These things are written to those that are of the people of God! That are familiar with His word and the things that written in it! This is written, therefore, as a rebuke to them -- because even when these things were given to them -- they go ahead and propagate and promote that God is something less than He really is!

And, speaking of the pride of the best of men and of the smartest of them -- He says from **vs.24-26 and 28**:

(24) "*...And He shall also blow upon them -- and they shall wither -- and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble."*

(25) *To whom then will ye liken me? Or, shall I be equal? Saith the Holy One.* (26) *Lift up your eyes on high and behold who hath created these things. That bringeth out their host by number -- He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might! For that He is strong in power -- not one faileth.*"

(28) "*Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard? That the everlasting God -- the Lord -- the Creator of the ends of the earth fainteth not -- neither is weary?"*

It is no wonder, therefore, that the apostle is inspired of the Holy Spirit to write: "For of Him -- and through Him -- and to Him -- are all things -- to whom be glory forever. Amen"

"*But, as it is written*" It says: "*eye hath not seen -- nor ear heard -- neither have entered into the heart of man -- the things which God hath*

prepared for them that love (and wait) for Him.”

How, then, are we to see these things -- to hear of these things -- and to receive these things into our hearts?

The answer is clear:

“But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit! For the Spirit searcheth all things -- yea -- the deep things of God.” 1Cor.2:9-10

These things are -- the things of God and Christ Jesus and His eternal Kingdom. They are eternal things -- that except we be truly regenerated -- genuinely born by the Spirit from above -- with the word of truth -- we would neither see them -- know them -- believe them -- love them -- nor receive them.

Jesus said of these things: (25) “*...I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent -- and hast revealed them unto babes. (26) Even so, Father -- for so it seemed good in thy sight”*

And then He went on to say:

(27) “All things are delivered unto me of my Father! And, no man knoweth the Son -- but my Father. Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son -- and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.”

John wrote of these things in 1Jn.5:13 when he said: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God [I.e. that believe on the Name of the eternal Son of God] -- that ye may know that ye have eternal life -- and that ye may believe on the Name of the [eternal] Son of God.”

But, so many don't want to speak of the things concerning the eternal Son of God. They think that these are things of no real consideration. That we are just harping on the obvious things -- things that are of little, or no, importance.

Jude, however, tells us of those who “...speak evil of those things which they know not! But what they know naturally -- as brute beasts -- in those things they corrupt themselves.” And then he goes on to inspiringly say:

“Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain -- and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward -- and perished [or, lit. are destined to perish] in the gainsaying of Korah!”

Now Cain, Balaam and Korah were all men intimately familiar with the things of the Lord -- but were never truly converted to it -- or, by it -- or, because of it.

Not unlike so many in our day that take so much liberty with the word of God -- and in doing so -- they make it their own word. They presume to be in control the gospel presentation accordingly. For example, by their making it to be a free offer -- they presume to be in control of to whom it may be made available! To whomsoever that they may -- or may not -- make available the proposition of it. The gospel is no longer a good news announcement -- it is a proposition!

Now, think about it! A person comes to “accept Christ” under this supposition -- and then -- from then on -- they have received Him even because they have “accepted Him” -- and that’s along with the presumption that they have received eternal life. From that time forward -- with that perspective opinion -- their inclusion in the family of God is not by His accepting them -- His adopting them -- but it is by their acceptance of Him. They have, in essence -- as being lost and lonely children -- presumptively -- adopted Him and His family as being their own! This is deception -- not reception!

The pure things that pertain unto the sound and healthy words of our Lord Jesus Christ in regards to His absolute sovereignty over them -- in His electing them in eternity -- in His redeeming them in eternity -- in His making them acceptable in Him (justifying them) in eternity -- in His adopting them into the family of holy and just God the Father -- (reconciling them) in eternity -- *these things* they are going to rebel at --and scorn -- because they go against what they have been taught to believe...and accept -- to make true.

It’s time we pin-pointed what exactly is being meant -- in the word of God -- as inspired by the Spirit of God -- when it says: “*as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of Peace* [or, the gospel of Christ, who is our peace] -- and bring glad tidings of Good things!” Rom.10:15

Glad tidings about good things? What good things are being referred to?

The good things of Rom.8:29 -- that has already been stated> “*For whom He did foreknow -- He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son!*”

This is precisely why eternally loving God gave us His Son!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son -- that whosoever believeth on Him -- should not perish -- but have everlasting life. (17) *For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world -- but that the world through Him might be saved!*” In.3:16-17

When it says, “*world*” -- it means -- that all nationalities of the world might be included among the eternally elect of God!

Is.52:7 prophesied of the effectiveness of the coming evangelist when it originally said: “*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings -- that publisheth peace [or, lit., that causes to be heard and received -- the news of eternal peace] -- that bringeth good tidings of good -- that publisheth salvation! [that causes to be heard and received eternal salvation]* That saith unto Zion, ‘Thy God reigneth’!”

And then it goes on to say un-categorically: (9) “...*For the Lord hath comforted His people -- He hath redeemed Jerusalem.* (10) The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations -- and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!” Yes -- “For God so loved the world.”

Hence, “*For whom He did foreknow -- He also did predestinate -- to be conformed to the image of His Son*” -- and then it goes on to say: “that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover, whom He did predestinate -- them He also Called [I.e. eternally called] -- and whom He Called -- them He also Justified [The same tense is used -- so, therefore, the same eternal weight of meaning is applied as well -- them He also eternally justified] -- and whom He [eternally] Justified -- them He also [eternally] glorified!”

Do you suppose that because something is done in Time -- that that means it is separate from eternity...from where our God reigneth? How foolish!

You do not understand -- or, you don't truly believe -- in predestination. All of Time is predestinated from eternity! God has made Time to be the very staging arena of His eternal purpose -- His eternal truth!

It's a part of the eternity of the truth concerning Time that “...the world passeth away -- and the lust thereof -- but he that doeth the will of God -- abideth for ever.” 1Jn.2:17

Why anyone would want to confine any of the eternal things of our eternal salvation to Time -- is beyond me. It leaks into the equation of the things that pertain unto our salvation -- something for man to do -- as either a work, or a willingness -- as either some action on our part -- or at least some decision of our reasoning. And no such thing exists! To think this way -- is to be dead wrong!

Let's give the glory entirely to our Lord Jesus Christ for having totally completed it all in eternity -- and leave it there at His feet! Praise His Name!

The next two verses from the Ro.8 passage referred to says: (31) “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us [if eternal almighty, just and holy, loving and merciful God be for us] -- who can be against us? (32) He that spared not His own Son -- but delivered Him up for us all -- how shall He not -- with Him -- also freely -- give us all things?”

What things? The things that he has just said -- about being predestined. Predestined to be called -- justified -- and glorified. Predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

And --all the things that he is about to declare unto us.

(33) “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. (34) Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died -- yea -- rather that is risen again -- who is even at the right hand of God...”

He came from eternity -- and went back to eternity (from where He came) -- and everything He touched here in the process of it all had a “timeless” eternal quality about it...because there is no Time in eternity! And He has made a complete circuit of it all! Only God could do this! Hence, it says: “who is even at the right hand of God...who also maketh intercession for us.”

This has to include even our Justification in Him! He does not intercede on our behalf before the Father for the *things that we* have done. No; but for the *things that He* has done -- on our behalf! These are the only *things* that we dare to desire before God to have been done. Those things that Christ -- and only Christ -- could do for us -- and will do for us -- has He as the Son of God -- eternally -- has done for us.

This includes -- even our faith -- our belief and our trust -- in Him -- as our Savior!

Oh men will have Jesus Christ to be a great man in history -- there is no question about that. He is often lauded for the example He set for suffering and dying -- but they don’t praise Him for being God of very God! They make Him less than God -- by making His suffering and His death to be potentially saving acts of His grace -- if man will, in turn, see this to be true and *accept* it as such! They pervert the offering that He made of Himself unto God -- on behalf of those He came to save -- and make Him out to be the offer unto us -- for us to accept -- if we will -- in order to become saved in time. This whole scenario is thereby “iniquitized” and perverted from its purity! Wherever the term “offer” enters into the equation of things -- that leaven corrupts the whole lump!

May the Lord be gracious -- and give to us the grace to hold fast to the sound doctrine of Christ -- that God did send His own holy only begotten Son to be our Savior -- without any “ifs”, “ands” or “buts”!

He made His choice of Him -- in the eternal covenant and the counsel of peace -- to be the eternal Redeemer of His Church -- His Chosen -- His Body -- and His Bride.

He -- as the Son of God -- fulfilled completely the eternal purpose of the Almighty. When in the fullness of Time -- He became the Son of man -- made of a woman -- made under the law -- He redeemed them that were

under the law. This truth is the eternal and sure foundation of all that we believe and proclaim about Him!

1Pe.2:6-9 teaches of **Is.28:16** when it says: “...Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone -- elect -- precious.” That this our foundation He makes it a point to say! And, we are “complete in Him” -- “and he that believeth on Him -- shall not be confounded.” [or, lit., shall not be put to shame; or, shall not be disgraced; or, shall not be confused about who the Savior truly is, and how it is that we have been saved] (7) Unto you, therefore, which believe -- He is precious! But unto them which be disobedient... (8) even to them which stumble at the word -- being disobedient -- whereunto also they are appointed.” [or, predestinated]

They that do not hold fast to these things -- they do not give proper credit to what these things mean -- they are said to be “stumblers” at the word -- and disobedient to it.

This, dear ones, brings us to foundation principles! This brings us to when God in eternity -- in the Great Triumvirate -- did take counsel and did determine -- that the Church -- that the elect -- which consists of a number that no man can number -- of every nationality -- should be saved -- by this very person, Jesus Christ-- and great things He has done!

Salvation in a man does not begin -- when that man begins to know it --as we have supposed. They come to know it -- because it was in God's heart and purpose in eternity -- for them to do so! They were predestined to come to know it! It is the eternal decree of God that brings forth the things that are the in Time circumstances of our coming to Christ -- that in reality -- no man -- not drawn by the Father can do!

The decree is in God's heart -- the purpose and plan is formed and performed there -- the Savior is given -- the elect Church is chosen -- the eternal Surety is established -- the sins of sinners are taken and imputed to the sinless one, Jesus Christ -- the righteousness of Christ Jesus is imputed to the elect Church -- and the Savior is sent into this fallen world to consummate this as being eternal truth. These are the gracious things that God has done for us -- in eternity -- and graciously revealed to us in time!

But, this is the work -- the complete work of Christ -- that men won't have to be true. This is what they reject! And, they reject the whole counsel of God -- against themselves!

These are the things that certain chosen sinners -- chosen to be saved -- do come in the power of the Spirit -- to receive. The revelation and application of these great things of salvation being made to them -- by the Holy Spirit. He becomes to them -- among many other things -- a true Spirit of faith.

Listen to -- and receive -- the things that the word of God speaks of -- so much of the time: 2Cor.4:13-18 > “We -- having the same Spirit of the faith -- according as it is written, ‘I believed and therefore have I spoken’ -- we also believe and therefore speak. (14) Knowing -- that He which raised up the Lord Jesus -- shall raise up us also -- by Jesus -- and shall present us with you. (15) For all things are for your sakes -- that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. (16) For which cause we faint not -- but though our outward man perish -- yet the inward man is renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction [that is made up with the temporal things of this fallen world] -- which is but for a moment -- worketh for us [I.e. lit., completely works out for us] a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory [We don't under-stand it completely -- but this is what God reveals to us in happening. This temporary afflictive fallen condition and world provides for us the platform from where the grace of God -- alone -- in our feeble miserable lives -- will resound to the glory of Christ, our Savior and our Lord] -- (18) while we look not at the things which are seen -- but at the things which are not seen! For the things which are seen are temporal -- but the things which are not seen -- are eternal.”

All true spiritual experience issues from this. But, experience does not lay the foundation of our salvation. Experience is the fruit of salvation -- through Christ's person and work. As the river of the pure water of life proceeds from the reigning throne of God -- and of the Lamb -- even so does pure eternal truth -- proceed from the eternal sovereignty of God -- and His eternal purpose -- and His eternal Christ -- and all those chose and saved by Him.

Is.42:1 says: “Behold, my Servant -- whom I uphold -- mine Elect -- in whom my soul delighteth. I have put my Spirit upon Him. He shall bring forth judgment unto the Gentiles.” [Or, unto the nations]

It is a great thing to see Jesus Christ -- is it not? To see God's Servant -- God's elected one -- to be the Mediator -- the Substitute -- the Surety -- and all *the things* concerning Him in this light. This is the very solid foundation of all that God will reveal to His people -- all that God has done in this world -- and all that He has done in His work of sovereign grace...in eternity.

Herein are all the mysteries of providence revealed -- of all the overthrowing of worldly kingdoms -- of all the setting up of new regimes of worldly rule. Of all of the things that particularly concern His Church in this fallen world -- for all of these things "*the god of this world*" orchestrates to the trial and affliction and persecution of the chosen sinner's true faith -- while they are yet in time.

But God says of His Christ, that He "...gave Him to be Head over all things to the Church -- which is His body -- the fullness of Him that filleth all in all." And, the work of government has been -- since before Time -- placed upon His shoulders. He who has taken away all our sins! He who has carried off into nothingness all our guilt -- and eternally saved all our souls.

It, indeed, is a mighty -- a grand -- a good -- and a great theme. It fills heaven with men who are sinners while here -- and who can only dwell there -- having been transformed into saints -- to give eternal glory and praise for a work that is genuinely well done! Praise and glory to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ -- for the great things He hath done!

Amen.