

Evening Sermon / May 8, 2022 / Psalm 146
"Praising the LORD!"

I. *Four-fold praise, just to start -*

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! ² While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Psalm 145:1-2 (NKJV)

Alleluia – is the word here translated “praise the LORD” if you wonder why some of our hymns repeat “allelulia, allelulia, allelulia, allelulia ... here is something similar!

1. *The first praise the LORD is a general call, to everyone, to everything – “praise the LORD!”*
2. *The second praise the LORD here has “O my soul!” added to it, true praise must come from our inner being!*
3. *The third and fourth praises here both have to do with commitment, how long is the Psalmist committing to praise God?*
 - A. *“While I live...” – meaning an entire lifetime!*
 - B. *“while I have my being...” meaning praise will continue, as long as I still exist, if God gives me eternal life, I am praising Him, forever!*

II. *Do not trust mere men (even princes) –*

³ Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. ⁴ His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish. Psalm 145:3-4

1. *Today, in the United States, our “princes” are politicians, don’t trust these, most are scoundrels, and the best of them are mere men!*



2. *According to these verses, no men, even the best are to be trusted, because we die --- now we developed life insurance to cover death ... yet even that does not replace God -*

Can a mere man provide for your soul? Mark 8:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ **For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Mark 8:36 (NKJV)**

Verses 3, 4.—The Psalmist inscribes an antithesis. Princes, though masters of armies, possessors of riches, loaded with honors, reveling in pleasures, are at the mercy of a ruthless Black Prince.

Death is tyrant over prince and peasant alike. The very pleasures which are envied are often ministers of death to voluptuous princes. —*Thomas Le Blanc*.

Verse 4.—“*In that very day his thoughts perish.*” In the case of the rich fool (Luke 12:16, 20). his “thoughts” of building larger barns, and of many years of ease and prosperity, —all his selfish and worldly schemes, —“perished” in that self-same night.—*John W. Haley*

III. True and eternal happiness (security) requires a relationship with God –

⁵ **Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Psalm 146:5**

1. Please taste this, come and know this for yourself –

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)**

2. There is a hope we have in God that goes way beyond “I hope so” it is a living HOPE, a powerful HOPE –

A. In Christ, even Gentiles, those once far from God, have hope ...

¹¹ **Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11–13 (NKJV)**

B. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, He is the Root of Jesse -

¹¹ **And again: “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” ¹²And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” ¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:11–13 (NKJV)**

Wonderful grace of Jesus, Reaching the most defiled,
By its transforming power, Making him God's dear child,
Haldor Lillenas

IV. We hope in Him:

1. Because of His creative power –

⁶ **Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them;... Psalm 146:6 A (NKJV)**

*2. We hope in Him, because of His eternal trustworthiness –
... Who keeps truth forever, Psalm 146:6 B (NKJV)*

3. Because of His justice –

⁷ **Who executes justice for the oppressed, Psalm 146:7 A (NKJV)**

4. *Because of His provision -*

Who gives food to the hungry. Psalm 146:7 b (NKJV)

5. *Because he is able to free us –*

The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners. Psalm 146:7 C (NKJV)

He frees us not only from prison but from sin –

³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** ³³ They answered Him, **“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?”** ³⁴ Jesus answered them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.** John 8:30–36 (NKJV)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Charles Wesley

6. *We hope in Him because He opens our blind eyes -*

⁸ The LORD opens *the eyes of the blind*; Psalm 146:8 A (NKJV)

A. *Jesus miraculously healed those who were physically blind –*

⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, **“Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.”** ⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** The blind man said to Him, **“Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.”** ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, **“Go your way; your faith has made you well.”** And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. Mark 10:49–52 (NKJV)

²⁴ So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, **“Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”** ²⁵ He answered and said, **“Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”** John 9:24–25 (NKJV)

B. *He heals us who are spiritually blind or we cannot see God’s Kingdom –*

³ Jesus answered and said to him, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** John 3:3 (NKJV)

This He did for me ...

7. *We hope in Him because He raises us -*

The LORD raises those who are bowed down; Psalm 146:8 B (NKJV)

8. *We hope in Him because He loves us -*

The LORD loves the righteous. Psalm 146:8 C (NKJV)

A. *Now this is at least at first, in spite of our lack of righteousness –*

¹⁰ As it is written: **“There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.** Romans 3:10–11 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

B. Yet, by grace He makes us righteous and loves us even for imputed righteousness –
²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)
Agape & Phileo Love ... explain ...

9. We hope in Him because of how He cares for the disadvantaged -
⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; Psalm 146:9 A (NKJV)

Verse 9.—“The LORD preserves the strangers.” They who do not belong to Babylon, nor to this world, but the true pilgrims in a strange land.—Robert Bellarmine.

¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Hebrews 13:14 (NKJV)

10. We hope in God also because of how He deals with the wicked –
But the way of the wicked He turns upside down. Psalm 146:9 B (NKJV)

Verse 9.—“The way of the wicked he turneth upside down.” He overturns their plans, defeats their schemes; makes their purposes accomplish what they did not intend they should accomplish. The Hebrew word here means to bend, to curve, to make crooked, to distort; then, to overturn, to turn upside down. The same word is applied to the conduct of the wicked, in Ps. 119:78: “They dealt perversely with me.” The idea here is that the path is not a straight path; that God makes it a crooked way; that they are diverted from their design; that through them he accomplishes purposes which they did not intend; that he prevents their accomplishing their own designs; and that he will make their plans subservient to a higher and better purpose than their own. This is the eleventh reason why those who put their trust in God are happy. It is that God is worthy of confidence and love, because he has all the plans of wicked men entirely under his control.—Albert Barnes.

Hamon is hung on the gallows he built for righteous Mordecai! Satan may think he is destroying Christ on the cross, but His cross brings salvation! Christ’s heel is bruised (at the cross) but Satan’s head is crushed! According to Genesis 3:15

Verse 9.—“The way of the wicked he turneth upside down.” All the ten clauses preceding lift up the poor saint step by step, higher and higher. At one word suddenly, like Satan falling as lightning from heaven, the wicked are shown dashed down the whole way from the summit of pride to the depths of hell.—Johannes Paulus Palanterius.

11. We hope in God because He reigns forever -
¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever— Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Psalm 146:10 A (NKJV)

12. Because we hope in God, we praise Him -
Praise the LORD! Psalm 146:10 B (NKJV)