

**HUMILITY  
TRUST THE SPIRIT  
LOVE THEM WITH THE WORD**

**Psalm 145  
Great is the Lord**

Hey good morning church. So very glad to see you here with us today – and those that are online still – thanks for tuning in this morning.

If you were with us last week, you remember we concluded a study in the book of 1 Thessalonians. Next week we are starting a walk through the book of Malachi – and in fact we already have scripture notebooks out for the study for next week. We are also launching the fall session of our small groups this week – and with our small groups we will be discussing the scripture in more depth each week, trailing our Sunday worship services. So that's where we are going.

For today, our message is from Psalm 145. This incredible Psalm pointing us to the greatness of God, and the title of the message today is simply Great is the Lord.

We are designed to praise greatness.

- Food

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- Music
- Sports
- Kids' accomplishments

Turn with me if you have a Bible to Psalm 145. If you're on a device, go ahead and make sure you're referencing the CSB.

Psalm 145 under the heading and title: Praising God's Greatness:

<sup>1</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> exalt you, my God the King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> I will bless you every day;  
I will praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> The Lord is great and is highly praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> One generation will declare your works to the next  
and will proclaim your mighty acts.

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<sup>5</sup> |<sup>[b]</sup> will speak of your splendor and glorious majesty  
and<sup>[c]</sup> your wondrous works.

<sup>6</sup> They will proclaim the power of your awe-inspiring acts,  
and I will declare your greatness.<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> They will give a testimony of your great goodness  
and will joyfully sing of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and great in faithful love.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to everyone;  
his compassion rests on all he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All you have made will thank you, Lord;  
the<sup>[e]</sup> faithful will bless you.

<sup>11</sup> They will speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and will declare your might,

<sup>12</sup> informing all people of your mighty acts  
and of the glorious splendor of your<sup>[f]</sup> kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule is for all generations.

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The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and gracious in all his actions.<sup>[g]</sup>

<sup>14</sup> The Lord helps all who fall;  
he raises up all who are oppressed.<sup>[h]</sup>

<sup>15</sup> All eyes look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.

<sup>16</sup> You open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup> The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all his acts.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord is near all who call out to him,  
all who call out to him with integrity.

<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cry for help and saves them.

<sup>20</sup> The Lord guards all those who love him,  
but he destroys all the wicked.

<sup>21</sup> My mouth will declare the Lord's praise;

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let every living thing  
bless his holy name forever and ever.

**PRAY**

So this is a longer section of Scripture than we'd normally cover on a Sunday morning – but I didn't want to omit any of the verses, and didn't want to extend this Psalm over like 3 Sundays. So hold on tight.

**BACKGROUND:**

This Psalm is a prelude of sorts to the Hallelujah Psalms – the last 5 psalms in the book all end with Hallelujah – which is Hebrew for Praise the Lord – as if the Holy Spirit is setting us up for the climactic ending of the book of Psalms → universal praise of the God of Israel → where the psalmist writes the final words in the book of Psalms “let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!”

And the reality is this is the climactic conclusion of all of history → the universal praise of God. Where one day every single person that ever existed will bow before the Lord.

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For those who have turned from their sin and are trusting in Jesus, they will bow in worship, joy and praise – for those who have denied Jesus they will bow in fear and judgment.

In his book, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper writes that “All of history is moving toward one great goal: the white-hot worship of God and His Son among all the peoples of the earth.”

David starts with a spirit of thanksgiving

**I. Thanksgiving (V1-2)**

As a Christian – our daily posture should be one of thanksgiving. V2 I will bless you every day. I will give thanks to you every day. Our default setting is adjusted as a Christian – because the great God of the world has shown his special affection on us – and regardless of what may come today – we are to be a thankful people.

In V3 David points us to the UNSEARCHABLE greatness of God

**II. Unsearchable Greatness**

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If the Bible is true (and it is) – than the only description necessary before the greatness of God is that it is unsearchable. You and I could consider the greatness of God every moment of every day of our lives and not even begin to fathom the greatness of God.

- Displayed through creation
- Displayed through history
- Displayed through His covenant with sinful people
- Displayed in the lives of those who by grace through faith believe in Jesus

So great that we can't not speak of it to future generations. Maybe sometimes we do stop speaking of it, because we've presumed on him, or we've lost our amazement at who God is. We have so much noise around us (and believe me I get it – with 5 kids in the home) that what amazement we once had gets drowned out with the tyranny of the urgent. But can I tell you, one of the best things you can do is to turn your phone off, take off the smart watch, power down the ipad and laptop, and meditate on the things of God. Search out the unsearchable greatness of God and see what happens.

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I spent some time this Spring, I was getting some help with some things, and the person I was getting help from said – pick 2 words and spend time meditating on those two words. And the two words I chose were “glory” and “thankful”. And I spent time each day, phone down, laptop off, music off, no distractions – and allowing my mind to run down as long and as hard as I could on the glory of God, the unsearchable greatness of God.

V7 – They will give a testimony of your great goodness and will joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Time spent searching out the unsearchable goodness, righteousness and greatness of God produces joy in the hearts of His children. When we think about how Great He is, and know that He chose to show his special affection on all who believe in Jesus – should overwhelm us with joy.

This old hymn that I grew up singing that I kept like running to this week as I was preparing. Goes something like this

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I stand amazed in the presence  
Of Jesus the Nazarene  
And wonder how He could love me  
A sinner condemned unclean

How marvelous, how wonderful  
And my song shall ever be  
How marvelous, how wonderful  
Is my savior's love for me

It's a true story – and if you are a child of God, not like you go to church, and help the church; but that you have turned from your sin and are trusting in Jesus alone – if that is you let your mind stand amazed and the unsearchable greatness of God and His special affection for you in Christ.

V9 David points specifically to the common grace that all people experience.

**III. Common Grace to All**

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Like there is a common goodness that all people – even the atheist and those directly opposed to the Gospel experience. And I think that’s what we see in V9 where David says the Lord is good to everyone.

We see that in Matthew 5 – where Jesus said God makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Rain in an agricultural setting was a symbol of blessing.

God’s common grace is like giving out Halloween candy. In my neighborhood – everyone gets candy. You don’t even have to live there. Just show up, knock on some doors, and go home happy. The same reason you don’t need to be a Christian to be a good doctor – you just need to be smart, really smart, and willing to study and learn everything there is to study and learn about the human body.

And while the unbeliever may not give credit where credit is due – the believer (the faithful as David calls us in V10) will speak of God’s kingdom and glory. Because the believer knows that every good gift is from the Father – even our ability to earn a living is a gift from the Father.

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#### **IV. Faithfully Meeting Our Needs**

##### **V14 – 16**

David writes about God meeting the needs as a result of his kindness and faithfulness. Saying that He (God) opens his hand – what I see like a Father feeding a young child with an open hand

And then finally in V17-21 – a passage of Scripture that the Lord used in a powerful way in my life this summer as I was in a pit of despair desperately wanting our family to be back together, in V17-20 we see a picture of God’s special love to His children

#### **V. God’s Special Love for His Children**

- Nearness – proximity – to all who call out with integrity or with truth as some translations put it
  - “Mere formal prayer is useless”
- Fulfilling the desires of those who fear Him
  - Not a catch all genie in the bottle type of thing
  - There’s a qualifier – of those who fear Him – who stand amazed at His greatness

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- When I'm stand amazed at God's greatness – my desires seem to align with God's purposes...
- Great Protector

**VI. The Only Reasonable Response → Praise**

**CLOSING**

This morning, with this text before us all about the greatness of God – I want to leave you with 3 words. I was listening to another pastor – an acquaintance I took a preaching class from – and he had preached on this text about 6 years ago. And he used these 3 words that the greatness of God can compel us through:

- Despair – when I am in despair I can search the unsearchable greatness, the faithful love God has for me in Christ to comfort me in my despair.
- Anxiety – when I am afraid and anxious about today, tomorrow, next week, next month – I can trust that the Lord is near to all who cry out to him with integrity

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- Apathy – what difference does it really make – the greatness of God is the cure of apathy in the Christian.