

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE, THREE

Intro: It is not by accident that the largest book in the Bible is a book of praise. In fact, it is a book of Psalms to be sung. One of the most outstanding of all of the marks of the people of God is the joy that they experience and express to God in praise.

One of the ancient writings of the Jews contains this commendation of Psalm 145: "Every one who recites the Tehillah of David thrice a day may be sure that he is a child of the world to come. And why? Not merely because the Psalm is alphabetical (for that the 119th is, and in an eightfold degree), nor only because it celebrates God's care for all creatures (for that the Great Hallel does, cxxxvi. 25), but because it unites both these qualities in itself" (Perowne, II, 470).

This may overlook the truth, but it certainly recognizes the importance of recognizing the goodness of God and praising Him!

Our verse tonight is v. 3.

There are other verses in the Psalms which are very much like this:

- 1) Psa. 48:1, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness."
- 2) Psa. 95:3, "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."
- 3) Psa. 96:4, "For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods."
- 4) Psa. 135:5, "For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods."

And just beyond our verse for tonight:

- 5) Psa. 147:5, "Great is our Lord, and of great power; his understanding is infinite."

So it is a very prominent theme in the Psalms--the greatness of God!

As we look at Psa. 145:3 we notice immediately that it states three outstanding facts.

How did David come to know these?

It is probably true that, like so many truths which even we come to understand, they resulted from his own experience. The Holy Spirit has sovereignly led in the impressions that were made so that what we have here is the very word of God while it is also the very word of David.

David had learned these three things about God--and many more--but especially these three things:

- 1) "Great is the Lord."
- 2) "And greatly to be praised."
- 3) "And his greatness is unsearchable."

Perhaps the thing that makes this verse so wonderful is that it says nothing about David, or about any other man, or any other creature; IT IS ALL ABOUT THE LORD.

Let us look at these three great facts.

I. FACT #1: "Great is the Lord."

We must recognize that he is speaking of Jehovah. Therefore, it is a fact which does not change. That is indicated in the name. This statement means:

- The Lord is great now.
- The Lord has always been great.
- The Lord always will be great.

What does he mean by great?

It includes many things:

- 1) It speaks of the majesty, the grandeur of His Person. Have you ever tried to describe God to someone?
- 2) It speaks of His position over creation--how dependent all men, all creatures, all nations are upon Him! And, obviously, it would have us consider what creation would be without Him!
- 3) It speaks of His power and His works--as the Psalm indicates.

Cf. Psa. 139:1-12.

II. FACT #2: "And greatly to be praised."

It is easy to heap too much praise upon man.

When Paul and Barnabas healed the man at Lystra who had never walked, they had trouble keeping the people from offering sacrifices to them. They said that Paul was Mercurius and that Barnabas was Jupiter (Acts 14).

BUT NEVER HAS GOD, NEVER HAS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, NEVER HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT RESTRAINED THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP!

It is absolutely impossible to exaggerate or to exhaust the praise that we bring to God. You cannot worship Him too much. No words of adoration, however exalted, will ever be adequate to express all that He is!

III. FACT #3: "And his greatness is unsearchable."

Have you noticed the ands which tie this verse together?

What does it mean that "his greatness is unsearchable"?

Just suppose you owned a gold mine--just suppose! If that mine were "unsearchable" it would not mean that you could not get into it. It would mean this: THAT YOU COULD EMPLOY ALL OF THE MEN YOU WANTED TO, AND YOU COULD PROMISE THEM EMPLOYMENT FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, AND THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES, AND THEIR GRANDCHILDREN'S LIVES--AND SO ON--BUT THE SUPPLY OF GOLD COULD NEVER BE EXHAUSTED. THE SUPPLY WOULD BE LIMITLESS!

There is no such mine in all the earth! Nothing on earth is this inexhaustible.

But listen! If every child of God in every generation of people from the beginning of time to the end of time and throughout all eternity were to dig and to bore into the truth of God's Word so as to be able to know all that we could know about God, THAT TRUTH COULD NEVER BE EXHAUSTED.

This throws some light on two NT passages:

- 1) Rom. 11:33, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"
- 2) Eph. 3:8, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Concl: Just what did David have in mind?

We do not have the time to deal with these in detail, but let me point out from Psa. 145 a few of the things which David had found unsearchable:

- 1) The grace of God (v. 8).
- 2) The goodness of God (v. 9)--satisfying His people.
- 3) The righteousness of God (v. 17).
- 4) The nearness of God (v. 18).
- 5) The sufficiency of God (v. 19).
- 6) The power of God to keep us (v. 20).

Is it any wonder that David said,
"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable."