

**The Impact of Worship – Psalm 145**  
**August 21, 2016**  
**Pastor Jon Haakana**

You've all seen or heard them. You have laughed because of a misplaced letter or word, even though the intent was good. It's the dreaded church bulletin blooper. Here's a few:

Due to the Pastor's illness, Wednesday's healing service will be discontinued until further notice. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The Peacemakers meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor's sermons.

Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help.

Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.

A missionary from Africa named Bertha Belch is speaking at Calvary Memorial in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Weight Watchers group will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

These "bulletin bloopers" are funny and they show the importance of words. Language is so powerful, isn't it? A misplaced letter or word can make us laugh or make us cry. Words can communicate humor or holiness, sorrow or singing. As we continue in our series on worship from the Book of Psalms, we've focused on some pretty weighty words in Psalms 95 & 96: we learned that biblical worship involves both Rejoicing and Reverence and is always followed by a Response. Additionally, as we discovered last week true worship is never boring when we Exalt His Name and Expect His Coming. This morning, as we take a look at Psalm 145, another Psalm of David, we will see that worship is designed to radically impact our very lives.

I see 7 powerful words and doctrinal truths suggested in this psalm. As we go through each one, I want to also give an application related to each point. It will work like this: Because of this truth...I will therefore do this.

#### 1 God's Position

The first truth is God's Position. David as God's king adores Almighty God as his king above all kings. **Read 1-2** To "extol" is to set on high above all others, it's the expression of the greatest possible admiration. The phrase "forever" means that David's praise has no end. Our praise of God shall be as eternal as the God we praise.

Also, we are to praise Him "every day" regardless of how our day looks. When we're up and everything looks good, we're to praise Him. And, when we're down and things look dark, we're still to praise Him. Every day is a new opportunity to give praise to Jesus.

And so, because of God's Position, we are to Praise Him daily.

#### 2 God's Power

The second truth is God's Power. While God is great, David recognizes that "no one can fathom" his great power completely. **Read 3-4** When we contemplate the immensity of our Triune God, we find ourselves surrounded by unbelievable wonders.

When we understand what we can, we're challenged to pass along what we know to the next generation. Specifically, we're to tell those who are younger about God's works and mighty acts. As parents we are to praise God before our children and remind them of the ways that we've seen God at work in the past. Each generation is to catch the praises from the last, echo them,

and then pass them along to the next.

I want to personally thank those of you who influence and impact kids for Jesus. Whether it's in your home, in a class setting, or in a youth activity, you are a difference maker for Christ and His kingdom.

Because of God's Power, we are to disciple our kids.

### 3 God's Personality

The third truth is God's Personality and is found in verses 7-9 and verse 17. **Read**

Here, David describes the multi-faceted beauty of God's personality. Listen to the words he uses: "**goodness**," "**righteousness**," "**gracious**," "**merciful**," "**slow to anger**," "**abounding in steadfast love**," "**good to all**," "**righteous**," and "**kind**." These attributes help us see what kind of God He is and how He deals with His people.

The very poignant TV commercial came out a few years ago. It simply showed a series of people who have one thing in common, a nasty injury or scar. There's a cowboy with a huge scar around his eye; a young man with a cauliflower ear; another with horribly calloused feet. There's no explanation at all, simply the Nike swoosh and the words, "Just Do It."

The ad has been analyzed and criticized by a lot of people as being incomprehensible and extreme. But the key to the controversial commercial lies in its background music. Joe Cocker sings, "You are so beautiful...to me."

To these athletes - the wrestler with the bad ear, the surfer with a shark bite, the bull rider with one eye their injuries are beauty marks. And to their fans, these athletes are beautiful because of their scars. God's grace and goodness and righteousness and love and compassion are jarring and controversial as well. Our beauty is found not in us, but in Him. He looks down at us injured, blind, and scarred and sings, "You are so beautiful...to me." **Gospel application**

Because of God's Personality, we are to celebrate His attributes.

### 4 God's Preeminence

The fourth element is God's preeminence from verses 10-13. **Read**

The main point here is not that God is important or even prominent it's that He's preeminent. He's over all because He made all. All of creation will praise Him and His saints, that's you and I, we will lift Him up as number one in our lives. God has no rivals. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and we should live in light of this fact. As we praise Him for His works around us, we will go on to bless Him for his works within us.

David is also saying that there is a direct link between our heart and our tongue. We speak about what is in our heart. Some people really love to talk about sports, others talk a lot about their family, some talk about their lawn or cars or houses, and still others focus their words on money or the weather. If you want to know what someone holds dear, just listen to what they talk about. If our hearts are full of God, then our tongues won't be able to stop talking about Him to others. That's why my favorite definition of evangelism is this: "Evangelism is what spills over when you bump into someone."

So, because of God's preeminence, we will tell others about Him.

### 5 God's Provision

The next facet of this psalm is God's Provision from verses 14-16. **Read** While God is

extremely powerful and awesome, He is also tender and locked into the needs of His people. Have you fallen recently? Are you bowed down with the weight of problems and difficulties? If so, turn your eyes to Jesus and He will provide what you need. He will uphold you when you fall and lift you up when you're overwhelmed. The key is to look up. Friends, God has His hands full of good things for us. When we're wiped out, stressed out, or maxed out, He wants us to look to Him. He won't stomp on us when we're down but will instead treat us tenderly and give us exactly what we need. Will you give your problems and yourself to Him right now?

Because of God's Provision, we can trust Him with our problems.

## 6 God's Presence

The next anchor we can hold on to is God's Presence in verses 18-19. **Read** While God is the King of the Universe, He is also very near to us. When you're feeling alone, David reminds you that you are never alone. Notice that He is near to "all," not just to a special few. Some of you may feel that God is mad at you or that you've been disqualified from His grace and presence because of your sins. That's not true. He is near to all who call upon Him in truth. When you call on Him in truth, He will fulfill your desires and hear your cries for help.

Because of God's Presence, we can pray to Him.

## 7 God's Preservation

The final truth that impacts David from this psalm of praise is God's Preservation. We see this in the last two verses. **Read** God preserves those who are saved and will judge those who are not. This is both comforting and frightening, isn't it? If you have been saved from your sins, you can have the confidence that God will watch over you and usher you into His presence when you die.

I think I must be one of the few people in America who never watch the wildly popular Survivor show on CBS. The winners usually survive because they are cunning and have a well-developed strategy. Friends, when it comes to making it to heaven, it will have nothing to do with our cleverness or creativity. If we are saved, we will survive and live with Him forever not based on what we do but based on what Jesus did for us. (**Gospel application**)

The final verse of this canticle of praise repeats the opening chorus: "**Let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever.**" David does not have a monopoly on praise - he longs for every living person to praise his holy name always. Because of God's Preservation, we are therefore called to cultivate a lifestyle of praise.

Our words are important. We have the opportunity to use them in praise to God or we can be careless and end up doing far more damage than a bulletin blooper. The overriding message of this series is this: Praise God with everything you have whether you feel like it or not.

I read recently about a Christian conference that was held at a church in Omaha, Nebraska. People were given helium-filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the joy in their hearts. All during the service balloons ascended, but when the service was over, 1/3 of the people were still holding on to their balloons! Friends, don't hold back! Let's let our praise rise up to God! "Let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever!" Amen.