

READING

Please open your bibles to Psalm 145 and stand with me for the reading of God's inspired, inerrant and infallible word.

Psalm 145, we read.

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words

and kind in all his works.

The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.

The LORD preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

INTRO

Today is December 2nd and when I hear the word December I'm immediately drawn to think of Christmas. That day that sits just 23 days from today. December and Christmas are basically synonyms to me and if you have a December birthday you know exactly what I'm talking about. Your birthday is forever living in the shadow of Christmas.

My dad's birthday is December 24th and watching him open presents on his birthday every year as a kid was more along the lines of water torture than it was a time of celebration.

The culmination of the Christmas season for us as believers is Christmas day. A day that still sits on the western calendar in which we are publicly able to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. The king of kings and the Lord of Lords humbling himself to be found in human form only to be obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

so that we who believe in him may have everlasting life. It's a glorious and wonderful gift that gives us this season of celebration.

For the rest in the west Christmas day is centered upon another individual. Some call him an imposter, some call him a glory stealer, some call him a charlatan, one couple from this church even calls him "Christmas Bill" of course the man I'm referring to is Santa Clause.

Now, I get parents all the time asking me if Christians should celebrate Santa and I would love to tell you my opinion, but I won't. However I will tell you that I affirm a parents right to decide for their own household what to do with Santa.

At any rate, This season of Santa infatuation got me thinking of just when and where this figure came from and how he has enveloped the west with his antics. Is the red suit, the reindeer, the chimney climbing, the shop of toys, the beard, the gift giving, is it all fantasy or is there any truth to this tale. Funny enough the trail led me where most paths lead and that is Back to God through the conduit of church history.

As you dig into church history you realize that there is a real person from the 4th century named Nicholas. He was said to be born in, and eventually pastor in, Myra which is, for reference, modern day turkey. He was a man who was about the Lord's business and had an exuberant zeal and passion for the preaching and teaching of sound doctrine. Above all else he was enamored with the Glory of Jesus Christ.

There's numerous stories surrounding his generosity to the poor, so much so that the medieval catholic church proclaimed him to be a saint. He was a favorite among dutch sailors who would call him Sinter Clause, which later became our english version, Santa Clause.

While the Roman Catholic Churches declaration of sainthood is a gross misunderstanding of scripture and a heresy in the highest regard, it non less shows that Nicholas was compelled to not only preach the truth of scripture, but also to live it out.

So much so that during the last great persecution of the church, under the emperor Diocletian, Nicholas is said to have been imprisoned for his beliefs.

Nicholas was so influential in his day that he was invited to attend the council of Nicea where the church fathers gathered to layout the biblical grounds for the deity of Christ.

This was a heated debate at the time with the opposition to the biblical truth of Christ being fully God and it was lead by a man named Arius.

Arius believed that Jesus was not fully God, that he was not the same essence as the father, a heresy that today is known as the Arian heresy or Arianism. A heresy named after Arius himself and today is continued to be propogated most knowably by the Jehovas Witnesses.

Now listen as I read Historian William J Bennett's account of the altercation between Nicholas of Myra and Arius at the council of Nicea. " Tradition says that Nicholas was one of the Bishops attending the council of Nicea. As he listened to Arius explain views to him that seemed blasphemous his anger mounted, he must have asked himself (did i suffer through all those years in prison to listen to this man berate our beliefs.)

His anger got the best of him and he left his seat, walked up to Arius, faced him squarely, and slapped his face" (slapping at the time was very manly...its probably a little different now, it would be weird if a man slapped another man in the face) But alas Bennett continues. "The bishops were stunned. Nicholas found himself under lock and key in another portion of the palace for the remainder of the council and when the council was completed Arius was found to be a heretic.

Perhaps some of the Bishops admired Nicholas for standing up forcefully, if not overzealously, for his beliefs. Nicholas must have had supporters and friends in high places because when the council of Nicea concluded Nicholas was set free and his clerical robes were restored"

So there you have it, Jolly old Saint Nick slapping a heretic on his face. I would say that goes beyond just leaving him some coal in his stocking.

Now while I dont condone his violence, what shocks me about this story is the thickness of the irony between who this man was and the caricature that the culture has turned him into. He was a man that was enamored with the Glory of the God of scripture and he was turned into a demigod of pure fantasy.

Nicholas was a man willing to put his life on the line for Gospel truth, to stand up to those who oppose it. He understood and knew the God of scripture. His God was a big god. His God is the living God, his God is the real God, not of fantasy but of the world we actually live in.

TURN

My question to you this morning is... is this your God? AW Tozer writes that "what comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us" "The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above it's religion and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.

Worship is pure when the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the church is always God himself and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he does, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like."

This mornings text is a psalm of Praise.

And I posit to you today that our praise of God is directly tied to our understanding of who God is.

To expand on Tozers thought, I posit to you that the picture of God that we hold in our minds, pairs to the affections of God that we hold in our heart, which flows the the proclamations of praise that we give Him with our lips. Since out of the heart the mouth speaks. - praise is a process...mind. heart. mouth.

St. Nicholas had an accurate view of the God of the bible, Surely we will see that David did, so I ask, Do you?

Or have you fallen victim to one of the many characatures of God that exist both within our culture and sadly within our churches. Maybe when I say the word God you truly do picture Santa Clause. A Karmistic God who gets you gifts when you do good and gives you coal when you do bad.

A God who is all legalism and no grace. A neutered God who has a big white beard and floats on a cloud whose likeness is that as portrayed in Divinci's "the creation of adam" This God does not strike awe, or reverence or fear into the heart of man.

There are endless caricatures of God that we can create once we go beyond the text of Scripture. The Blind Watchmaker God, The God who is only Loving, The God who is only Wrathful, The God who is only peace, The God who is only pro America, The God who hates gluten and on and on and on we are able to continue to create ideas of God in our mind that pale in comparison to the God of scripture. Without fail these idols fall flat and without fail your praise of them will as well.

But I would say for many of you here in this room that isn't you. I would say that you would affirm the God of the bible. The God who is real, the God who exists. Just you sitting here this morning after having gone through Romans 1 through 6 is probably affirmation of that.

For you I see the problem can creep in much more subtly and slyly. God can start to become overly familiar to you and you can start to think that you have him completely figured out, in a sense he has become likened to a math problem that you've analytically solved and since you now have the answer you no longer need to look at the equation.

To say it even more simply, God has become common to you. This is the definition of profanity, to make common. And the God that you once saw as sacred and majestic and amazing you no longer praise because in your apathy you've either, forgotten just how awesome he is, or simply stopped looking at him in the pages of scripture.

We do this all the time, When I first moved to san Diego I lived in PB and worked in Poway. I moved from the midwest, There was nothing I desired more at that time that warm weather and living by the ocean. At that time watching the sunset over the ocean was worthy of me getting to work early, speeding home and sprinting to the beach.

I was in awe of the cacophony of colors, the light pastels in the summertime and the deep purples and reds of fall and winter. One of my roommates at the time made it a pastime of discussing the sunsets and photographing the sunsets and we would all discuss the sunsets pointing out the panoply of color and beauty.

But after awhile they just became normative. I forgot about the gray lackluster sunsets of the midwest that I so desperately wanted to flee for the famous sunsets of the California coast. These sunsets became common to me, unworthy of the rush home from work. I even found myself saying "you've seen one you've seen em all" which is the epitome of apathy. As life happens my affections and my gaze were placed on other priorities and after time I simply just forgot how mesmerizing the san diego sunsets are.

(fireworks)

Some of you in here just got engaged. If you're the female in this contract you now possess a symbolic item of said contract. Your ring. I'm sure right now you can't stop staring at it, you can't stop telling others about it, you can't stop showing it off. When you meet a fellow female and they hear about your engagement they will inevitably ask, "Can I see the ring".

You'll gush with excitement to show them the many facets of the diamond, the cut clarity color and carat. (if your single in here, and a guy you need to know those 4 words)

You hold it precious to you. You probably have a safe spot on your mantel for it and you feel the weight of it on your finger as you go about your day. You can't wait to have it cleaned and polished before your wedding day so it sparkles and draws the eyes of the many onlookers..

But...I can assure you, as a man with 8-years of marriage under his belt, that that ring will soon be chucked on top of the soap scum of your bathroom counter, drug through a poopy diaper and cleaned with a hard scrape against a pair of levi's. It'll only be spoken about when you get the call from ben bridges or robbins brothers that your insurance on its about to lapse if you dont bring it in for it's yearly cleaning.

We are prone to do this with so many pieces and possessions in our lives and we can be prone to so easily do it with our God.

This morning my prayer is that this sermon draws your mind back to the God of Scripture. The God who is real. The proper picture of God. That it stirs you up by way of reminder of Just how awesome He is. That as you engage your mind with just a few of his perfections that your affection for him will overflow and you will not but be able to sing His praise.

Today in Psalm 145 we'll be looking at the **Posture of Praise, The priority of Praise, The perfections of Praise and The Propagation of Praise.**

Lets look at the first two introductory verses of psalm 145 together. These verses really set the tone for the rest of the psalm.

“A song of Praise. Of David. I will extol you my God and King and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you. and praise your name forever and ever”

This psalm is the only psalm in the entire psalter that bears the title “a psalm of praise”. The word Psalms itself means praises and yet this is the only one in the singular “a song of Praise” It’s the pinnacle of praise on a mountain of praise, it’s the lead actor in on the stage of praise, its the cleanest and clearest waters of praise in an ocean of praise and since it is the Last psalm written by David I would assert that it’s his highest note in a crescendo of Praise.

75 of the psalms, or exactly half of all of the psalms in the entire psalter are attributed to David. And so in many ways this is David’s book. His name is so common throughout the psalms that the prince of preachers Charles Haddon Spurgeon called the psalms “the treasury of David”

And this makes sense, David was a gifted singer and a musician. The bible speaks of him playing his harp before saul on many occasions, he was a man who’s life saw the highest of the highs and the lowest of lows, the peaks and the valleys of what this world has to offer. The shepherd boy turned warrior king and a man who was forever after God’s own heart.

Psalm 145 starts a procession of praise all the way through the end of the psalter. Look at psalm 146:1, it begins...Praise the Lord, 147:1 Praise the Lord, 148:1, praise the lord, 149:1 praise the Lord, 150:1 praise the Lord and culminating in verse 6 of psalm 150. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. There’s no question to what the last six psalms in the psalter are about, they are about praising the Lord...psalm 145 is the transition to this great finale of praise and as David’s last psalm I assert that it’s His personal finale of praise.

Spurgeon called this psalm “David’s crown jewel of Praise” It’s a psalm of worship and adoration carefully crafted by King David to compel us and motivate us to provoke us to praise our God daily and generationally.

It’s also an acrostic psalm which means that each stanza starts with a letter of the hebrew alphabet. It’s literally an alphabet of praise. And just like our modern alphabet it was to be sung, recited and memorized so that the the singer would never forget the character and works of their God. That morning noon and evening they would be able to properly praise Him.

What is praise?

Which necessitates us defining what praise is? Is it simply saying “praise the Lord?” Is it texting PTL to your friends, Is it just a formulaic christian cliché? Is it something you only say after something good happens? You get the job, the girlfriend, the car, the kid? the open parking spot? Praise the Lord.

If I asked all of you in here on the count of 3 to praise the Lord, what would you do?

There are three Hebrew words that are translated praise and a summary of their definitions may help us out.

Summary one: To Praise God means to boast about God and cheer in reverent adoration of His person and Works.

Summary two: To Praise God is to proclaim His greatness to others in Joy and excitement.

Summary three: To Praise God is to give thanks, honor and commendation to The God who is worthy of it.

Concisely said, To praise God is to **Glorify him by reciting his attributes, reciting his works and saying thank you for both.**

Which means that praise has it's reasons clearly defined. Theology is always to lead to doxology and doxology is to be built upon doctrinal truth. Its the truth thats in our minds that ignites our hearts with passion and love and devotion.... Again, Mind. heart. mouth...

This is why we worship both in spirit and in truth. Scriptural truths about **who** God is and **what** God does, and I defy you to find a psalm more jam packed with them than psalm 145.

Just look at the varying words that David uses to thank and praise God for his attributes and works. Look at vs. 1, extol, vs 2, bless, vs 4 commend, declare, vs 5 meditate, vs 6 speak, vs 7 pour forth and sing aloud, in vs 10 give thanks...It's almost as if David is exhausting his entire vocabulary to give praise to God.

Now lets look again at vs. 1. He says, *I will extol you my God and king.* I will bless your name. His praise is deliberate, its intentional, its not circumstantial. This praise is coming from a man who is resolved to praise the Lord.

Notice also the personal nature of this psalm, David says **my God and King**. It brings our minds to Thomas seeing the risen savior and looking at his hands and his feet and saying “my Lord and My God”

it brings our minds to Gods sovereign election in salvation. David didn't chose God, God chose David and if you're in this room and call this God your God it's because he chose you as well.

in the same way he pulled david from the pasturelands of the promise land and placed a crown on his head, God has pulled you from the domain of darkness and transferred you to the kingdom of his beloved son and declared you a saint. he has pulled you from a life of pointlessness on a path to hell and plucked you for paradise.

that alone is worthy of waking up everyday and saying Thank you God. you are great, you are good, you are merciful you are awesome and you are my God.

Again, this is David, the King over all Israel. The one who was anointed King when he was just a boy. The one who stepped forth and slew goliath with a stone and a sling, the one who married king sauls daughter and became a hero to His army, The one who united the 12 tribes of israel and conquered Jerusalem and Moab and Ammon and Syria The one who brought the Ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem. The one that God covenanted with promising an everlasting throne, the one who was given a vision on mt moriah to build Gods alter and was given plans for the temple, the one who added music to daily liturgy for priests, the one whom thousands upon thousands of Jews called their King and David says in this psalm...I am NO king compared to MY God.

He is King. and I bow my own knee to Him, I submit myself to him. I may be King of this little patch of land in the middle east but he is king over all of the created universe.

I will extol you my God and King and bless your name forever and ever.

David choses his words carefully in this opening section. The word extol literally means to lift high. And the word bless means to bow the knee in worship. It's a humble adoration a humble posture. David is making sure God's name is higher than his own. This too needs to be our **posture as we approach our God with praise.**

Remember in Philippians 2 where we see that Christ our King, because of his humble and obedient life to the will of God the Father has been given the name that is above all names, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth. And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

the late RC sproll said about this verse "God moved heaven and earth to exalt His son, to give him the name that is above all names, when you simply hear the name Jesus your impulse should be to get on the floor on your knees and confess that He is Lord"

Let us be a people who come before our God and King as david does. with a humble posture, acknowledging that He is our Lord, He is our King. That our name is nothing compared to his. My friends, why would you work so hard in this life to make a name for yourself when you were created to praise his.

These introductory verses not only give us our **posture of praise** but also show us the **priority of praise**.

Look at our text again,

I will extol you my God and King and bless your name **forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

David's praise of God was not circumstantial or limited in any way. It was not relegated to only the good days nor compartmentalized into one day a week. His praise was not limited to his time in the temple and in the same regard your praise should not be limited Sunday's at 10am. Our God is worthy of praise every day, all day, in all circumstances and all seasons simply because of who he is.

Your circumstances may change but rest assured your God does not. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the Alpha and the Omega, who is and was and who is to come, He has declared in His word and promised to you in Malachi 3:6 that He is the Lord and he does not change. He is always good, he is always gracious, he is always merciful, he is always just, he is always generous, he is always righteous. God is not a man or the son of man that he should lie or change his mind.

When you're healthy or sick, rich or poor, barren or fruitful, young or old, jobless or employed, single or married, God has not changed and so your praise of him should not

change. In all this life has to offer may you be resolved as David was to praise the Lord because he is worthy of it.. Go with me to Revelation 19.

Go with me to Revelation 19, We not only ought to praise the Lord in this life but also in the life to come. God is from everlasting to everlasting, which means his character is unchanged even after we are. We're not afforded a lot of information about exactly what we will be doing in heaven but one thing is absolutely for certain and that is that we will be praising the Lord.

Revelation 19 sits during the great tribulation, just before the second advent of Jesus Christ. There's martyred tribulation saints, church age saints and Angels all praising God for his works and his attributes. This is Psalm 145 played out in the midst of heaven. Babylon has been destroyed and Christ the King is about to return and usher in His kingdom on earth.

You will see the word Hallelujah in this text four different times. It's the only four times this word is used in the entire New Testament and it's a transliteration of the Hebrew word Hallel which we find in Psalm 145 and it means "praise the Lord"

Let's read this together.

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

"Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

Once more they cried out,

"Hallelujah!

"The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures **fell down and worshiped God** who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" 5 And from the throne came a voice saying,

"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
small and great."

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

"Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure"—

AW Tozer, in his preeminent work on the perfections of god writes, "I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven"

May your posture of praise be humility and your priority of praise be constant...

why? because He is worthy.

We now turn to look at four perfections of God that make him worthy of our praise.

Perfections Of Praise

The first perfection we will look at is his Greatness, **His Greatness.**

(Perfections are simply another way to state God's Character or God's attributes as all of his character and attributes are perfect)

Look with me at verses 3-7 of psalm 145.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

Greatness is a topic that consumes us as a society. Most notably in the wide world of sports. In fact ESPN has made an entire network of talk shows that debate this topic. The greatest play, the greatest player, the greatest shot, the greatest hit, the greatest dunk, the greatest race, the greatest day and ultimately the greatest of all time which has been ascribed the acronym G.O.A.T which spells goat.

Endless debates are had over just who the goat is? Gretsky or Lemieux, LeBron or Jordan, Ali or Frasier, farve or brady? Type "who is the goat of" in any web browser you'll get a list of 100 autofill topics ranging from hip hop to sky diving.

And this isnt a new phenomenon it goes back even further. Kings throughout the centuries have been appending greatness to their names.

Some of these may sound familiar some may not. I love the irony that I didnt know some of these, simply being buried in the sands of history proves to us they were in fact not great. There's Odo the Great, Peter the Great, Robert the Great, Vladimir the Great, Rhamses the Great, in the time of Christ there was Herod the Great and probably the most known of all... Alexander the great.

Men who self-ascribed themselves as great but, could never live up to the title of greatest. That title alone belongs to our God.

You know what all of these kings have in common? Their dead...Not so great...I love the picture of Jesus sitting at a table with all of these self-proclaimed greats and discussing their conquests. Oh, alexander, you defeated the medes and the persians and ruled over them? good for you, Rhamsys you conquered the hittites and the libyans and ruled over them? good for you? How about you Jesus? Oh, I conquered death itself and rule and reign over everything that exists.

Great is the Lord. What a simple, precise and praiseworthy statement.

Not only is God to be praised because He, ontologically is great, but also because his works are great. Look vs. 4, David says he will declare your **mighty acts**, vs. 5 he will meditate on God's **wondrous works**, vs 6, the community of believers shall speak of the might of your **awesome deeds**.

Let me stir you up by way of reminder of just some the the awesome, wonderous and mighty acts of our God.

He spoke creation into existence. from the largest star in the farthest galaxy to the smallest nucleus in the tiniest of microorganisms. he created them. He deluged the entire globe with water and yet in his grace and mercy saved but eight. He toppled the walls of jericho with a simple blow of a trumpet. He smote the armies of egypt at the Red Sea by smashing them with the waves and drowning the horse and the rider. He destroyed the countries and slew the kings of Og and Bashan and Sihon and Jabin and Canaan fulfilling his promise to allow his people into their land. He fed his chosen with bread from the heavens qual from the winds and water from a rock.

He promised his people that he would send them a savior and he fulfilled that promise. This savior came and turned water to wine, cured the sick, restored sight to the blind, conquered death and is seated on high and will return again through a thunderous sky.

These are just a few of the millions of works that God has done is doing and will do.

The apostle John writes in last chapter of His gospel, John 21:25 "now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" The world itself could not contain the volumes that would need to be written of just the 3-year ministry of Jesus Christ.

His greatness is unsearchable. It's ungoogleable. What a privilege we have to peer into the word of God and get a glimpse of it. What a blessing it is to have Him reveal himself to us in the Word of Truth. We're not left to mindlessly conjure up our own ideas about who God is, but we can open a book and read about His unsearchable greatness. To get to gaze at the tip of the iceberg every time we open it's pages, to peer into the vastness of the ocean of its content and yet never see the end of His greatness.

Psalm 19 states that "The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork"

If the created works themselves will proclaim the Glory and greatness of God how much more should we as the pinnacle of creation. blessed with the ability to speak, declare and proclaim that God is great.

Great is the Lord.

The first perfection worthy of our endless praise is the Greatness of God.

Let's go to the next section and look at the second perfection worthy of praise. and that is that **God is Good.**

Look at Verse 7

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

I love the phrasing here, pour forth, its the picture of a fountain that's filled to the brim with the knowledge of God's goodness. so much so that it bubbles up and overflows into every conversation, song, every text, every interaction with another person. Is this you my dear brothers and sisters? Do your lips pour forth the goodness of God? Is that where your focus is in your day to day interactions with others? Or is it on yourself...

Have you grown apathetic to the goodness of God? Have you forgotten how good he truly is to you?

Let's be reminded of how good our God is. Look at vs. 8 & 9 & 10.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The lord is good to all and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you O Lord and all your saints shall bless you.

David here quotes from exodus 34, the most quoted phrase in the entire old testament. The phrase of what God declares when he passes by Moses to give him a glimpse of his glory. And he says that God is slow to anger, which literally in the hebrew means that he has a long nose. It takes God a long time for his nostrils to flare up in anger. Yes God has a holy temper, but he has a very very long fuse.

Your family members, your friends, your co-workers, that continue to spew forth blaspheme after blaspheme against the God you love and serve, Every school shooter, Every gay pride pusher, every porn peddler, every leftist micro-aggressor, every mormon, every catholic, every isis shooter God allows to wake up and breath the air that he has created. Eat the food that he has provided. Enjoy the love of a child that he has given them. As Matthew 5:45 puts it, He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

And before you start to doubt his goodness in his common grace **may I remind** you that **Such were some of you.**

You didnt come to Christ because you were somehow considered worthy. No, God in his sovereign election and efficacious grace saved you.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Why is God so merciful and long-suffering? Because all of the elect are not yet saved.

Why was he so long-suffering with all the evil and calamity and terrorism in the world before you got saved? Because you were not yet saved.

May we be a people resolved to praise and proclaim God's goodness. Let us remove our minds from ourselves and put them back upon our God.

An author once wrote "There exists no circumstance in a believers life where he should be unwilling to praise God for saving him from the eternal torment of the fires of hell."

My friends when the train of your life goes through that dark tunnel you dont abandon the car and jump off, you put your trust in the conductor to get you through it.

My fellow saints, Our God is so good to us. May we forever praise God for his **perfection of goodness**.

The third of these four perfections that we will look at is the perfection of **God's Sovereignty**.

Lets look at verses 11-13

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power. To make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works

If you remember In verse one David has already proclaimed that God is King and here he continues to shed light on what that means as he continues to praise God.

Look at the descriptions of God's kingdom. its glorious, it has glorious splendor, its powerful, its everlasting and it endures throughout all generations.

David knows that God is king, that he is on the throne, that he is ruling over all the details of his life. That this king and his kingdom will go on for generations to come and for all of eternity.

Saints we serve an enthroned God, a God who rules and reigns and is over all. In revelation 19:16 the titles that are written on Christ's robe and on his thigh are King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Every knee will one day bow to him and every tongue will confess the truth that he is Lord. Our king and his kingdom will not age for he has existed before the world began and is from everlasting to everlasting God. As Abraham Kuyper so once eloquently stated "there is not one square in in the whole domain of our existence over which Christ does not say Mine! and I own it"

The egyptians, the barbarians, the huns, the medes, the persians, the greeks, the romans all once powerhouses controllers of this rock and yet there is nothing left of their earthly kingdoms but relics and dust. God's dominion has always and always will endure forever.

Hear the thick irony of Alexander the great as he spoke of conquering the medes and the persons. Alexander said "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion"

Alexander is dead, his kingdom is dead, the medes from that time are all dead, the persians from that day are all dead, both of their kingdoms are dead and yet out of alexander's own mouth he describes for us the reign of the lion from the tribe of judah and the sheep who makeup his church.

Voltaire

In my research for this sermon I came upon a story about a baptist minister that was on a tour of Voltaires castle. If you remember from History Voltaire was a French enlightenment writer and philosopher in the 1700's who famously said "One hundred years form my day there will not be a bible on earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker".

This minister was on the tour and the guide pointed out the chair where this famous declaration was made. The baptist minister said "you mean that chair right there (pointing to the chair on the other side of the rail" The tour guide said "yes that one" Without hesitation the minister leapt over the rail, sat in the chair and belted out "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun, does its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

The line from the famous Isaac Watts hymn who lived during the time of Voltaire.

Go with me to psalm 2

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,
“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”

He who sits in **the heavens laughs;**
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

This is the only time in all of scripture that we see God laugh. These kings and their kingdoms are nothing. They are ants yelling at a God. Remember that you are a citizen of this king and His kingdom. Remember that this world is not your home. When you look at the political landscape and get frustrated remember that you're not awaiting a country where right-wingers dwell, you're awaiting a kingdom where righteousness dwells.

trust that whatever your going through this morning that your great and good and sovereign king has it fully under control and is working that circumstance for your good and his glory.

Philippians 3:20 reads. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject all things to himself.

All our praise here on earth is practice for the eternal praise that we will Give King Jesus forever and ever.

Praise God for our King, Praise God for His Kingdom, Praise God for His Eternal Reign.

(he is also a kind king) (working all things for your good and his glory Romans 8)

And finally, the last perfection worthy of Praise as summed up by verses 14- 20. **Is our God's Generosity. He is a Generous God.**

The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
The LORD preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

Look at vs. 14 again.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

These are the works of a kind king. Not only is our King high and lifted up, but he stoops down to help those who have fallen. Psalm 147:3 says that "The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 34:18 says that The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. This is not some distant God, some distant king, some blind watchmaker. This is a God who is intimately involved with the care of his people.

He cares about you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He is always ever present in your pain, in your sadness, in your despair, He Is There. He is the great physician, the great healer and he is the Great high priest who is able to sympathize with your weakness. God does not abandon you in your pain. He is there. ever-present. Whether you feel him or not, trust the words of scripture that he is there upholding you and helping you...as any parent would for one of their children.

vs. 15 & 16

The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season, you open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

My friends in God's sovereignty he has allowed you to live in the wealthiest nation in one of the wealthiest cities in that nation. We have food in our cupboards that we don't even eat. Our fridges are packed with produce and we have grocery stores on every block. We have zero need of shelter or food or clothing.

We have the promise as believers that we don't need to worry about any of these things because God is generous to us. Matthew 6:25 says; "therefore, christian, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or drink, nor about your body what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

If he's going to take care of birds and beasts, how much more will he take care of you!

Psalm 147:8 says "The Lord covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry...Saint...are you not of more value than they?"

We serve a generous King. One who gives good gifts. The pinnacle of which... was the sacrifice of his son on a cross for the forgiveness of your sins. There is no greater gift than that.

Romans 8:31 - What shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all will he not also with him graciously give us...All Things.

My friends, this is the God we have the privilege to praise...He is a generous God.

vs 17

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works

His decree is perfect, His plan is perfect. Whatever is happening in your life right now is God's Righteous plan A.

He's strong but also tender. He's righteous but he's gracious, He's powerful yet merciful, Authoritative yet understanding, Holy but always forgiving, Just yet compassionate, Firm yet friendly...He's generous

vs18

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth

What a privilege it is that our Lord hears our prayers. Not only that but Christ himself and the holy spirit intercede on our behalf to the Father. 1 John 5:14 says "and this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us"

Saint you are able to talk to God...That idea alone is worthy of a lifetime of meditation, a lifetime of praise.

Martin Luther said it this way "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing"

vs19

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him he also hears their cry and **saves** them The Lord **preserves** all who love him but the wicked he will destroy

If you're in here this morning and don't know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior the God that you have been hearing about this morning promises to destroy you. But he also promises that if you cry out to him and repent of your sins and your evil wicked ways and put your faith solely in the finished work of Christ on the cross that he will save you unto everlasting life.

The promise of the destruction of the wicked is God's protection of us who are saved. And His promise to save the wicked who call on him is his generosity to those who are perishing.

Saint, may I remind you that you that your perseverance in the Christian life is only a manifestation of his constant undergirding preservation.

Luther described this section by saying: "Christ is the king of the poor, the afflicted and the fallen" May we forever look at the perfection of God's Generosity and praise him for it.

God is great. He is good. He is Sovereign and he is Generous.

And finally vs. 21 we see the **propagation of praise**.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

There is a crescendo in this psalm if you haven't noticed. It starts with David praising God, Then moves generationally to God's covenant people and finally culminating in vs 21 with All flesh praising the Lord.

David's praise of God is so passionate that he cannot contain it to himself, its not sufficient for just him to praise God, its not sufficient for further generations to praise God, its not sufficient for just Israel to praise God, no, he literally wants the entire world to praise God.

David's understanding of who God was motivated him to say that the praise of God cannot be contained to just himself, to just his family, to just his people, it cannot be contained to just your house, to just this church, it needs to go outside of these walls and into this city and into the world and thus I am provoked to speak of him.. so that more can praise his name.

Spurgeon said: "no chorus is too loud, no orchestra too large, no psalm too lofty for the praising of the Lord of hosts."

Saints, displayed for us this morning in Psalm 145 is the God that exists, the God that is real, the God that Reigns the God that is to be praised.

My prayer is that this text has drawn you out of any apathy toward God. That it has put him on display in your mind.

That it has shown you the God of scripture. That as these truths went into your mind, your affections were stirred and you will not but be able to praise His name.

What an incredible blessing we have to know and boast in our God.

As Jeremiah 9:23 states: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might. let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, That he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice and righteousness in all the earth.

May you praise the Lord in his perfections, may your posture be humble, may your priority be continuous and may your praise propagate to further generations.

Let's apply this message right now by singing praise to our God. Chris is going to come forward and lead us in a psalm of praise. I can't think of more of a disservice to this text than not to sing after it has been preached. Please stand with me. We will sing. I'll pray and then we will have an offering.