

The Hallelujah Factor 2
Psalm 145 4-22

1

A sobering question for us to ask ourselves is this: “When I reach the end of my life what will I wish I’d done more of or less of?”

You’ve probably heard variations on that, and one of the most common is that at the end of life no one will say, “I wish I’d spent more time at the office.”

Perhaps some thought is running through your head right now.

Psalm 145 gives us some insights on the issue.

v. 1-3

3

1 I will extol You, my God, O King,
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.

4

NOTE: The Constancy of Praise – This psalm was used daily by the Hebrew faithful.
Forever and ever
Every day
Forever and ever

5

You can NEVER PRAISE God TOO MUCH

You can never offer up to God more praise than He is Worth.
Nothing less than lifelong adoration and worship our God and KING is sufficient.

No one on his / her death bed has or will ever say, “I wish I’d spent less time praising God and more time worrying, complaining, and wasting time doing all sorts of other things.”

Note the vocabulary of “God, O King.”
Those titles set the frame for our lives.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray the first petition was “Hallowed be Thy Name”, and the second petition was “Thy Kingdom Come. ”

7

NOTE: In teaching us to pray, Jesus shows that we DON’T START WITH self. We start with God. We are not the first priority, God is.
I know that sounds awful to the spirit of our age.

The idea of kingdom saturates the scripture.

8

Christopher Hitchens’ brother **Peter – The Rage against God**
He speaks of the cult like nature of secular tyrants like Stalin and the leaders of North Korea. ... The Hermit Kingdom

They hate faith in God and seek to supplant belief with a secular cult in which all power is vested in them. In N.Korea the Christian tradition was not strong but ancestor worship was. Yet it did not conflict with the regime since it happily marched along it.

10	<p>By great good fortune, I have witnessed...what seemed to be the entire population of Pyongyang streaming out of the city on bicycles and in buses, for the ancient Korean harvest festival of Chuseok, which included holding picnics amid the hilltop graves of your forefathers. No attempt was being made to suppress this survival. There was no menace, in this prehistoric pagan rite, to the authority of the Dear and Great Leaders. Why not? Because even if millions of people took part in it, it did not challenge the authority of State, Party or Leader. No alternative allegiance was required. By contrast, a single secret celebration of Christian Holy Communion, involving three or four people honestly pledging themselves to be ruled by a rival authority, would – if discovered – have been suppressed with all the fury and venom the state could muster.</p>
12	<p>The leaders of N. Korea are clearer about something than some in the church – Christianity is not just a system of morality but there is an ultimate allegiance to a Rival leader. There is worship of the True King, Jesus.</p>
	<p>We are not our own. He made us and as God is King, He has the right to direct our lives. He has graciously given us His 'good instruction' or Torah to show us the best way to live.</p> <p>If God is the King, then what are we – HIS SUBJECTS That is a word we don't like. We never have and especially in our day and age where the cultural mantra is that we all have our own kingdom – the authentic self where we can make the rules and set all the definitions for our lives.</p>
13	<p>We are called to exhibit the traits of a counter intuitive kingdom. What might that look like?</p> <p>EX: the Black church in Charleston that extended forgiveness to angry white shooter. Ex: Covenant church families, who without media attention, paid for funeral of the angry trans-shooter. A friend who used to be on staff there has spoken to a number of folks and there has never been a hint of anger toward the shooter's family.</p> <p>Those are counter-intuitive responses that reflect a different Kingdom value system.</p> <p>We quote "God hates the sin but loves the sinner", as long as WE ARE THE SINNER. But when it is someone else, someone we don't like....watch out. We are the sinner and so is everyone else.</p> <p>Part of our PROBLEM is that the fallen nature doesn't want to obey God. We want to play God or be God. We want to rule ourselves and others. Scripture even explains our evil and rebellion over and over from the first few chapters.</p>
15	<p>Gen 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.</p>
16	<p>Prov 3 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.</p>
17	<p>Rom 3 - rf Ps 14 "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands;</p>

	<p>no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”</p>
18	<p>Rom 8 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.</p> <p>Just read the daily headlines and you know how twisted the world is because of the sinful nature of men, women, and children.</p> <p>Tuning our hearts to praise God as King will help us in the battle against the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.</p>
20	<p style="text-align: center;">The Legacy of Corporate Praise</p> <p>4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. 6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness. 7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.</p>
21	<p>Men, one of the greatest gifts you can give to your family (kids and grandkids) is being a man of praise. Ladies, one of the greatest gifts you can give to your family is being a woman of praise. Singles, one of the greatest gifts you can give to your friends and church family is to be a man or woman of praise.</p>
22	<p>Praise is CAUGHT , not taught. Being around some of those “crazy charismatic” churches that Linda’s family visited years ago was good for my Presbyterian soul. Spending time in seminary – skipping chapel- and getting a chair outside the classroom building and praying through the Psalms was good for my praise muscle. Yes, praise is like a muscle- you need to exercise it or it will atrophy.</p>
23	<p>4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, Pass on the torch of praise to the next generation. How? Be in worship REGULARLY - THE definition of that term has changed from one generation to another. Engage with heart-felt singing. Even if you don’t feel like it. “Wait, isn’t that hypocrisy?” NO, IT’S THE MOVEMENT OF FAITH. HELP WITH VBS or children’s ministry</p>
24	<p>5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.</p> <p>Beware of whose splendor you are magnifying. Kids know the difference between lip service and a real commitment to God and His kingdom.</p> <p>It’s an old tale in the church world: Dad and mom want the appearance of being good church folk, but it’s clear to the kids that their hearts aren’t in it. There is little speaking of God’s power, awesome acts, abundant goodness, and His</p>

righteousness.

But dad and mom want the kids to 'get some religion' so they drop them off for Sunday School or youth group, etc

And when the kids go off to college or become independent, they will apply what they've learned from their parents' example, not their pious platitudes.

Apart from the mighty work of grace, the next generation is wandering. There may be enough places of contact with "religion" that they think they're OK, but there is no real spiritual vitality.

There are multiple factors involved, but the example of the parents, especially THE DAD, is a primary factor.

NO PARENTS ARE PERFECT, and God works despite us.

26 **To pass praise along to the next generation you must be intentional**

Notice the active verbs

27 **5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty**

And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.

6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,

And I will tell of Your greatness.

28 **7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness**

And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

This psalmist is not passive and silent.

Spiritual passivity is toxic for the next generation.

When Hezekiah became king after the death of his evil father Ahaz, he set out to open and repair the temple.

After 8 days of work he was notified that it was ready. Notice how he proceeded.

- 2 Chron 29

30 **And he stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the Lord through his prophets. 26 The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. 27 Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel.**

32 **28 The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. 29 When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. 30 And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.**

To initiate spiritual change in Judah, they worshipped and praised God, and they reinstated and celebrated the Passover - 2 Chron 30

Today we celebrate Christ our Passover who was sacrificed for us.

King George III - Hamilton - the way a human tyrant rules..."I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love." THAT'S NOT HOW OUR GRACIOUS KING RULES - He GAVE His Only Begotten Son to remind us of His love AND TAKE AWAY OUR GUILT AND SHAME.

That is a King we can love, worship, and adore.

While this is a solemn event, it is also a time for celebration as we come to the TABLE.

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