**In Profound Joy: Worship Through Praise**

**Psalm 145 (ESV)**

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*A Song of Praise. Of David.*

***1*** *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.* ***2*** *Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.* ***3*** *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*

***4*** *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.* ***5*** *On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.* ***6*** *They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.* ***7*** *They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

***8*** *The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.* ***9*** *The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*

***10*** *All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!* ***11*** *They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,* ***12*** *to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.* ***13*** *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.]*

***14*** *The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.* ***15*** *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.* ***16*** *You open your hand; and satisfy the desire of every living thing.* ***17*** *The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.* ***18*** *The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.* ***19*** *He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.* ***20*** *The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.*

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

Jesus told the woman at the well,

**John 4:23** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

Isn’t that fascinating?! The Father is seeking this kind of people to worship Him.

**John 4:24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Worship is God’s main priority for His people! Nothing is more important to God than worship.Everything that God has done in this world, from creating the universe to communicating with man to taking on human flesh to providing an atoning sacrifice for sin to promising a future restoration, all this has been done to lead us to worship Him. To God, worship is the biggest deal in all the world!God’s main concern is for our worship. He evaluates our lives on the basis of the question, “Are you worshipping Me in spirit and in truth?” At the end of our life, if we can say yes to that question, then we have lived well. We’ve lived an eternally meaningful life. But if we cannot say yes to that question, we have wasted our lives, regardless of what else we have accomplished. Worship is not just for sunny Sunday mornings. Worship is an every day occurrence in every circumstance. In every season of our lives, the right response for God’s people is worship. So we are right to pray to the Lord and petition Him for this. “Lord, teach my heart to worship you in every season.”

We ask the question, what if my personal worship of God has lost its edge? What do I do to re-invigorate my heart so that my worship isn’t some dull duty? Man’s solutions to the problem of weak worship are different from God’s solutions. We should mark that. Man’s solutions always look to external remedies: Let’s change the music or let’s go to some new place or let’s begin some novel practice. Perhaps if we worship with candles and incense, perhaps if we arrange our chairs in a circle, perhaps if we follow a liturgy, perhaps if we don’t follow a liturgy, perhaps if we sing new songs, perhaps if we sing old songs, perhaps if we… The list of external solutions is endless. But manipulating the externals in order to bring life to worship is no more effective than painting tombstones to bring life into a cemetery.Yes, the cemetery looks better with a coat of paint. But it’s still the home of the dead.

A worship problem is first and foremost a heart problem. True worship begins when God places spiritual life in our souls by His Holy Spirit. We need internal transformation in order to begin worship. We need to have a personal encounter with God’s Son in order for Him to change our hearts from a heart of stone into a heart of flesh, a heart that is pliable, a heart that is soft toward the Lord, a heart that knows God.The Gospel of Jesus is great news! It’s the greatest of news because it teaches us a path to discover this change, this internal change, for ourselves.

We learn about worship this morning from Psalm 145. And the main idea we’re going to trace through this psalm is that whenwe truly know God, our joy erupts in praise to God. So it’s first about knowing God and then as we know Him, we press into that knowledge of God. And what flows out of us is praise.In Psalm 145 King David calls us to praise. David knows God. He knows Him intimately. He knows Him personally. He came to know God as a young boy and he has grown in his knowledge of God all through his life. We can’t think of a chapter in David’s life that is not a season of David learning more about God. He has experienced God’s power in great victories. He has experienced God’s protection in times of trouble. He has experienced God’s comfort in times of great sorrow. He has experienced God’s mercy in the face of the guilt of his own sin. He has experienced God’s faithfulness in every phase of his journey, all along the way. David is a man who knows God and he writes Psalm 145 from the standpoint of knowing God’s greatness, knowing His goodness, knowing His glory.

This psalm, Psalm 145, is the last of David’s psalms. David writes 75 psalms in the Psalter. He entitles this, *A Song of Praise*. It’s the only one that he gives that title to. And I don’t think any theme could be more fitting to sort of provide a conclusion to his writing in the psalms. Let me ask you, do you have trouble expressing joyful praise to God in worship? And be honest about that. It’s not just giving voice to some words or to a melody, but every day, giving praise that flows from your heart, upward to God. Is that difficult for you? Psalm 145 is a huge help to us. It’s a prescription that invigorates our worship. The first thing we discover from this psalm is

**A Personal Commitment to Praise God**

David opens this psalm by announcing his own personal commitment to give God praise that is due Him.

***1*** *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.* ***2*** *Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.*

Do you hear the depth of commitment in David’s heart as he pens these words? What does it mean to extol God or to bless God’s name or to praise God’s name? I think it may be helpful first to compare our praise of God to our praise of other people or events that we find spectacular. What do you do when you hear a musician give an amazing concert? Well, the first thing you do is you kind of soak it in and you find great joy in that gift. And then you respond to it in some way, like through applause. And then afterwards, you talk about the greatness of it. You give some expression to your delight in this gift. Or what do you do when your favorite player hits a walk-off homerun to lead your team into the playoffs? What do you do?You stand up and you shout and you clap, even if you’re in your own living room watching it on television. And then the next day, you talk about it. You find someone even if they’re not a fan of your team. You still talk about how great it was and what happened, how amazing and how much pleasure you took in it. You have to say something about that to others.

That’s what extol or bless or praise means. When we see greatness, we will naturally give our voice to joyful praise. It just flows out of us. We don’t have to think, “Tomorrow I have to talk to somebody about that homerun that my favorite player from my favorite team hit to lead my team into the playoffs.” We don’t have to think about that. It just flows from us because we take joy in it. We see the greatness that is in it.David, in writing here says, “I see infinite greatness in God’s Name. I see infinite treasure in the wonder of the amazing Person God is, so I will extol Him. I’m not going to neglect this. God is the greatest! There’s no one like Him. And I’m going to give my voice to declare my pleasure in Him, my adoration of Him.” Note how strongly David commits himself to communicating praise with his lips. Again, it’s vocal.

***4*** *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*

David is talking about vocalizing it to other people.

***6*** *They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.*

God’s works speak for themselves, but then he says, “I’m going to speak with them.”

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

These are the words of a man overwhelmed by the wonder of God.True praise cannot hold its tongue. There are some who say, “I really don’t like speaking up. I don’t like singing. I don’t like telling others how great God is. For me, worship is a private matter and I give praise to God in my heart, quietly.” Friends, praise that truly is rooted in the heart also has a voice. It can’t help but speak when it is enraptured with the greatness and the goodness and the glory of God.

Charles Spurgeon says, and I love this: “Whatever others may do, I will not be silent in the praise of the Lord, whatever others may speak upon, my topic is fixed once for all: I will speak the praise of Jehovah. I am doing it, and I will do it as long as I breathe.”

Whatever praise is given about anything else, this is my topic. This is what I want to be known for. That’s the commitment of Psalm 145. Friends, brothers and sisters, let us make that commitment our commitment. There are three commitments as we look at verses 1 and 2 that David makes regarding praise. First, he says I commit to praising God personally. I’m not going to be a spectator. I’m not going to let others do this for me. Notice how personal this psalm is.

***1*** *I will extol you, my God and King,…****2*** *Every day I will bless you and praise your name*

It’s very personal. This isn’t so much a general call at the beginning of the psalm as it is an example that David would have us follow. David understands that as a rule, what a man seeks for is what he finds. Isn’t that true in life? What a person seeks for, that’s what he or she finds. He values a heart filled with God’s glory, filled with the knowledge of God, overflowing with praise for God. And he says, “I want to hold onto that kind of heart. That’s what I’m going to seek after. I’m going to seek after a heart that ever sees the Lord and ever rejoices in Him. We have to seek for a heart of praise, or we’ll not likely have one. Because what we seek after, that’s what we find. So I would ask you, are you seeking after this kind of heart? Is that something that is a priority in your life?

The second commitment he makes is he says “I commit to praising God consistently, on a daily basis. Notice he says in verse 2

***2*** *Every day I will bless you and praise your name*

A day without praise is a day wasted. David had some really great days throughout his life and he had some really terrible days. If you know the life of David, you can say that some of those days were horrible! There was the day that he was confronted by Nathan, the day that his baby died, the day that Absalom led a rebellion against him, the day that Absalom died. These and many, many more were terrible days! David is reflecting over the course of his life. Remember, this is his last psalm, and he says “every day.” The days when it’s real easy and there is so much joy, the sun is out and everything is going great. But those days when that dark storm rolls in and just nearly rolls right into me, crushing me. “Every day,” he says, “I am going to praise God consistently.” The character of the day changes, but the character of God does not.

***2*** *Every day I will bless you*

The third commitment, not only does he say, “I commit to praising God personally and consistently,” but he also says persistently. “I commit to praising God persistently.” Notice at the end of verse 1 and verse 2

***1*** *…and bless your name forever and ever.* ***2*** *…and praise your name forever and ever.*

David recognizes that true praise never runs out of gas. It’s never sort of stopped along the side of the road saying, “Oh, man! There’s just no more fuel.” I’m going to do this personally. It’s about you and me, God. I’m going to do this consistently, every day. And it’s going to be every day throughout the rest of time. Persistence!

When our three boys were little, we would tuck them into bed with Bible reading, praying over them and singing a praise song to them. As they grew older, two or three years of age, they would join us in prayer and they would join us in praise to God. When our youngest was four, he prayed a prayer that he created. And it was a prayer that was so profound that I find myself often still praying it. I learned from this little, I don’t know, he was three or four years old. And this is what little Jackson would pray. He said, “Lord, help me to follow you not just for one day but for every day.” That’s profound, isn’t it? Because he’s saying, “Right now I want to follow you, but I don’t know about tomorrow. I want to have that same desire to follow you tomorrow and the next day and the next day and the next day on into eternity.” That is David’s heart, here. He’s saying, “Lord, help me to extol you not just today, not just for one day, but for every day throughout the rest of my life and on into eternity.”

I’m thankful that my oldest son has continued this sort of practice at night with his wife and his now nearly two-year old child. They read some Scripture, they pray and then they sing. The song that they’ve chosen to sing in this season right now anyway is *Jesus Loves Me*. So they sing *Jesus Loves Me* to him and they sing through several verses. And here’s what little Malakai says when they’re finished. He says, “Mo, mo, mo.” And so Alexander has created a number of new verses because little Malakai is saying, “Mo, mo, mo.” Here is this little guy. He’s catching it. He’s catching what Psalm 145 says. I want to praise you every day and I want to do it forever and ever. Mo, mo mo! Does that reverberate in our hearts? That’s what David says. I want to have such a healthy soul that that’s what I will do. What a gift it is to have a healthy soul that longs to praise God personally, consistently and persistently. Paul understands this. In Philippians 4 he says

**Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Now David, in making this commitment, he understands that we often forget who God is. We forget His greatness and our praise begins to disintegrate. He understands that God truly is wonderful. He doesn’t change, but our perception of Him does. And he understands that all joy and meaning in life is bound up in knowing God and adoring Him and giving expression to this love that we have because God first loved us. And all of heaven is filled with this most fun, happy activity of all; of just simply rejoicing in God’s greatness. So David says here in this commitment, “I’m not going to let this broken world rob me of the gladness of praising God. I will extol you. I will extol you every day, and I will extol you forever and ever.” And then he makes his case. He says this is why.

**A Persuasive Case to Praise God**

One commentator notes that this Psalm was meant to be sung in G Major. And that’s because of the next three words in the outline we’ve given you. Why would we give praise to God? Why would we commit ourselves to praise God personally, consistently and persistently? Well, because God is great, God is good and God is glorious. This psalm is meant to be sung in G Major. We focus on the attributes or the qualities of God, and particularly these three that just stand out and roll through this great psalm. Once we see God for being great and good and glorious, then that commitment is not difficult. It becomes almost a natural, spontaneous expression. And so now David sets his heart and his mind upon rehearsing the greatness and the goodness and the glory of God.

**1. God is great.**

***3*** *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*

In other words, if we try to find the borders or the ends of His greatness, we’ll never be able to get to the end. It’s unsearchable. We can’t discover the boundaries because there are no boundaries. God is not bound in His greatness. His greatness is infinite. How do we know that God is great? Well, David tells us. He says it is by observing what God has done. God’s actions prove His greatness.

***4*** *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*

Now he is focusing on what God has done to see the communication of His greatness to us. Then again in verses 5 and 6,

***5*** *On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

As I meditate on your works, I come to understand how great you are.

***6*** *They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.*

What are these works? Well in Scripture, and I believe also in this psalm, there are two categories of works about which God reveals His greatness. There is His work in creation. His fingerprints of greatness are all around in every cell, in every place, in every portion, in every bit of matter in the universe. The greatness of God is displayed in creation. But then also there are the works of God in His salvation, in His rescue of man from sin.

Think of the power and the wisdom that is unleashed when God spoke and the worlds came into being. Now, we have an advantage over David in observing God’s creation because we have instruments now that actually help us to see things about our created world that David didn’t have. He didn’t have a telescope to see way distant into the sky. He didn’t have a microscope to see way down deep into the minutest parts of the created world. When we look just as David did without any instruments, we can see His greatness. How foolish it is to deny the greatness of God! There is no truth that we’re given greater evidence than the evidence that God exists and that He is amazingly great. It’s all around us. We have to try to not see it in order to not see it. And yet, if we use these instruments, the telescope and the microscope, we see even more.

Not long ago I read an article in the magazine *Astronomy Now*. And let me just read a little portion of it. “A team of astronomers from the University of Cambridge have identified nine new dwarf satellites orbiting the Milky Way, the largest number ever discovered at once. The findings, from newly-released imaging data taken from the Dark Energy Survey, may help unravel the mysteries behind dark matter. Dark matter is the invisible substance holding galaxies together.” Think of that. It’s some substance that is invisible, that holds galaxies together. “The newly discovered objects are a billion times dimmer than the Milky Way, and a million times less massive. The closest is about 95,000 light-years away, while the most distant is more than a million light-years away.”

I don’t even know what this article means! (Laughter!) But I read it and I say wow! God is great! God did that! That didn’t just happen. God did that. We are right to take some time to listen to what creation communicates to us regarding God’s greatness. We listen to a storm. We gaze upon a sunset. We breathe in the beauty of a flower. We take a picture of a hummingbird. We read more about the complexity of our own human body.

***5*** *On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

Those are Christian activities. If we meditate and listen to God’s revelation of Himself in creation, we won’t have any trouble thinking of the infinite greatness of God.

***7*** *They* (God’s works) *shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

That’s what creation does. It pours forth the fame of God’s abundant goodness. It sings aloud of His righteousness. The idea is that God speaks fluently to us through His acts. It gushes. It is overwhelming, the amount of speech that God communicates and provides for us, drenching us to see His greatness. Here is a principle: If we humbly receive God’s revelation of Himself in His world and in His Word, we will not be able to help but praise God for His greatness!

Now again, the proud in heart don’t want to hear. That’s why the fool says in his heart, there is no God. It’s not because God doesn’t communicate Himself clearly, profoundly, certainly. It’s because our proud hearts want to be God rather than acknowledge Him. God is great, but secondly, praise is fueled by the truth that

**2. God is good.**

***8*** *The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

David is meditating on Exodus 33 and 34. He does this often throughout the psalms. Pastor Josh spoke of this in the last psalm that we studied together. In Exodus 33 and 34, Moses is on Mount Sinai and he recognizes that the greatest thing in all the world is to see God’s glory. And he says, “God, show me your glory.” That’s his petition. And Exodus 34 tells us God’s response to Moses’ humble plea. It says

**Exodus 34:5-7a** The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,…”

Some say the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath and the God of the New Testament is a God of grace. Nothing could be further from the truth. God doesn’t change. From the outset, He reveals Himself to be a God of mercy in the midst of His righteousness, in the midst of His wrath. And here’s the truth. Every person has access to experience God’s goodness. Every person! There is not a person born on this planet at any time and in any place, that doesn’t have access to experience personally, God’s goodness. No one is shut out from His mercy. If we would only humble ourselves before God, if we would only recognize our sin for what it is. It’s a rebellion against Him. If we would only trust in Him and His provision of Jesus Christ who died upon the cross, we too will experience personally the infinite goodness of God.

***9*** *The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*

He is good in a special way to His redeemed people, people who come to faith, but really, He is good to all. Even the fiercest atheist lives inside the circle of God’s goodness while they are alive here. God is good to all. To the most adamant God-defier, He gives them food and friends and family and health. He sends the sun to shine upon them and water to nourish their fields. He shows that God is good and He loves even sinners and calls them to receive His mercy.

David begins to make a list of the evidence of God’s goodness. Just follow along this with me. In verse 14 we see how he says God is good in helping those who have fallen down. If we stumble and fall, and that’s what we do in this world; we stumble and fall. We do so spiritually and we do so physically and we do so emotionally. God is good. He says, “I have mercy upon you. I don’t just walk right by.”

In verses 15 and 16, God is good in giving food to all His creatures. Every person is fed by God. Every creature is fed by God. The birds don’t sow or reap, and yet God in His love, provides food for them. In verses 18 and 19, God is good in drawing near to all those who call upon Him. You say, “Well I’ve rebelled against God for the greater part of my life; forty or fifty years.” Well, if you humble yourself and call upon Him, He’s good. He’s going to draw near to you. That’s what He promises. That’s His nature. He doesn’t hold a grudge. He doesn’t say, “Hey, forget you, Buddy! You should have listened to me 20 years ago.” He is good to everyone who humbles themselves and calls upon Him. He draws near to them. In verse 20, God is good in protecting those who love Him. He is a good, good Father!

Here’s what I want to encourage you to do. Make a list, won’t you? That’s what David did. Make a list. In your disappointments, in your fears, in your failures, in your sufferings, it’s easy to forget God’s goodness. So make a list. And when you begin to wonder and ask that question as Satan begins to probe your heart and your mind and asks “Is God really good?” and he does that, but I have a list. Let me start rehearsing the list. This is what I know to be true and I’m not going to doubt this just because something hard is happening. This is what I know God has done. This is why I know He is good. I have my list and I’m going to rehearse it. That’s what Psalm 145 does for us. I think it’s right to do that personally as well.

The greatest proof of God’s goodness is the cross of Jesus. And really, we don’t need any more evidence than this although we have thousands upon thousands, a multitude of evidences more. Instead of giving sinners the just punishment that is due to us, God in love sent His own Son to us so that we would be rescued from His wrath. How good it is to meditate upon the goodness of God in providing the forgiveness of sin, providing a reconciled relationship, providing a hope for heaven, spiritual sight to see Him, a future glory that we’ll share with Him forever and ever! Here is what God says in Romans 5

**Romans 5:6-8** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

While we were still sinners, while we were rebels, while we were His enemies, Christ died for us. He died in our place. He took our punishment. God is good.

***14*** *The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.* ***15*** *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.* ***16*** *You open your hand; and satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

How do we know that God is good? By observing how He cares for us every day. His works display it. God is great, God is good, and

**3. God is glorious.**

That’s to say He is sovereign, He is holy, He is powerful, He is wonderful, He is beautiful.

***10*** *All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!*

He’s talking about His own people now, His ransomed ones.

***11*** *They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,* ***12*** *to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*

So God’s saints speak to the children of men, to all mankind about God’s greatness because He is glorious. And it’s right for us to say, “I want all the world to see His glory, even those who don’t acknowledge Him.” Even if they don’t turn to God, there is value in just declaring the glory of God. It’s part of our praise.

***13*** *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.]*

Remember David has seen some really strong kingdoms come and go in his life. He has seen his own. He has seen Saul’s kingdom end. He has seen his own kingdom go with Absalom. It was gone. He has seen some really powerful kingdoms come and go. And he says, “God, that never happens. You’re too glorious. Your kingdom doesn’t ever fade.”

I enjoy visiting universities. In their basketball arena or stadium they have these banners oftentimes of championships from years past. These banners point to former glories of that team. But here, what David is saying is, hang the banners, but know that every year is a championship year. And every year from here on out is a championship year. It’s not like saying, “In 1963 we won the NCAA tournament. Woohoo!” No, he says your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. That’s your glory. Your glory is that God’s kingdom wins every year throughout all of eternity and will never suffer one season of defeat. That’s His glory. Whatever we praise in this world, it is passing away. It is fading. It is growing dim. It’s a distant memory. So David hitches his praise wagon to the one whose kingdom is eternal.

**A Pleased Call to Praise God**

Here is how he ends it. He ends it the way he starts. But instead of just giving his own example of saying, “I will extol,” he does restate his own personal commitment, but then he makes this call to everyone. He says

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

Remember, David is an old man. He says, “It’s not enough for just me to give praise to God. I have a driving passion for God’s glory now because He is glorious, and I want everyone to glorify God, too.” You see, praise and particularly worship through praise is not an individual act alone. It’s also corporate. It’s together. That’s why we gather together. We believe God is so glorious and it’s not enough for just me to sit in my own house saying, “God, you’re great, you’re good, you’re glorious.” I need other people, I want other people, I want everybody to gather together and together give praise to God. God is worthy of that!

I remember when I was a boy, I received a new football. I was so excited about that football! I really wanted to go out right then and play, but what did I need? Well I went out and nobody was around, so I tossed the ball in the air and caught it. And I kicked it down as far as I could and then I ran and kicked it back. And it was fun. It wasn’t bad. It was a new football and it was great. But boy, after a few minutes of that… I finally found a friend. And do you know what I did then? We were able to toss it back and forth. I tossed it to him. He ran some rounds. I ran some rounds. Then I kicked it and he caught it. Then he kicked it back to me. That was a lot more fun. But then we were able to get about ten of my buddies and we were playing football together. And that was super fun!

What David is saying is it’s great to have a football. I can toss it around. I can kick it. It’s great! This is super! But man, I want a big group of people because it’s so much more fun for us, but also it’s much more glorious for the Lord. True praise yearns for others to join in! I have some closing applications.

1. Ask yourself, and this is the ground of all worship. It’s the ground of praise. “Do I know God?” Regeneration followed by sanctification is the root of worship. It’s new life in Christ followed by growth in Christ. If we are to enter into the joy of praising God, we must be born again.

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

If at the end of time we find ourselves destroyed by God, it’s not because God is mean. It’s not because God is malicious. It’s because we looked at God and we said, “You’re not good. You’re not great. And I don’t need your mercy.” How sad! So I want to ask you, do you know God? Ask yourself that question. It’s the most important question anybody can ask. It’s not, “Do I go to church? Do I affirm some statements about God, that God is triune? He’s Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus died on the cross and rose bodily from the grave.” It’s do you know God? Have you been given this new life by God’s Spirit? He offers that for us through His Son as we embrace Him by faith.

2. Tell other generations that God is great!

I want to park a little bit on verse 4.

***4*** *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*

First, this verse first makes me think of the sacred duty of parents and grandparents telling younger generations about God’s glory, telling them real life stories of God’s faithfulness, telling them the Gospel, opening the Bible and sharing *the* story with them, but also sharing other stories.

My youngest son turned 22 this month. That number 22 is kind of numbing. 22?! It’s a number, but what?! How did my youngest son turn 22? That’s just not right. Some of y’all have little two year olds and someday you’ll hear and celebrate your little two year old’s 22nd birthday and you’ll know what I’m saying. For those of you with two year olds, jump forward 20 years, and there you have your 22 year old son or daughter. Let’s say things have not gone well spiritually with them. Imagine that they have turned away from God and turned away from Him kind of in a hard way. They don’t even want to talk about it. But on their birthday, they say, “Mom, Dad, this is your day. I know I don’t want to really talk about God, but this is your day. So I’m going to let you talk to me about God all day. I’m not going to get mad. I’m not going to fight you. I’m not going to argue. I’ll just listen and give you one day.” What would you tell them? How would you spend that day? If you know God, you’d say, “I’m going to spend the whole day, every moment, rehearsing everything I know about God’s goodness and greatness, trusting and praying that God would use that as I tell them the greatness. I know if they never see God’s greatness, they never see His goodness, they’ll never receive Him. And so I just want to tell them about God’s greatness and goodness. I want to remind them in our family of specific events. I want to remind them in Scripture of specific events. I just want to rehearse. This is how I know that God is real and that God loves all those who place their faith in Jesus.

Okay, if that’s true, you have your 2 year old today. And do you know what? If you spend all day today telling him about God’s goodness and greatness, he’s not going to walk out of the room. She’s not going to say, “Don’t talk to me anymore.” She’s 2! She’ll listen. “Can I tell you some stories, little one, about God’s faithfulness?” “Sure, Daddy. Sure, Mommy. I’d love it!” Let one generation tell the other generation, and do it as a sacred privilege, a sacred duty. Don’t wait until their heart starts getting hard before you get motivated. Now is the time. Start now! And also, I want to turn this and kind of flip it back on its head.

***4*** *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*

It doesn’t say which generation, does it? Young people, this verse is for you too. Some of you young folks have parents or grandparents who don’t even believe in Jesus or who have grown dull in their faith. This verse is not just about older generations telling younger generations. If you know God, it’s about you as the younger one telling the older ones. “Can I talk to you about what God has done for me and how He has shown His faithfulness to me?” When I hear younger people tell me of God’s glory, of God’s goodness and greatness in their life, my faith is stirred. I need to hear that. I need to hear children. I love it when you tell me what God is doing! Last week, I had a little girl say, “I gave my life to Jesus Christ this week.” And I love that! I talked with her about who Jesus is. I just loved hearing her declare the goodness and greatness of God to me. I need that! And that’s what this verse is inviting us to enter into. That’s why we need one another.

3. Take time to meditate upon God’s greatness, goodness and glory.

Our praise rises to the level of our knowledge of God. We praise God in spirit and truth when we know Him. Keep in mind that true praise is never dependent upon externals. Don’t get me wrong. Externals are great. I love it that we have great musicians. I love it that we have a great facility to worship God. I love all that, but our praise and worship is not dependent upon those things. Our praise and worship is dependent upon a heart that is on fire with the knowledge of God. So let’s take time to meditate.

4. Invite others to join you in praising God. He is worthy!

Invite others. Invite your family members. Invite your children. Invite your parents. Invite your brothers and sisters. Invite your friends and neighbors. Man finds happiness in giving praise to greatness, and no one and nothing is greater than our God!