

LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN

Scripture: Psalm 117:1-2

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This the shortest Psalm is said to be the center of the Bible. I think it could be referred to as the centerfold
 - 1. In its short 2 verses the whole purpose of God in His creation is set forth—that is for PRAISE TO HIMSELF
 - 2. Then to secure this praise He exercised mercy and truth through His own divine power to bring about perfect praise unto Himself.
 - B. God created for praise. He commands His creation to praise Him. He will ultimately receive praise from all His creation.
- I. LEARN THAT ALL NATIONS AND ALL PEOPLES ARE COMMANDED TO PRAISE THE LORD GOD.
- A. Two different Hebrew words are translated "praise."
 - 1. The first time in verses 1 and 2 the word is "Halel." This word means to shine...to make clear and bright...to give glory to...to glorify. It is sometimes used as a final "halleljah."
 - 2. The second word praise in verse one is "sha bach" (bock). It is sometimes translated "laud" and means "loudly to adore."
 - B. Praise and adoration has ever been God's purpose in His creation.
 - 1. Job 38:4-7 2. Isaiah 6:1-4 3. Rev. 4:8-11
 - C. Man is the only one of God's creatures who is commanded to praise Him. All others do in the way God intended.
 - 1. God's greatest creation ...man in His own image ...is the only one that needs to be commanded.
 - 2. Time will come when all will praise Him. Phil.2:9-11
 - 3. But the command is now. God expects it now... AND God has provided the way... That is the second great message in this short Psalm.
- II. LEARN WHY AND HOW ALL PEOPLE AND NATIONS SHOULD AND CAN PRAISE THE LORD GOD.
- A. The why and the how are both tied up in one verse and basically in two words—mercy and truth.
 - B. Because His merciful kindness is great toward us...all those whom He has commanded to praise Him can.
 - 1. All have sinned and come short of the glory (praise) of God.
 - 2. Sinful man deserves to spend eternity in hell...
 - 3. But God who is rich in mercy ...(Eph. 2:4-10)
 - 4. Titus 3:4-8
 - C. Because His truth endures forever.
 - 1. What is God's truth?
 - a. John 17:17 "Thy word is truth."
 - b. John 14:6 "I am the truth."
 - 2. God's Word endures forever.." Matt. 24:35.
 - 3. God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the eternal God dwelling in a human body. He has life in Himself. He is from everlasting to everlasting...God.
 - 4. Who He is and What He has said shall stand forever.
 - D. Prov. 16:6 says, "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged."

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- E. Therefore, when any person repents of His sin and trusts in the Jesus, the TRUTH, he is born again and He will praise the Lord with voice and life.

Conclusion:

No saved person will fail to say with Paul, "By Jesus, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually—that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name...But to do good and communicate forget not for with such sacrifice God is well pleased." (Heb.13:15)