

We will begin our final lecture, the 15<sup>th</sup> lecture, on the book of Psalms. /Today's message is from Psalm 136. /Give thanks to God. /His steadfast love endures forever. /God is the only God.

/Verse 4 tells us that God alone does great wonders. /He is the God who created the heavens. /He is the God who spread out the earth above the waters. /Verse 7 says that God created the great lights. /He created the day's sun and the night's moon.

/Verse 13 says that God delivered Israel from Egypt. /He is a God who struck the great kings. /Verse 24 says that God judges the believer's enemies. /In verse 25, God gives food to this believer.

/More important that food for the flesh is food for the soul, which God gives to us. /We must always be thankful for God's love.

/We will continue with Psalm 137. /The people of Israel are sitting and weeping by the waters of Babylon. /As they live in captivity in Babylon, the Israelites cry because they remember Zion.

/They remember the time when they sang praises to God and worshiped him in the temple. /Verse 7 says that the people remember the day Jerusalem fell.

/They could hear their enemies shouting, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" /At this time, the people were enduring great suffering. /They remembered the past, a time during which they could serve God in peace.

/We must value the time when we can live our lives of faith in peace. /Thus we need to pray to God and serve him well when we are at peace. /We do not know when suffering will find us.

/We will continue with Psalm 138. /David is praising God as he remembers him. /Verse 2 says that David remembers God's steadfast love and faithfulness. /The Lord's word is exalted above all things.

/We need to put the word above all things. /God's word goes above all things. /Verse 3 says that we pray to God. /God is the one who listens to our prayers and gives us strength.

/Troubles may find us. /During these moments, God preserves our lives. /God protects us forever. /He is a God who protects his church and his believers. /We must stand firmly in the truth. /Where should we stand? /We should stand on the truth.

/We will continue with Psalm 139. /God knows everything. /He is a God who searches me. /To "search" means "to watch over" or "to inspect." /God inspects me.

/He inspects my heart, /and he inspects my actions. /Verse 2 says that God knows when we sit down and rise up. /From far away, he knows all my thoughts. /When we walk the path or lie down, God knows.

/Verse 7 asks the question, “Where shall we go to hide from the face of God? /To where can I go if I want to hide from the eyes of God?

/Verses 8-10. Let us read. / If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

/God is there if I ascend to heaven. /He is there if I make my bed in Sheol. /Verse 9 says that even if I ride on the wings of the morning and cross the ocean, God is there.

/If we flee to the moon, will God be there? /No matter where we go in the universe, God will be there. /God is watching us. /He watches us. /Verse 12 says that God watches us in the dark of night.

/Verse 13 says that God is our Creator. /He is the one who has created me. /People are created in their mother’s womb. /The bones of a baby are formed in the mother’s womb.

/The baby’s inward parts are formed within the mother’s womb. /Then, skin is made, /and blood circulates. /The baby’s face comes to shape, /and its brain develops. /A person is made. /In this way, God created us. /God tests us.

/Verses 23-24. /Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

/God tries my heart. /Deuteronomy 8:2 talks about this. /God tests us to see if we love God or not. /He tests us to see if we obey him or not.

/God tests us when we face hardships, /and he tests us when we are in abundance. /We need to pass these tests.

/We will continue with Psalm 140. /God is always our help. /He delivers us from evil men. /He protects us from the violent.

/God protects us so that we do not fall into the net that the arrogant have spread to capture me. /We do not fall into their snares. /Verse 8 says that the wicked may devise grand plans, but God thwarts their plans. /What kind of God is God?

/Verses 12-13. /I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

/God watches over the afflicted. /He executes justice for the needy. /God is with the righteous and the honest. /Who are these people? /They are people of God. /We are these people.

/When we stand on the side of righteousness, God helps us. /Psalm 11:3 talks about this. /The verse says, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” /Psalm 97:2 also discusses this. /Where the believer stands is the foundation of righteousness. /We need to stand in righteousness.

/We will continue with Psalm 141. /Verse 2 says that our prayers rise up to God like incense. /We need to devote our hearts when we pray. /David raises his hand because he completely trusts in God.

/He is also completely denying himself. /David prays to God. /Verse 5 says that David always cries out to God as he prays.

/Verses 8-10. Let us read. /But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers! Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.

/God delivers his believers, but he judges the wicked.

/We will continue with Psalm 142. /David loudly cries out to God. /Verse 2 tells us that David pours out his complaints before God. /No one is listening to David.

/Verse 3 says that the wicked have set a trap to catch David. /In verse 4, no one knows David. /He has no refuge. /No one looks after him. /Verse 5 says that God is David’s only refuge. /The LORD is my portion.

/That is why David cries out to God. /We need to cry out to God when we pray. /God is our only refuge.

/We will continue with Psalm 143. /God revives the weary soul. /Verse 2 says that I am like someone who stands before the judge. /Verse 3 says that the enemy severely disturbs and persecutes me.

/I am living in the darkness like a dead man. /Verse 4 says that I have no strength, and despair has found me. /In verse 5, I still look to God and deeply meditate—my soul thirsts for the Lord like a parched land.

/Verses 7-8. Let us read. /Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

/I look to God as I am extremely tired. /Do not hide your face from me, and answer my prayers. /Verse 8 says, “For in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go.”

/We are saying this prayer. /We must not despair as we pray. /Luke 18:1 talks about this. /Do not lose heart as you pray.

/We will continue with Psalm 144. /God! What is man that you regard him?

/Verses 3-4. Let us read. /O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

/Verse 4 says that man is like a breath, his days like a passing shadow. /Our lives pass away quickly like the fog. /In verse 2, God loves us. /God is my fortress and my strong tower.

/He is my deliverer and my shield. /God is my refuge. /Verse 3 asks, “What is man that you regard him?” /David is saying a prayer of thanks.

/God has delivered us with his power. /God’s power delivers us. /This is the powerful hand of God’s salvation. /Verse 9 says that when this happens, believers sing a new song as they praise God.

/Believers who have grown in the faith sing praises to God. /Children who have been raised in faith worship God. /Verse 13 says that the granaries are full of grain. /The sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in the fields.

/Today’s church sees revival in this way. /God will make everything abundant. /What are we that God is mindful of us?

/Verse 15. /Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

/Ah! These people are truly happy people. /People who serve the LORD as their God are extremely happy people. /We need to realize how happy we are. /Let’s be grateful for how happy we are. Deuteronomy 33:29.

/We will continue with Psalm 145. /God, show us your mercy. /I will bless you, God. /You are worthy of all praise. /Verse 8 says that the LORD is slow to anger.

/Verse 9 tells us that he is good to us. /However, regarding sin, God is a scary God. /Verse 14 says that God upholds all who are falling.

/God raises those who are in despair or are failing. /Verse 15 says that we hope in God. /In what position does the believer stand? /He stands in his righteousness. /God is above that righteousness, and he makes us stand strong.

/When we stand on top of the truth, God helps us. /When we stand upright on the word, God is with us.

/We will continue with Psalm 146. /Do not trust in man, but trust in God.

/Verses 3-4. Let us read. /Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

/We must not trust in princes or our breath. /Verse 6 says that God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them. /He is our God, the God who created the entire universe. /He is a God who eternally holds onto the truth.

/Verse 7 says that God executes justice for the oppressed. /He gives food to the poor and needy. /Then why are we trusting in princes?

/Why do we trust in officials? /Why do we look to those who cannot save us? /Verse 4 tells us that when people's breath departs, they cannot give us any help. /They simply return to the dust.

/We will continue with Psalm 147. /In verse 2, it says that God raises us up. /Verse 6 says that God lifts up the humble. /However, he casts the proud wicked people to the ground.

/God's power is carried out in this way. /Verse 9 says that God gives food to the young ravens that cry.

/Verse 9. Let us read. /He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

/But why doesn't God give his people food to eat? /Why isn't he repaying his people with good? /Verse 11 says that the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him. /We need to stand firmly before God in our faith.

/Verses 13-14. /For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

/God strengthens us. /He blesses our children. /Verse 14 says that God grants us peace. /He satisfies us.

/In verse 19, God teaches us his word. /He teaches us his statutes and rules. /Believers! Turn your ear to God's word. /We must turn our hearts to his word.

/We will continue with Psalm 148. /Give praise to God.

/Verses 5-6. Let us read. /Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

/Let all of God's creation praise God. /Giving praise to God is not optional, but it is something we must do. /Because God created us, we should praise him.

/God allowed us to exist. /He protects us. /Verse 9 says that God makes the fruit trees and cedars grow. /God allows us to serve him in our faith.

/God created the rules of nature. /There are nature's principles. /God established laws of nature. /However, people disobey the word of God. /They go against his will. /But we believers praise God.

/Verses 11-12. /Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

/We also must praise God along with all of creation.

/Verse 14. /He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

/God's people, his believers, give praise to God. /We believers are near to God. /I hope you stay near to God. /Do not forget your place of prayer. /We must devote a lot of time to prayer.

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/If we say that we cannot pray because we are busy, /it means that we are corrupt. /If we say that we cannot read the Bible because we are busy, /it means that we are corrupt. /We need to be believers who are always near to God.

/We will continue with Psalm 149. /What kind of God is the LORD? /He is God who is worthy of praise.

/Verses 4-9. Let us read. /For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the LORD!

/Who does God delight in? /He delights in his people. /His believers are humble people. /On the flip side, God judges the wicked.

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/Verse 8 says that God binds kings with chains. /He binds the nobles with fetters of iron. /Verse 9 says that God executes judgment according to what is written. /There is a written ruling.

/It records all the deeds of man. God remembers everything. /The believer's righteous deeds are recorded, /as are the evil deeds of the wicked. /There is glory for believers who have faith.

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/We will continue with Psalm 150.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

/The verse tells us to praise God. /Praise God in his sanctuary! /What this means is that we need to worship God in the proper way. /In the New Testament times, we need to worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:23,24 /Romans 12:1

/Verse 3 says that we should praise him with the trumpet, with the lute and harp. /Verse 4 tells us to praise him with tambourine and dance. /In the Old Testament times, people worshiped by sacrificing cows and sheep.

/Praising God in the form of dancing in the Old Testament times was a formal expression of spiritual gladness. /In today's New Testament times, we must praise God with joy as if our spirits are dancing. /We need to praise God with a new song in the New Testament times.

/In today's church, we have been introduced to the "seekers' service." /People decorate the altar and make it fancy. /They make it into a stage. /People dance to worship songs in this worship service. /This kind of worship pleases people, but it does not worship God. /Worship does not exist to please the flesh.

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/Verses 3-5. /Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

/Praise God with the trumpet sound. /In the Old Testament times, people praised God using many instruments. /People of this time delighted in praising God. /However, this is not the case in the New Testament times.

/What is important in the New Testament times? /Our hearts are important. /We live in a time in which we serve God with our souls. /We need to worship God with reverent hearts.

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/Verse 6. /Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

/Everything that has breath must praise the LORD. /God has given us life and breath. /With the life that God has given to us, we need to praise God. /We all must praise God. /“Hallelujah” means “Praise the LORD.”

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/We will conclude the final lecture on the book of Psalms. /Thank you.