

Week 28

July 9 - July 15

Psalms 105-107, 111-121, 123, 125-126, 128-130, 132, 134-136, 146-150

The theme for this week is worship. This week will finish off our time in the Psalms (except for Psalm 137). Since the focus of this week's devotionals are praise, I felt it was appropriate to ask Tom Garo, my former Director of Worship at Faith Baptist Church to share his perspective. I hope you thoroughly enjoy considering the various aspects of worship that will be discussed.

July 9th

Psalms 105-106. "Thoughts on Worship"

This week, as we read through the last 50 Psalms, there are a number of thoughts that we will cover and ponder a bit. Other topics may stand out as well. I encourage you to jot down those themes or ideas that strike a chord with you and pray about what the Lord may be revealing to you. During the next six days we will cover these topics:

Praise – What is Godly praise? How should we praise and how did David praise God?

Worship – Is true worship just something we do on Sunday?

Demonstrative Worship – What does worship look like throughout the Scriptures? How do we show God our worship?

Remembering – Never forgetting what the Lord has done for us, with us, and in us.

Conversational or Continual Prayer, Asking God – What did David ask for? What did he talk to the Most High about? Was he meek or bold?

As you read through the Psalms, how would you answer these questions?

July 10th

Psalms 107, 111-114. "Praise"

As we read through the Psalms, one recurring, overwhelming theme is evident – "Praise." The phrase "Praise the Lord" is in the Psalms over fifty times and over one hundred times throughout the Bible. Through good times and bad, whether in the valleys or on the mountain tops, "Praise the Lord" resounds.

The thought that God is worthy of our praise is true and timeless no matter what we are feeling or what condition we might find ourselves in. David, when enduring troubles untold, knew who God was and what He was capable of. Through the Psalms, he declares the greatness of God over and over again. It seems David never had to be reminded of the majesty of God. He continually offered praise in all of his circumstances. When on high serving as King, or hiding in a cave and fearing for his life, David offered limitless praise.

Like David, we too need to praise God, regardless of our circumstances. It is simply that God is GOD and we are to fall at His feet and offer Him praise. Regardless of the blessings or the trials of this life... God is GOD and worthy to be praised. Amen?

July 11th

Psalms 115-118. "Demonstrative Worship"

As we read through the Psalms, we see there are many ways to express our worship to God. We see His people face down and on their knees before Him, as well as standing with arms out and hands lifted high, singing to the heavens.

As humans, one of the ways we communicate best is with body language. It's quite easy to read someone's mood simply by observing them. Feelings of sorrow look quite different than those of joy and happiness. For example, at a ball game the winning team's expressions and actions are quite different from those of the losing teams. Certainly, a football game is not a worship service, but it does contain many of the same elements of a worship service. We see loyalty and a sense of community that bring us together in the same place and at the same time. There are even coffee and snacks... maybe it's not so different after all! Of course, the object of our attention is the true distinction. How much more involved should we be when worshiping the God of the universe than when at a football game? Tomorrow we will look at the Scriptures for some answers.

July 12th

Psalm 119. "Demonstrative Worship, Part II"

The scriptures give us much direction on the posture and heart attitude of praise and worship. Here are just a few:

Exodus 33:10 Standing

Psalm 95:6 Kneeling

Mark 14:35 Falling to the ground

Heb. 13:15 Sacrifice, fruit of the lips

1 Tim. 2:8 Lifting holy hands

Psalm 141:2 Lifting up of hands

Psalm 47:1 Clapping

1 Chron.15:29 Dancing

Ezra 3:11 Shouting

Acts 16:25 Singing

Please take the time to read these passages today. There are, of course, many more than space permits.

The Psalms and the rest of the scriptures continually extol the intrinsic worth of God through demonstrative acts of worship. As we read through these verses, it is evident that these things are the external signs of true worship.

July 13th

Psalm s 120-121, 123, 125-126. "Remembering"

"People need to be reminded more often that they need to be instructed" – Mere Christianity, by C. S. Lewis

As we read through Psalm 105 and 106 we discover that C. S. Lewis's quote, while contemplative, is certainly not an original thought. We may find it odd that, along with the prayers and songs that David offers up to the Lord, there suddenly seems to be a history lesson thrown in for good measure! It may seem oddly out of place, but we can soon see the direction David is going. It is certainly true that the Psalm reminds us what the Lord had done for the Israelites some 400 years prior to David's reign. He is also offering this Psalm as a reminder to his readers that the Almighty God can be trusted and is faithful to His word through the generations. The record of what the Lord has done in other peoples' lives strengthens our hope and restores our faith.

How great a heritage we could leave behind by recording those great works that Almighty God has done in our lives today! As you read about what the Lord has done for others in the Bible, be sure to leave behind a record of what the Lord has done for you!

July 14th

Psalms 128-130, 132, 134-135. "Praying"

Another continuing theme of the Psalms is that of prayer. I believe we view prayer somewhat differently than David did. David comes before the throne with a boldness that seems today to be somewhat presumptuous. The things that he chooses to pray about are much different also. We tend to pray for things that personally do not involve us as much. We will pray for the sick or those who are going through a particularly bad time. We seem to always put others first in our prayers. Of course, I think this is good and right to an extent, but I wonder if at times we are taking the focus off of ourselves and our own personal relationship with God by continually thrusting the center of attention on someone or something else?

David's prayer life was predominantly about himself. He simply talked (we call it prayer) to God about everything in his life. God wants us to continually talk with Him about all the things going on in our lives. From the rising of the sun till the time it goes down again, talk to the Lord. The name of the Lord shall be praised!

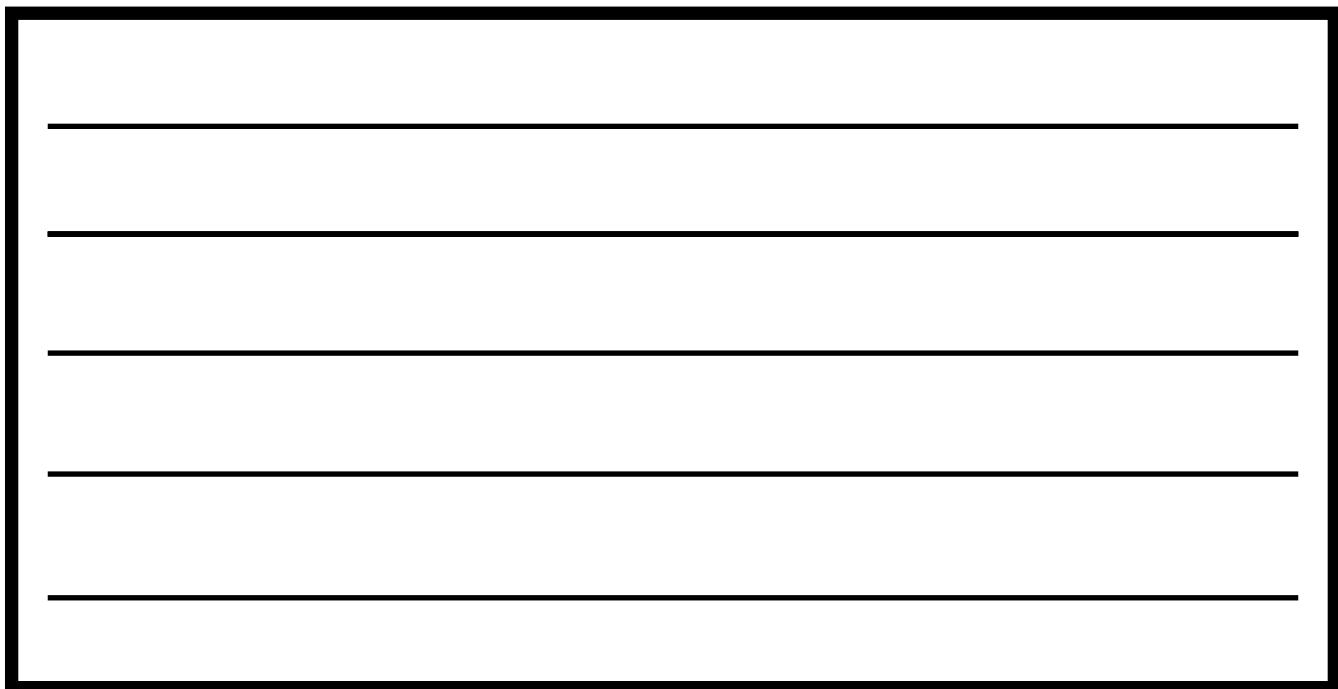
July 15th

Psalms 136, 146-150. "Worship"

I know how to worship. We all do. Here's my first experience with worship. A 1970 Pontiac GTO –yeah, baby!

I loved that car. I mean, I really loved that car. I was in high school and that car was everything to me, and I cherished it. I adored it. I used to just sit in the leather bucket seats and admire its magnificent craftsmanship. I washed and waxed it nearly every day. Keeping that car looking good was my mission in life. I even broke up with a girl because she wrote "wash me" in the dust on the back of my car! (Some things just can't be tolerated ;) I loved to read the owner's manual each night before bed. I knew every square inch of that car and I was proud to let people know it. I think it's fair to say I worshiped that car. Of course, that was long ago...

David knew how to worship also. The difference between his worship and my own is obvious. David worshipped the only recipient that is truly worthy of our worship, the God of the universe. David loved, adored, cherished and knew his God inside and out. He knew very much about God and he enjoyed sharing what he knew with others. How much do you worship God?



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General Questions for each day:

Summarize the day's Bible passage in your own words.

What thoughts, actions, attitudes or beliefs are addressed in the passage?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to apply this passage to your life today?

Week 28—July 9th-16th

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The theme for this week is worship. This week will finish off our time in the Psalms (except for Psalm 137). This week's devotionals were written by Tom Garo, the Director of Worship at Faith Baptist Church Harney County. I hope you thoroughly enjoy considering the various aspects of worship that Tom writes about.

Bible Discussion Guide:

What is Godly praise? How should we praise and how did David praise God?

When do you find it difficult to praise the Lord?

What things or events in life are you truly passionate about?

Are you as passionate about worshipping God as you are about your favorite hobby?

Which of the postures for worship described in the devotional on July 12th do you resonate with the most?
Which one do you resonate with the least?

In what ways does remembering help you to worship God?

Can you share a particular time when God demonstrated His faithfulness to you?

Do you find it easier to pray for others or for yourself?

What part of life do you find difficult to bring to God in prayer?

Is true worship just something we do on Sunday?

Personal application: In what ways can you incorporate worship into your everyday life?