

Psalm 111 Great are His works

December 28, 2008

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Psalms 111:1-10

1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

8 they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

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On this last Sunday of 2008 I thought it would be to look back on the year that is just about to finish and remember the works of God in our lives.

The psalmist says that God has caused his wondrous works to be remembered.

Verse 4

He has caused his wondrous works to be **remembered**; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

And from verse 2 we see that they are to be studied, examined or sought out by us who delight in them.

Verse 2

Great are the works of the LORD, **studied** by all who delight in them.

There is something that encourages our faith to remember God's works by seeking them out, examining them, cataloguing them.

Are these works purely co-incidental events or can we see God's hand at work even in the small details of our lives and are we prepared to praise & thank him for these?

This is not about living for the glories of the past or being trapped in a morbid introspection of the 'glory days' of old but rather a remembrance of God's works in our

lives that actually helps to prepare us to live well in the present and to live with prophetic confidence for our future. Verses 5-9 highlight this.

Verses 5-9

5 He **provides** food for those who fear him; he remembers his **covenant forever**.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

8 they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness

9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his **covenant forever**.

Holy and awesome is his name!

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Our futures are assured because he is the one who provides for us who fear him and he remembers his covenant of grace & mercy toward us. That covenant was a covenant made not with the blood of bulls or goats but with blood of his only son - Jesus.

It was not made lightly and he will not renegotiate or go back on it - he will keep us safely in the palm of his hand.

Faith is built up in our lives when we see God working in response to our prayers and as we rest in the wonderful provision of his covenant of grace and mercy toward us.

All of this remembering and recounting of God's good works in our lives provides us with wisdom for day to day living. Because we know of his goodness, we also know that there is no need to panic - even in times of world financial instability as we have experienced during 2008.

How do we go about remembering and studying God's works in our lives?

- 1) We can do it personally and privately by pondering and meditating on the way in which God has provided for us in the past and giving him thanks.
If I have time on my hands and I am driving through an area in which we used to live, I will often drive by these places and remember and thank God for the great times we had in that period of our lives and how he moved us onto the next adventure. You may have other ways of remembering his good works.
- 2) We can do it with our family by recounting the times of God's great works in our lives.
When travelling in the car on a long trip is often a great way to do this.
- 3) And finally we can do it publically when we gather together as verse 1&2 of this psalm shows.

Verses 1-2

1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the **company of the upright, in the congregation.**

2 Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

So let's finish off this morning by recounting some of the great works God has done in and with our lives this year and giving him thanks for 2008.