

“Why is worship so important?” (Psalm 146)

Verses to Remember: “I will praise the LORD while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Do not trust in princes, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation” (Psalm 146:2-3).

Why do we praise and worship God every week?

1. God must be glorified

- Simply put, God is worthy to be praised always and we should praise him as long as we have breath in our lungs.
- If we don't praise him, the rocks will cry out (cf. Luke 19:40).
- We have a built-in need to worship, just like we need to breathe, and the only proper and fitting outlet for that worship is the God who made us and loves us.

2. To strengthen our faith

- Our temptation is to trust in “princes” (v.3), meaning those who seem to hold the power in this world. This psalm contrasts the temporal nature of man in this world with the consistent faithfulness of the God who made this world.
- Note that in verse 4 when it speaks of mortal man's thoughts perishing, it is referring to his plans and power “under the sun” in this world. Scripture is clear that when we die our souls continue on, and that as believers, to depart from this world is to be with Jesus (2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:22-24; Acts 7:59). The point is that mortal man cannot be the source of our salvation. This is certainly true of our spiritual salvation, but I think more in view here is being saved from our physical problems. God does use people to help us, but the power is not in them. The true power and sovereignty are with God (cf. John 19:10-11).
- At the heart of this psalm is the distinction between man and God. In contrast to the changeability of man, is the constancy of God “who keeps faith forever” (v.6).
- God made heaven and earth and also has displayed his power in the ways listed in vv. 5-9. The “God of Jacob” has demonstrated that power in his interactions with the nation of Israel. Jesus, being God, displayed the power seen in those verses as he opened the eyes of the blind (John 9:32) and set prisoners free (John 8:36).
- When we come together, we praise the God who has done these things, and is still doing these things. He is still setting people free. When we come together to worship, we remind ourselves to put our trust in God, and not in the so-called powerful people of this world. Let's ask ourselves: “Is this thing that I need to happen harder or easier to make happen than to create the heavens and earth and everything in it from nothing?”

3. To become more like him

- This psalm shows God's power, but also his character.
- What we worship, we emulate. Let's worship God and emulate his character.