


"Promises"

Psalm 145: The Praise of God

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11

Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- Read Psalm 145. Circle words which reveal these various divisions:
 - [1] The psalm opens and closes with a doxology (v. 1-3 & 21).
 - [2] Unified, multi-generational praise is the theme of v. 4-7.
 - [3] God's compassion is on display to all humanity (v. 8-10).
 - [4] God's kingdom is emphasized four times in just two and a half verses (v. 11-13a)!
 - [5] God's compassion is on display...
 - [a] to the vulnerable and the oppressed in particular (v. 14).
 - [b] to all creatures on earth in general (v. 15-16).
 - [c] to all who pray with honesty and integrity (v. 18 & 19b).
 - [d] to all who are his true children (v. 19a & 20a)—*but **not** to the wicked* (v. 20b)!

Now, come up with the briefest possible title for the entire psalm. What is its "big idea"?

- Now, compare the text of Psalm 145:13 as printed in these *Talking Points, Walking Points* with how it is found in your own Bible. Does your Bible have the second half of v. 13? Some do, some don't. Observe that it virtually repeats v. 17. Some ancient manuscripts have v. 13b while others omit it. Does this disturb your trust of the Bible? Should it? Why or why not?
- Psalm 145:8 quotes Exodus 34:6—which is **the most repeated verse**[†] in the entire Old Testament! ([†]Exodus 34:6 = Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalms 86:15; 103:8; 111:4; 112:4; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2) Clearly this is an important issue, so let's dig deeper. **Follow this plot-line:** In Exodus 32, the recently-rescued Jews sinned horribly against the God who saved them. God threatened to destroy them (32:10), but Moses prayed, and God relented (32:11-14). Moses, awed by God's forgiveness, made a bold request: **"Show me your glory!"** (33:18)

Moses asked to see God's **glory**, but **what** did God say that he would reveal to Moses (v. 19)?

God spared the Jews from his justifiable wrath. He has done **the same for us** (Ephesians 2:1-7)! Relate Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14 & 2:7 to the grace that God showed the Jews in Exodus 32:14.

For those who deserve the wrath of God—ie, **us!**—the glory of God **is** his compassion and grace! So now, reread Psalm 145—slowly and aloud—and see if David's doxology doesn't become your own! Do **you** exalt God, your king, and bless his name? (v. 1) Does **your** mouth declare his praise? (v. 21)

To whom do you need to declare his splendor, majesty, and wondrous works? (v. 4-5)

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see next page) is a simple way to study any passage.
Let's use it to explore our dire condition and need for God's compassion...*

Monday—Read 2 Timothy 3:1-7

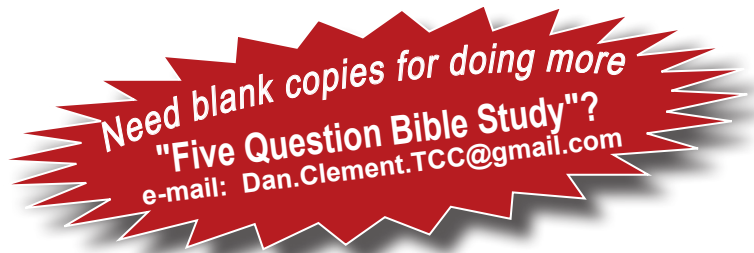
Tuesday— Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Wednesday— Read Titus 3:3-7

Thursday— Read Titus 2:11-14

Friday— Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Saturday— Read John 3:14-21



Our children do foolish things. In fact, Proverbs 22:15 says...
"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child."

News Flash! We all once were children (and for some of us, our foolishness didn't fade away until well late into adulthood).

Titus 3:3-7 says... **"We also were foolish. We did not obey, we were wrong, and we were slaves to many things our bodies wanted and enjoyed. We spent our lives doing evil and being jealous. People hated us, and we hated each other. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior was shown, he saved us because of his mercy. It was not because of good deeds we did to be right with him. He saved us through the washing that made us new people through the Holy Spirit. God poured out richly upon us that Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Being made right with God by his grace, we could have the hope of receiving the life that never ends."**

- Copy the text of Titus 3:3-7 onto a poster board, and read it together at the dinner table as a family each evening this week.
- Be ready to tell a story of your foolishness and repentance (minus the prurient details—Ephesians 5:11-12).
- Then, be quiet. Listen for their reactions. Answer their questions. Resist the temptation to preach. Instead, pray for yourself and them.



Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would *this text* answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]