

Lesson One

“His Righteousness Endures Forever”: Two Hymns Psalm 111 & 112

Verse	Psalm 111	Psalm 112
	Praise the LORD.	Praise the LORD.
1	I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.	Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.
2	Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.	His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3	Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and <i>his righteousness endures forever</i> .	Wealth and riches are in his house, and <i>his righteousness endures forever</i> .
4	He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.	Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.
5	He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.	Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.
6	He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.	Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever.
7	The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.	He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
8	They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.	His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.
9	He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name.	He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, <i>his righteousness endures forever</i> ; his horn will be lifted high in honor.
10	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.	The wicked man will see and be vexed, he will gnash his teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

God created humanity as his representatives (“image of God”) to partner with him in caring for the earth, in co-creating the future with him, and sharing the joys of life. We are called to “mirror” God in our lives. Psalm 112 “mirrors” Psalm 111 and offers insight into how we are to become like God, particularly in the use of our resources and wealth in relation to “others” (creation, poor, etc.). We are called to partner with God in the use of our resources to pursue the righteous task that God has given us as his “imagers.” The blessed believer has “no fear of bad news” and is secure in trusting God.

1. Noting that the subject of Psalm 111 is God and the subject of Psalm 112 is the blessed believer, what parallels can you see between the way God is extolled in Psalm 111 and the life of the blessed believer is celebrated?

God is _____ The believer is _____

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2. What is the relationship between Psalm 111 and 112? Why do you suppose they appear back-to-back in Israel’s hymnbook? What does the Psalmist want to teach by putting these two together? What is the relationship between praising God and the blessedness of his people?
3. Does the “blessedness” of the believer scandalize you in any way? What is the blessed person’s relationship to wealth and poverty? What does the blessed person fear or not fear? How does this relationship give the believer freedom to become like God?
4. Psalm 112 is quoted in 2 Corinthians 9:8-11.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

What is Paul’s application of this Psalm to the Corinthian church? How does this inform our use of wealth in our context? Where is the theme of generosity in both Psalm 111 and 112?