

Awakening to Reality - Psalm 75

Thanks (V.1)

“Wondrous deeds” single Hebrew word used for:

- Great redemptive miracles (Ps. 106:7, 22)
 - How often do you consider the beauty of the Resurrection? The ULTIMATE redemptive act.
- Daily experiences (Ps. 71:17)
 - What does it take to stir your heart in your daily life to be thankful to the Lord?
- Glories of Scripture (119:18)
 - How often are we brought to our knees in awe of the Word of God?
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Current faithfulness is spurred on by remembering God’s faithfulness

A current state of thanks is kept on the forefront of our minds by remembering God’s faithfulness

Current faithfulness is spurred on by remembering God’s faithfulness

A constant state of thanks is kept on the forefront of our minds by remembering God’s faithfulness

God Speaks (V.2-5)

Reassurance (V. 2-3)

- “Set time”
 - Important OT concept in the understanding of God’s ordering of the world: He is in control
 - We live in the tension of the already/not yet and we must surrender our desire for control.
 - Lament is the key to bridging the sinful realities of this world and the future hope guaranteed to us.
- “When the earth totters... it is I who keep steady its pillars.”
 - *“Why do the nations rage*

and the peoples plot in vain?

*The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."*

*He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.*

*Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have
set my King*

on Zion, my holy hill." - Ps. 2

- Perspective of TRUE reality
 - Where have your eyes been fixed amidst the recent chaos in the world?
 - God is not intimidated by the brokenness in our world.
 - While the world seems to be in chaos, God sits enthroned above it all, ruling and reigning.

Warning (V. 4-5)

"God will not tolerate an assertion of power against Himself."

"The horn was the emblem of boastful power; only the foolish, like wild and savage beasts, will lift it high; but they assail heaven itself with it, as if they would gore the Almighty himself. In dignified majesty he rebukes the inane glories of the wicked, who beyond measure exalt themselves in the day of their fancied power."

If God is the one who holds all things by His power, who are we to foolishly challenge His authority?

- Beatitudes
 - Poor in Spirit
 - Meek/Humble
 - Peacemakers
- Those in right relationship to the Lord recognize their standing before Him. They assert not their own power but surrender to His majesty.

Response (V. 6-8)

Psalmist affirms God's comments (V. 6-7)

- No other person has the authority of God. Search where you will, all fall infinitely short of God's majesty, of God's power, of God's authority, of God's care for justice and true equity.
- How big is the God you worship?

"Cup of foaming wine" (V.8)

- Common imagery used in the prophets (Isa. 51:17; Jer. 25:15, 27)
- The cup of wrath awaits the wicked and they will drink it fully.
- Those in Christ have been set free because Jesus Himself drank that cup of God's wrath on our behalf.
- This is an encouragement to those oppressed by evil and darkness but it also brings terror to those who exalt themselves and oppose God.
 - What is your response?

Praising God (V. 9-10)

The reality that God is a faithful judge and King over all leads us to praise Him.

How do we respond?

- There should be only two responses to this Psalm: Joy or terror
- If your response is apathy, then you don't believe God is who this Psalm says He really is: King over all
- Apathy is the position of many in the church today
 - We are asleep in our own comfort
 - We fail to see reality
 - "Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." - Lewis
- A belief in Jesus as Lord over all propels one into a lifestyle of radical obedience. The focus becomes serving Him out of an overflow of His great love for us and a recognition that He really is the King who will right all wrongs one day.
- Who is Jesus to you?
 - Lord over all? Or just someone that helps make you feel better?
 - What does your life demonstrate? The supremacy of Christ as King? Or the abuse of the grace of the Almighty?
 - Do you still fight the way of Jesus?
 - Why? Surrender to His goodness, to His supremacy, to His Lordship. He longs for you to come to Him.
- What are you doing now to cultivate a rooted faith?

- Bible reading - storing up the Word of God. "It is our job to study the Scriptures so that we give the Holy Spirit more than a pocketknife to work with."
- Community - spurring one another on
- Margin - Time for God?
- A life on mission
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