



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

Psalm 117

Eternal Praise

What are we doing today that we will also be doing for all eternity? For those of us who have put our faith in Jesus Christ, we will be praising God forever. To praise God is to exalt, to honor and to give Him glory. Why should everyone everywhere (including you and me) praise the LORD? Thankfully, Psalm 117 helps us to answer that question.

In its context, it is clear that Psalm 117 was a call for all nations and peoples to praise the Lord. Both the prologue and the epilogue are the same - *Praise the Lord!* Why should everyone everywhere praise the LORD?

1. Because of Who He is - Yahweh is the sovereign God who created all things, sustains all things and is able to bring things to pass by his own determination and power. The difference that is made in praising Him for Who He is is needed *perspective*. With the things going on in the world and the challenges we face in our lives as we are reminded of who God is we can experience the blessing of our fears and anxieties turning into praising God!
2. For His steadfast love and faithfulness - Yahweh is a God who speaks before He acts. Throughout Scripture He lovingly speaks and then He faithfully acts on all that He said. He demonstrated this with Abraham, Moses, the Prophets and many others. Ultimately, He demonstrated His steadfast love and faithfulness with sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world on the cross. The difference that is made in praising Him for His steadfast love and faithfulness is that *we stand on His promises rather than fretting based on our feelings or circumstances*. As we stand on His promises, we trust Him as we walk according to His Word and bring things before Him in prayer.
3. So that the world would know the Gospel - Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave marching orders to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. He said, "...all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." The disciples' marching orders are our marching orders today. The difference that is made for praising Him is that the world would know the Gospel is *purpose*. Our purpose today is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to family, friends, coworkers, classmates and neighbors. And as C.H. Spurgeon

once said, "a praiseful heart is a soul-winning heart...a happy Christian attracts others by his joy." May God use us here at Steadfast to take the Gospel message to the people God places in our lives, in our neighborhoods, in the Omaha area, to the various people groups and to the nations.

May we continue to praise the Lord more and more each day!

Pastor Jonathan Norman