

Psalm 75:1–10 (ESV)

God never loses control of the universe

CORPORATE PRAYER:

Psalm 100:1–4 (ESV) *1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! 3 Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

Vs 4 God, I/we thank you for _____

Salvation, life, family, health, home, church family, provision, protection, grace, mercy, hope, peace, joy, friends, His love, the resurrection, His Word, His Spirit, work, etc.

Psalm 100:5 (ESV) *5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

LORD, you are good and I/we are asking for your faithfulness in the area of _____

wisdom, direction, reconciliation, true friends, provision, financial provision, forgiveness, strength/resiliency, work, neighbors, peace, joy, church involvement, serving, etc.

LORD, you are good and we are asking for your faithfulness to teach us through our study in 1Timothy.

SERMON

INTRO

- Baptisms next Sunday!
- Quick partner meeting next Sunday
- 1Timothy starts next Sunday

OPEN

Show the Time Magazine cover

- In April 1966, Time magazine stunned the world with this cover. Three blood-red words on a black background: “Is God Dead?” The article explored a group of radical theologians who claimed that belief in a living, personal God was no longer possible in the modern age. For many people, it felt like the ultimate cultural statement: God has lost relevance... God has lost control... God is gone.
- Have you ever felt that way yourself?
- Have you ever looked at the news and wondered, “Where is God in all of this?”

- Have you ever looked at injustice, violence, or the chaos in the world: “Is God even paying attention... or is He just... gone?”
- Do you ever feel like God is irrelevant—like He’s not helping in the ways He should?
- Do the wicked seem to be winning while the righteous suffer?
- Have you watched someone you love walk through deep pain and thought, “God, if You’re really in control, why aren’t You doing something?”
- Maybe even in your own life – it might not be that God is dead to you, but you feel like you are dead to Him.
- Where are you God? Are you paying attention?
- Those are real questions most of us have asked at one time or another.
- Psalm 75 answers those questions.
- God has not lost control of the universe.
- He never has.
- And He never will.

God never loses control of the universe

Throughout Psalm 75 the speaker changes several times—first the congregation (“we”), then God Himself speaking, then the psalmist in the first person, and finally a culminating declaration—each shift marking a new perspective on God’s sovereign control. **(We, God, me, God)** These voice changes line up with our four subpoints. **(1 we thank God vs 1, 2. God judges fairly vs 2-5, 3. I sing praises vs 6-9, 4. God lifts the righteous vs10).**

God never loses control of the universe

1. We Thank God

***Vs 1** We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.*

- Your name is near means His presence is near (enter his gates with thanksgiving)
- So he is not dead, he is near.

- Research consistently shows that practicing gratitude improves both mental and physical health. People who regularly write down things they are thankful for report greater optimism, better sleep, lower stress, reduced anxiety and depression, and even healthier hearts and longer life.
- Thanksgiving doesn't just change how we feel—it changes how we live.
- Thankful TO God, not just IN general.
- What do you have on repeat? Negative thoughts, bitterness, what are you rehearsing?
- Gratitude is the circuit breaker of the mind. When negative thoughts, bitterness, or anxiety start surging and overloading our thinking, a simple pause to give thanks trips the breaker and cuts the power to that destructive current. Suddenly the lights come back on, and we can see clearly again—God's nearness, His wondrous deeds, and the gifts we were racing past.

ILLUS: Slow the game down

- Things slow down when we are noticing and naming the gifts right in front of us. Thanksgiving doesn't just fill a journal; it anchors us in the now so we stop rushing past God's nearness and His wondrous deeds.

APPLICATION: take time to write down 5 things everyday you are thankful for.

2. God Judges Fairly

- Voice change – from WE to GOD

Vs 2-5 *"At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity. 3 When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. Selah*

- When it seems God is not near – when your eyes are on the wind and the waves, God is keeping the universe steady.

God never loses control of the universe

4 *I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn; 5 do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.'* "

- Horns symbolize power
- The imagery is a beast raising his head and horns to keep from being yoked.

“At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.

- God’s judgments are perfectly fair because He is both just and all-knowing.
- “eyes like fire” in Revelation show Christ pierces through to the intentions of our hearts and motives – even our good deed with selfish motives are seen.
- The wicked will never get away with their wicked deeds. Not one sin will slip through the cracks.
- Every sin will be punished.
- For the unrepentant, that punishment falls on them at the final judgment. For everyone who trusts in Christ, that punishment has already fallen on Jesus.
- There is more mercy in Jesus than sin in you.
- At the cross justice and mercy meet perfectly. The full wrath our sins deserve was poured out on Jesus. God’s law is not winked at or ignored—justice is completely satisfied. Because the penalty has been paid, God can now show us mercy without compromising His holiness. He remains both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

APPLICATION: Rest in this. The wicked will not win in the end. And if you are in Christ, the judgment you deserved has already been carried by Another.

3. I sing His praises

- Voice change from God to the Psalmist

***Vs 6-9** For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, **7** but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. **8** For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs. **9** But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.*

- We often look everywhere for help but where we actually find it.

Luke 22:44 (ESV) 44 *And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Mark 14:35-36 *And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

In all of Jesus' earthly life, nothing does to him what thinking of the cup did:

Jesus has performed miracles:

- Water to wine
- Healed the sick
- Cleared leprosy
- Gave sight to the blind
- Calm storms

Jesus has taught with authority

Led multitudes of people

Chastise the pharisees

Cast out demons

Even Raise the dead

AND HE KNEW HE would also be raised from the dead...(Vs 28)

BUT, now He is having some sort of trouble with the will of God. Why?

It's the cup.

Psalm 75:8 (ESV) 8 *For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.*

- **The dregs** (= The bitter, thick residue that sinks to the bottom — grape skins, spices, sediment — the most repulsive and concentrated part of the drink. You only taste the dregs at the very end, when the cup is drained completely. They represent the full, undiluted, final bitterness of God's wrath.
- "The dregs are not the first sip. They are the last, bitter swallow — the concentrated poison at the bottom that no one wants."
- "God's wrath is not just surface anger. It has dregs — the deep, dark residue of every sin ever committed. Every rebellion, every prideful boast - all of it ferments at the bottom of that cup."
- "To drink the dregs means total consumption of judgment — no escape, no dilution, no mercy left."
- "In the garden, Jesus saw not just death, but the dregs:
- "The only One who NEVER deserved a single drop drank the entire cup — foaming wine and bitter dregs — so that we would never have to taste it."
- He got the cup of wrath and we get the cup of grace.

- Notice there is praise after the cup

9 But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

- So it is for us – we can praise HIM after we realize Jesus has taken the cup
 - It's why we sing on Sundays!
 - "The most beautiful instrument in worship is the sound of the congregation singing."

4. God lifts the righteous

Vs 10 All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

- The proud will be cut off and the humble will be raised up (NOW and IN THE RESURRECTION)
- The righteous is singular – there is only one true righteous one
- Resurrection and its implications

Implications of the Resurrection for Us

1. Our justification is confirmed

The resurrection is God's public declaration that the cross worked. As John Stott put it, the empty tomb is God's "Amen" to Jesus' "It is finished."

- Because Jesus walked out of the grave, we know the debt of sin has been fully satisfied. We are no longer under condemnation.

2. We will be bodily raised

The resurrection is not merely spiritual survival. Jesus rose with a real, transformed body ("flesh and bones"). Therefore our future is physical, personal, and glorious.

- N.T. Wright repeatedly stresses that the Christian hope is not "going to heaven when we die," but "life after life after death"—bodily resurrection into God's renewed creation.
- What God did for Jesus on Easter, He will do for all who belong to Him.

3. Our present work and suffering are not in vain

Because Jesus is the firstfruits of the new creation, everything done "in the Lord" has eternal significance.

- Every scar and sorrow will one day enhance our eternal joy. Nothing is wasted.
- Bob Ross illustration

4. **Jesus is already Lord and our enemy is defeated**

The resurrection means the world's true King has been installed. Death, sin, and every proud "horn" have been decisively conquered.

- God has not lost control; the resurrection is the public proof.
- We therefore live with courage and hope even when the earth still seems to totter.

5. **We have power for holy living now**

The same power that raised Jesus is available to us for sanctification. We are already "raised with Christ" (Colossians 3:1) and can live in newness of life.

6. **History is going somewhere good**

The resurrection gives unique, realistic hope for the future of the world.

- God is not abandoning creation; He is renewing it.
- Justice will be done. Every wrong will be put right.
- The wicked will not ultimately triumph, and the righteous will be lifted up forever.

CONCLUSION

God never loses control of the universe

- Because God raised Jesus, we know He never loses control. The same power that lifted the Righteous One will one day lift all who are united to Him—body and soul—into a world made new.

QUESTIONS FOR GOUPS

1 Where in your life right now do you most need to remember that "God never loses control of the universe"? How does that truth change the way you respond to that situation?

2 The psalm moves from thanksgiving, to God's judgment, to praise, to the promise that He lifts the righteous. Which of these four movements is hardest for you to live out right now, and why?