

Summer in Psalms – 2026 – Week 10 – Psalm 115

Psalm 115:1-8, 16-18:

Not to us, Lord, not to us

*but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.*

² *Why do the nations say,
“Where is their God?”*

³ *Our God is in heaven;
he does whatever pleases him.*

⁴ *But their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.*

⁵ *They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.*

⁶ *They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.*

⁷ *They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.*

⁸ *Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.*

¹⁶ *The highest heavens belong to the Lord,
but the earth he has given to mankind.*

¹⁷ *It is not the dead who praise the Lord,
those who go down to the place of silence;*

¹⁸ *it is we who extol the Lord,
both now and forevermore.*

Praise the Lord.

INTRO to series “Summer in Psalms” – The Hebrew Psalms in our Bible are filled with ancient prayers, poems, laments, hymns, and spiritual songs written by God’s people throughout many generations. As the Holy Spirit spoke through them, their words of praise and faith were collected into five books with 150 different psalms.

Our Summer series will survey several of the Psalms which proclaim God’s faithfulness in all generations. They also call on us to trust the Lord in our own generation, seeking His best purposes in our homes, our church, and the world in which we live. A special part of this summer series will be the incorporation of music and singing led by our worship teams based on the Psalms we study.

INTRO to **Psalm 115: Psalms 111-118** are known as the “Hallelujah Psalms” – each likely used as a hymn or for liturgy and with no author named. Each of these psalms share some common language and refrains/choruses. Psalm 115 seems to have been something like a community hymn which declares that the gods and idols of the nations have no life and no power. Instead, it is the Living God alone—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—who has all authority in heaven and on earth.

I. The Lord alone is worthy of glory. (vs. 1-8)

-The Hebrew word for “glory”—*kavōd*—literally means “weightiness.”

QUOTE: “At the center of the universe is not self, but God.” –Tony Merida

-The greatest passion we can have as the people of God is for the glory of His name!

-Many among the nations—because they believed their gods required a representation in a carved image—actually mocked the people of Israel for their faith in an imageless God.

-The psalmist confirms in **vs. 3**: our God is in heaven and He answers to no one. He does whatever pleases Him! Therefore, God has made clear that we are never to worship or serve any other false god or anything in the form of an idol or image. (see **Exodus 20:3-6** below).

-The idols described in **vs. 4-8** are made of valuable materials—silver and gold—but they have nothing of value to offer. They are made by human hands and then literally worshiped by the people who made them.

-Idols are literally mouths with no voice, eyes with no seeing, ears with no hearing, noses with no smelling, hands with no feeling, feet with no moving, throats with no sounds. They are helpless and useless (see **1 Samuel 12:21** below).

-**vs. 8** is a statement of fact: *Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.* Worshiping idols requires exchanging God’s truth for what is false and ultimately losing our true sense of reality. (see **Romans 1:25** below)

Romans 1:25: *They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

II. The Lord alone can provide for our every need. (vs. 9-15)

-As opposed to the idols who can do nothing, the Lord truly provides all that is needed for those who trust in Him – He takes up our case as our “help” and He protects us as our “shield.”

-**vs. 9-11** are written call and response liturgy for worship:

-*All you Israelites, trust in the Lord— (vs. 9)*
Refrain: *He is their help and shield.*

-*The House of Aaron [priests and Levites], trust in the Lord— (vs. 10)*

Refrain: *He is their help and shield.*

-All together as God's people who fear Him, trust in the Lord— (**vs. 11**)

Refrain: *He is their help and shield.*

-vs. 12-13: *The Lord remembers us and will bless us:*

He will bless his people Israel,

he will bless the house of Aaron,

¹³ *he will bless those who fear the Lord—*

small and great alike.

-These words are an appeal to the people of God to trust in Him because the Lord remembers and blesses all His people from the smallest to the greatest. He will always come through for us!

-vs. 14-15 can be prayed as blessings for our nation, for our faith, for the people of God, for our neighbors from the greatest to the least, for our families, and for YOU:

May the Lord cause you to flourish,

both you and your children.

¹⁵ *May you (all) be blessed by the Lord,*

the Maker of heaven and earth.

-And don't forget, the God upon Whom we call for these blessings made the universe! He is the transcendent Creator of all, and yet He is with us as His people here and now.

III. The Lord alone is who we are called to worship and serve. (vs. 16-18)

-Though God makes His abide in the heavens, He has placed us here on the earth. This realm has been given to us to enjoy, to flourish, and to steward.

-We only have one life – and it should be used to glorify God and celebrate His greatness (as the psalm began in **vs. 1**).

-There is here, a triumph over death – for the praise of His people will continue forever and ever Amen.

2 Great privileges of being human:

1.) To live!

2.) To worship!

May we make the most of both!

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Exodus 20:3-6: *"You shall have no other gods before me.*

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

1 Samuel 12:21: *Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless*

Romans 1:25: *They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-*"In America we have idols, many—but not of wood or stone—not in honor of Mercury, Minerva, Apollo, Mars, Bellona, or Jupiter! No! But, nevertheless, we have idols that hold people captive...and spell-bind them with the witchery of their charms, and wrap them in the thralls of their enchantment!"* –Rev. J.R. Balme (1864)