

“The ABC’s of Praise & Thanksgiving – Part Two”

I. The Works and Words of the LORD (Ps. 111)

A. Worship the LORD together (focusing on His WORKS) – v. 1-6

¹ **Praise the Lord! Alef** - I will give thanks to the LORD with all *my* heart, **Bet** - In the company of the upright and in the assembly. **Gimel** - ² Great are the works of the LORD; **Dalet** - *They are* studied by all who delight in them. **He** - ³ Splendid and majestic is His work, **Waw** - And His righteousness endures forever. **Zayin** - ⁴ He has made His wonders to be remembered; **Het** - The LORD is gracious and compassionate. **Tet** - ⁵ He has given food to those who fear Him; **Yod** - He will remember His covenant forever. **Kaf** - ⁶ He has made known to His people the power of His works, **Lamed** - In giving them the heritage of the nations.

B. Walk in the Wisdom of the LORD together (focusing on His WORDS) – v. 7-10

Mem - ⁷ The works of His hands are truth and justice; **Nun** - All His precepts are sure. **Samek** - ⁸ They are upheld forever and ever; **Ayin** - They are performed in truth and uprightness. **Pe** - ⁹ He has sent redemption to His people; **Tsade** - He has ordained His covenant forever; **Qof** - Holy and awesome is His name. **Resh** - ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; **Shin** - A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; **Taw** - His praise endures forever.

II. The Works and Words of Men (Ps. 112)

A. The Godly (v. 1-9)

¹ **Praise the LORD! Alef** - How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, **Bet** - Who greatly delights in His commandments. **Gimel** - ² His descendants will be mighty on earth; **Dalet** - The generation of the upright will be blessed. **He** - ³ Wealth and riches are in his house, **Waw** - And his righteousness endures forever. **Zayin** - ⁴ Light arises in the darkness for the upright; **Het** - He is gracious and compassionate and righteous. **Tet** - ⁵ It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; **Yod** - He will maintain his cause in judgment. **Kaf** - ⁶ For he will never be shaken; **Lamed** - The righteous will be remembered forever. **Mem** - ⁷ He will not fear evil tidings; **Nun** - His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. **Samek** - ⁸ His heart is upheld, he will not fear, **Ayin** - Until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries. **Pe** - ⁹ He has given freely to the poor, **Tsade** - His righteousness endures forever; **Qof** - His horn will be exalted in honor.

B. The Wicked (v. 10)

Resh - ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be vexed, **Shin** - He will gnash his teeth and melt away; **Taw** - The desire of the wicked will perish.

Discussion & Application:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being constantly), how often were you characterized by praise and thanksgiving to God this past week? For what were you the most thankful? Were you thankful in all things (1 Thess. 5:18) and for all things (Eph. 6:20)? Were you thankful in trials (James 1:2-5)? When the angels of heaven observed your life, did they see God's grace on display through your praise and thanksgiving?
2. The psalmist gives praise & thanksgiving to God WITH the people of God (Ps. 111:1). One obvious way is through singing. What other ways can we praise and thank God when we gather with other believers? What are some specific ways you can encourage others to praise and thank God as a lifestyle?
3. In Psalm 111:7, the psalmist moves from the "works" to the "words" (precepts) of the LORD. How does he describe the words of the LORD? What is the connection between the words of the LORD (precepts; covenant promises) and the works of the LORD? Are you thankful for the Word of God? How does that show up in your daily life?
4. What does it mean to "fear the LORD"? (See Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; Job 28:28; Ecclesiastes 12:13) Why is it the beginning of wisdom? According to verse 10, how does a person who truly fears the LORD respond to His Word? What benefit is there when you respond that way? (See John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; Prov.2:4-5; 8:17)
5. Why does Pastor Paul believe there is a connection between Psalm 111 and Psalm 112? What are the similarities and differences?
6. What does it mean to "delight" in something? In Ps. 111:2 and 112:1, what are the two things in which the godly man ("who fears the LORD") delights? What might keep us from delighting in those two things? What can we do to grow in our delight of those two things?
7. In Ps. 112:1-3, how many ways can you find that the godly man ("who fears the LORD") is blessed?
8. In Ps. 112:4-5, how specifically is the godly man a blessing to others? Discuss specific ways that you could grow in each of those areas so that they would be characteristic of your lifestyle and relationships.
9. In Ps. 112:6-9, what are the specific ways the godly man is backed (buttressed, buoyed, braced, borne, bolstered)? Why is it important to remember this when we are surrounded by people who do not fear the LORD?
10. Wisdom literature often includes contrasts (wise vs. foolish; godly vs. wicked). What is the contrast in Ps. 112:10? Why do you think Psalm 112 ends this way? How specifically does it help the people of God to be reminded of this?
11. Memorize Psalm 112:1. Meditate on what it says and consider how you can devote more time each day growing in the fear of the LORD and delighting in His commandments.