

December 1, 2019

Pastor Steve Hardy

I Called On The Name of the LORD

Psalm 138

Some of you may have already fallen headlong into the buying frenzy on “Black Friday”. Let’s back up and remember through the writing of the Apostle Paul that man’s departure into deepening depravity of nature and behavior began with simple omissions: People did not grant God the honor due him, and they did not give thanks (Romans 1:21). Let’s don’t leave thanksgiving in the dust as we rush toward Christmas!

- I. God is worthy of WHOLE-HEARTED thanks, 138:1-3.
 - A. Thanking God for his FAITHFUL nature, v. 2.
 - B. Thanking God for his powerful NAME and WORD, v. 2.
 - C. Thanking God for RESPONDING when we call, v. 3.
- II. God is worthy of WHOLE-EARTH thanks, 138:4-6.
 - A. All the kings of the earth will GIVE THANKS, vv. 4-5.
 1. For his WORDS.
 2. For his WAYS.
 3. For his GREATNESS.
 - B. Even the lowly will know God’s CARE, v. 6.
- III. God is worthy of WHOLE-LIFE thanks, 138:7-8.
 - A. Thank God he walks WITH US through life, v. 7.
 - B. Thank God he will faithfully fulfill his PURPOSE for my life, v. 8.

David ends with a request that sounds like uncertainty until you remember the thought that “calling on the name of the LORD” involves calling for him to fulfill his covenant promises. Speaking for

God, Moses assured Joshua, then repeated (Deuteronomy 31:6,8) that the LORD “will not leave you or forsake you.” David himself repeated this promise to Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:20). Matthew ends his gospel with Jesus’ promise to his own, “I am with you always...” Our faithful LORD God is worthy of whole-heart, whole-earth, whole life thanks!



Family Time:

Maybe Thanksgiving is over, but your thanksgiving ought never be! Read together Psalm 136, perhaps one leading with the rest of the family reciting the refrain. What specific things from life and history did the Psalmist recall to encourage thanks? What similar acts of God on your behalf can you give thanks for?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. The concept of “giving thanks” in Psalm 138:1, 2, and 4 uses a word related in worship to the concept of confessing or acknowledging. How is giving thanks a way of acknowledging God—who he is, what he is like, what he has done? What sense of importance does this add to the command that we give thanks? Why is it important to give thanks publicly?
2. Compare Psalm 138:4-6 with Philippians 2:5-11. What parallels do you see? How does this encourage your sense of the unity of Scripture and the consistency of the Bible’s message?
3. Do you have confidence that the Lord is with you, even in trouble? Thinking back to Psalm 116:7, what can you do when you become anxious because of life’s troubling circumstances?
4. In light of what “the kings of the earth” (Psalm 138:4) and all mankind witness in the world, why are the omissions of Romans 1:21 so serious? Why are men “without excuse” before God?

NEXT WEEK: The Prayers of Christmas: Mary (Luke 1:46-55)