

Theme: Praise the Lord for all His Works!

1. For His Creation

2. For His Preservation

Text: Psalm 145:14-21

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. ²⁰ The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. ²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

When was the last time you thought about the fact that God is our Creator & the Creator of all things? Maybe it was the last time you read through the creation account in your Bible, or when you confessed in the Apostle's Creed "*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*" Or maybe it was the last time you were awed by some part of God's creation. Maybe you've experienced one of these moments when you were standing in front of a range of towering mountains, or when you were gazing up at the stars on a clear night, or maybe while you watched an incredible sunset on the beautiful California coast.

Have you ever had one of these experiences before? At these moments you feel a sense of the beauty and magnitude of God's creation. At these moments when we are truly noticing and experiencing God's creation we are filled with a very real sense of God's existence, almost as if we can physically feel God's presence through His creation. I've heard it said that many people after seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time become convinced that there must be a God.

These "moments" should not surprise us since the Scriptures tell us, "**For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead**" (Romans 1:20), the Psalmist David tells us in **Psalm 19 "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1)** and in one of the verses just before our sermon text we read, "**All Your works shall praise You, O LORD**" (Psalm 145:10).

But have you ever had one of those praise-inspiring "creation moments" after looking at your children, or your spouse—or even after looking in the mirror? We should! Everything that makes up our human bodies, souls, and minds also "**declares the glory of God.**" We, in turn, should use our created bodies, souls, and minds to **Praise the Lord for all His Works!**

First, to **1. Praise the Lord For His Creation.** When we look at and experience God's creation for ourselves we realize that God is definitely worthy of our praise. Earlier in this chapter David declares, "**I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works**" (Psalm 145:5). The make-up of our world—its order and structure, how each created object is dependent on, yet contributes to other parts of creation—shows us that God is intelligent beyond what we can imagine. He is all-knowing.

God's limitless generosity and creativity are also shown to us by His creation. He could have made all fruits and vegetables look and taste the same, He could have made all the animals and plants look the same as well and we human beings would survive perfectly fine. But He didn't. He put so much variety into creation—different colors, tastes, and shapes—that it is clear that God created this universe not just to be functional, but pleasing and beautiful as well.

While absolutely everything in creation reflects God's greatness, and praises Him in one way or another, God created human beings—both male and female—in His own image and put them over His creation for the specific purpose of praising, worshiping, and loving God (**see Genesis 1:26-28**). Human beings are the crown jewel of God's creation. Everything that He made was made for people! God's creation was His expression of love for the most important part of His creation: us! And when God looked over everything He had made at the end of the sixth day of creation He saw that it was **“very good” (Genesis 1:31)**. It was absolute perfection!

However, we know that perfection did not last long. Mankind—the crown jewel of God's creation—forfeited God's creation and life itself when Adam and Eve fell into sin. They listened to the deadly, deceitful words of God's *enemy*, the devil, instead of the loving God who created and cared for them. As a result human beings not only fell into sin and death, but death and the effects of sin came upon all creation as well. God's perfect creation was ruined. This is why we see diseases, death, and devastation in the plant and animal kingdom, as well as in human beings. It's why we see creation itself groaning (**Romans 8:22**) along with human beings from devastation and disasters like we saw in the horrific images and videos from the wildfires that ravaged Maui this past week. We are fallen creatures living in a fallen world.

As the creator of all things God had every right to simply start over, to wipe out His ruined, rebellious creation. But He didn't. Why not? For one simple, yet unimaginable reason—love. God loved mankind so much that He did not want to destroy them, He chose instead to save them—and in a way that is equally unimaginable. Despite the fact that mankind had disobeyed God's command, and despised His love for them God chose to send His very own Son, Jesus Christ, whom the Bible calls **"the Firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15)**. He sent Jesus to this earth to be the substitute sacrifice for mankind's sin. He lived that perfect life of love and obedience to God that human beings could not—that you and I could not. He suffered the eternal punishment of Hell that mankind's disobedience and rebellion deserved—that our disobedience and rebellion deserved-- when He was crucified on Calvary's cross. Instead of destroying human beings and His creation, God instead chose to destroy His only Son to save mankind.

Through Christ Jesus, God did another kind of "creating" far more glorious and important than His physical creation of the earth. Through the Gospel message of Christ crucified God performed the "spiritual creation" of faith in our hearts. He created in us a **"new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."** (**Ephesians 4:24**). Without this "spiritual creation" in our hearts we would still be dead in our sins and enemies of God. We would not be able to love God or **"praise Him for all His works."** Through Christ Jesus we have been restored us to the image of God. Jesus' blood and righteousness has covered over our sins and made us God's **"saints"** His holy ones. You and I are saints! That means David is speaking about us in this Psalm and tells us in the earlier verses of this Psalm (**Psalm 145:1-13**) what God created His saints to do:

- 1) **v. 10 "Your saints shall bless You,"**
- 2) **v. 11 "They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power."**
- 3) **v. 12 "To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom."**

We, God's "saints" will praise Him and tell others about the Lord and His work of creation and salvation. This has been the message proclaimed by God's saints since creation. David says earlier in **verse 4** of this Psalm **"One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts."**

However, our God is not a God who simply "got the ball rolling" by creating everything and then let go of the reigns. The God we find in the Bible—our God—is not a detached, hands-off deity that simply lets the chips fall where they may, and lets creation fend for itself. Not only has God told us by His very own words how He created the world in six days, He also tells us that He is concerned about and cares deeply for each piece of His creation. So we also **2. Praise the LORD for His work of Preservation!**

The Scriptures tell us that God is deeply and personally concerned about the physical needs of all that He has created. He takes care of the physical preservation of all things: **v. 15-16** of our text says **“The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.”** Jesus Himself tells us that God is so concerned about His creation that He knows when each sparrow falls to the ground, and that even the very hairs of our head are numbered (**Matt. 10:29-30**). In fact, the Lord is so gracious and loving toward His creation that He even provides for those who do not love Him or believe in Him at all. Jesus says that our **"Father in heaven...makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45).**

In our world of "instant everything" we have such easy access to all our needs that we may tend to forget exactly Who is providing for us. As children we may be tempted to think that our food clothing and shelter come from our parents. As working adults we may—consciously or unconsciously—begin thinking that our food, clothing, and shelter come from the grocery store, our paycheck, and our home. The reality is that, along with the eyes of every living thing, our eyes also **"look expectantly to [the Lord], And [He] gives [us our] food in due season. [He] opens [His] hand And satisfies our physical needs and desires.**

If God cares so much for our bodily needs and the physical needs of all creation, will He not care much more for our souls? God is deeply and personally concerned about the spiritual needs of each individual. He takes care of our spiritual preservation: **v. 20 “The LORD preserves all who love Him.”**

† When our faith is weak and we are tempted David reminds us that the LORD will lift us up:
v. 14 “The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all *who are* bowed down.”

† When we are troubled and lonely he reminds us that we are not alone:
v. 18 “The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.”

† When we feel empty and lost in this life he points us to the One who has given us eternal life:
v. 19 “He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.”

So, when was the last time you praised and thanked God for His creation? Is it too far back for you to remember? We do not need to have an "awe inspiring creation moment" to praise God for His wonderful works. We simply need to look at what God has made us in Christ, how He still preserves us *physically* and *spiritually*, and we will respond to His wonderful works in much the same way as King David in our text: **“My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever” (Psalm 145:21).** Amen!