

Bible Study on Psalm 115

Liturgical Psalms – God Unites His People in Worship

The liturgical psalms are not really a type of psalm like the laments with their own distinct pattern and theme. Instead, we group them together because they have a common purpose: All are used in the worship of God at the temple or in preparation for that corporate worship. The goal is to gain a sense of awe and wonder in God's presence. (LL)

A few psalms that fit into this category are Psalms 8, 68, 113, 115, 121, 122, and 150.

Psalm 115 provides a clear example of how the liturgical psalms involved an exchange between the people and the temple personnel.

1. After a carefully reading of the psalm, identify who spoke each section: The people, the Levitical choir leader or the priests.
 - a. Verses 1-8 –
 - b. Verses 9-11 –
 - c. Verses 12-13 –
 - d. Verses 14-15 –
 - e. Verses 16-18 –
2. The first verse of Psalm 115 emphasizes that God alone deserves the glory for the blessings and triumphs in our lives. When we worship, we worship God alone. How can our weekly worship be a witness to those who do not know God?
3. Verse 2 raises a question that unbelievers may ask to taunt Christians and God Himself. Unbelievers may raise such a question, especially during times when Christians face hardship and troubles. Based on verses 3 and 9-13, how can you answer a question like that?

Verses 4-8 warn those who worship idols of a grave danger.

4. What is the warning?
5. When have you seen people becoming like the gods they worship?

Verses 9-11 feature a triple repetition which calls upon all of God's people to trust in Him as their help and shield. Triple repetition is a common feature in liturgical psalms. See also Psalm 96:1-3; Psalm 135:19-20.

6. In light of the verses that precede the triple repetition in this psalm, why is this truth repeated?
7. Why is this repetition important as we read the psalm today?

Read verses 12-15.

8. How many times do you find the words “bless” or “blessed”?
9. What does this tell you about God’s plan for you?
10. What does verse 16b say about the Lord’s nature?
11. What wonderful privileges and responsibilities does this gift bring into your life?

Idols are essentially an outward representation of human imagination. Nothing could be more fleeting or self-glorifying. Through the promises of His blessings, God calls His people beyond imagination to the truth of His existence. • Lord, we praise You for revealing Yourself to us in Your Word. Give us faith to hold fast to the truth, and grant us Your blessings. Amen. (TLSB)

