

The God of Truth Ps. 111:7

Psalm 111 is one of the Psalms specifically set apart to be sung during Passover. It is a great hymn of praise. True praise never takes place in a vacuum; so the psalmist sets forth reasons why he “praises” and “gives thanks” with his “whole heart.”

The psalmist draws our attention to (1) What God does and (2) how He does it. What controls his thinking is the great deliverance from Egypt and how God supernaturally and providentially sustained them in the wilderness for forty years. Cf. v. 5a.

This is great and full of splendor and majesty. It reveals Him as a God of righteousness (v.3) grace and mercy (v.4), who keeps covenant with His people (Vv. 5-6).

All these things lead to the statement of praise contained in v. 7 that emphasizes His truthfulness and faithfulness. Because God is the God of truthfulness and faithfulness “the beginning of wisdom” is the life that is lived in line with what He has said and what He has promised to do.

The idea of “truth” in Scripture, like in philosophy has three aspects: (1) truth in essence (in things), (2) truth in expression (in words) and (3) truth in knowing (in the intellect); in other words metaphysical, ethical, and logical. The first is assumed and foundational to the last two.

1. **God is the true God.** When we say that a person or thing is “true” we sometimes mean that it is ‘genuine’ or ‘real’, as opposed to ‘fictitious’ or ‘imaginary’. This was Israel’s great struggle. To say that God is the true God is to say two things:

a. **That He alone is God.** “They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols.” Deut. 32:21. He alone is God. All else are pretenders or either willfully or ignorantly substituted for Him.

b. **That He is “really” God.** God alone fully corresponds to what “god” is supposed to be. Hence the foolishness of idolatry.

“All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit.” Cf. Isa. 44:9.

“But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes and the nations cannot endure His indignation.” Jer. 10:10.

We are probably not tempted to bow before shrines or objects but that doesn’t deliver us from the snare of idolatry. What do you let rival God for allegiance? What have you foolishly fallen into believing has explains and controls your life?

2. **God is the truthful God.** All the He does and says bears the character of truth. Because He is the true God we can trust that it will be reflected in all His relations. The psalmist offers: His (1) works and (2) words as evidence. Both are:

a. **Faithful**¹. It is an important word in the Bible, associated with the covenant. It comes from a verb that means to make firm, to build, to undergird. In this way it comes to mean 'reliable' or 'dependable.'

b. **Just.** It too is an important word. It means judgment in the sense of a legal decision. It means that something is in conformity with the facts of a case. All God's works conform perfectly to who He is as the covenant keeping God.

It shouldn't surprise when David speaks the way he speaks. ***"Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep."*** Ps. 36:5-6a.

3. **To Know God is to know the truth.** There are those whom to know is to know what misguides. We are always concerned about this for our children. **Illustr. Teachers (especially karate instructors)**

The psalmist says that the "**precepts**" of the LORD are "**trustworthy.**" God's "precepts" interprets His "works" and reveal how to live properly in His world. God's revelation is as reliable and dependable as He is. **Therefore:**

a. **Knowledge of His word is knowledge of truth.** ***"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."*** God's word is the truth; it is trustworthy- it alone rightly represents the context and condition of our lives. Apart from these precepts life is *misunderstood* and *misdirected*.

b. **Knowledge of His Son sets you free.** Jesus said, ***"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth...."*** What did He mean? ***"The word became flesh... As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."*** What are we set free from? From sin, death, and Satan. **Cf. Eph. 3:1-3.**

It is because ***"The works of His hands are faithful and just"*** and ***"all His precepts are trustworthy"*** that ***"the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"*** and ***"all those who practice it have a good understanding."*** ***"Lean not on your own understanding...."***

¹ The words rendered "**faithful**" and "**trustworthy**" are related.