

Pacesetters Devotional Psalm 92:1-5

*Psalm 92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning
And Your faithfulness by night,
3 With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp,
With resounding music upon the lyre.
4 For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done,
I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.
5 How great are Your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep.*

The title of this Psalm tells us that it was composed as a “song for the Sabbath day.” How good it is to set aside regular time to rest in God’s care, and what better way to do this than to reflect on God’s character! As Derek Kidner comments on vs. 1: “Clearly enough it is *right* to give God thanks and sing His praise; but here we go further and call it *good*: good . . . in the sense that it uplifts and liberates us. We are made glad by the works of God and by His ways in proportion as we give our minds and voices to expressing the wonder of them.”¹ Getting our eyes off of ourselves and other people, and focusing on God refreshes and reinvigorates our souls.

In this passage, the psalmist invites us to focus on two wondrous aspects of our God – His gracious character, and His work as Creator. (Psalms 103 and 104 unfold these same two themes in much greater detail.)

¹ Derek Kidner, [Psalms 73–150: An Introduction and Commentary](#), Vol. 16 (InterVarsity Press, 1975), pp. 366–367.



In vss. 1-2, the psalmist extols God’s “lovingkindness” (Hebrew: *hesed*) and “faithfulness” (Hebrew: *emunah*). These words are the Old Testament’s favorite terms for what the New Testament calls God’s “grace.” The God of the Bible is full of *hesed* – of loving loyalty – to His people, despite our many sins and failings (see Exodus 34:6,7a). God is utterly faithful to speak the truth, and to keep His promises to us, despite the vacillations of our faithfulness to Him (see 2 Timothy 2:13).

Because God’s gracious and faithful character is so different from the way we are, we are prone to almost unconsciously project onto Him our own ungracious and unfaithful image. When we do this, the thought of God arouses anxiety – which makes us want to avoid His presence. Maybe this is why the Psalmist tells us that he has learned to declare (to himself) God’s graciousness and faithfulness at the beginning and end of each day. Recall what God says about Himself, recall how God has proven His love to you – and then thank Him and praise Him in your own words. What a difference it makes to bookend each day with this reminder! Then we can go forward into the day (or we can go to sleep) with the peace that is rooted in God’s unchanging love.

In vss. 3-5, the psalmist extols God for the work of His creation: “what You have done” (vs. 4a), “the works of Your hands” (vs. 4b), and “Your works” (vs. 5a). He is a keen observer of nature, and he follows the trail of its many glories back to its Source – his Creator. Nature is so amazingly beautiful; how beautiful God must be to create such beauty! Nature is so incredibly immense; how immense must God be to create such immensity! Here, the psalmist is particularly impressed with the intricate design of nature – “How great are Your works, O Lord; Your thoughts are very deep” (vs. 5). How profound must be the intelligence of God to create the vast and intricate fabric that we call “nature!” As the psalmist says in Psalm 104:24,

*O LORD, how many are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all;
The earth is full of Your possessions.*

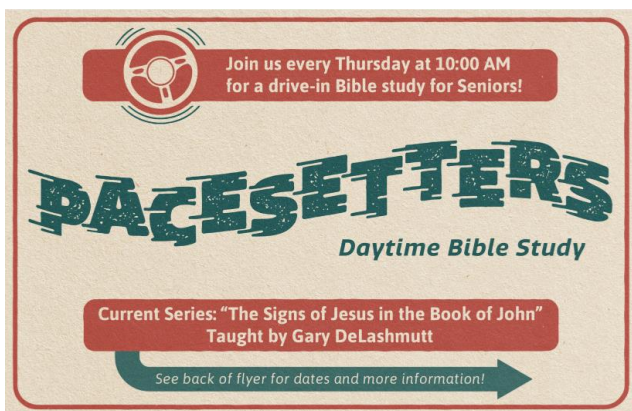


Many 21st-century American Christians forfeit the soul nourishment that comes from praising God for His creation. Most of us live in cities, where human construction is exaggerated and God's handiwork is diminished. God's handiwork is still there in the city, but we must take the time and cultivate intentional attentiveness to appreciate it and follow its trail back to God. Take a walk or look out your window, and ask God to help you to see. Observe the trees and the birds, admire the sky, inhale the scent of living things – and give thanks and praise to God for these precious gifts. Remind yourself that the God who created such natural beauty is also the God who created you and loves you and promises to care for you. This same God who created the natural world has kept His promises to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to give Himself for the penalty of our sins. And this same God promises to send His Son at the end of this age, to remake this world and to remake us so that we can fully know and enjoy Him. Today is one step closer to this glorious future for all who have entrusted themselves to Jesus.

It is indeed good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to His name!

Thank You, Lord, that Your lovingkindness remains constant, despite my many outbursts of selfishness. Your faithfulness is the great foundation on which I can depend, despite my frequent emotional fluctuations. Your creation is a daily reminder of Your infinite beauty and might and intelligence. You gave my soul a capacity to thank and praise – and through Your Son Jesus, I now know Who to thank and praise! Help me this day to demonstrate Your graciousness and faithfulness to the people who will cross my path.

**Come hear Gary in person at our Pacesetters Drive-in Bible Study!
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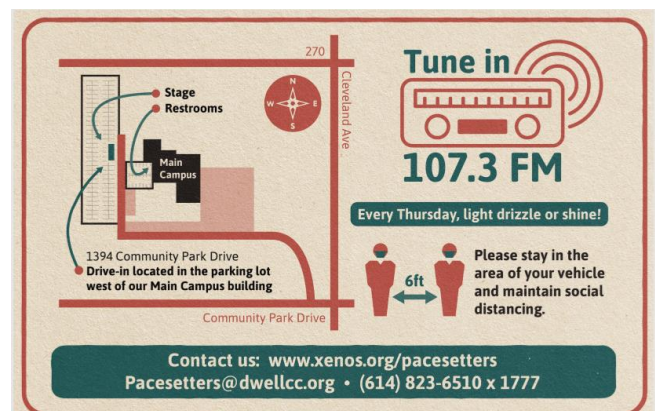


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