

**To God Be The Glory:  
Psalm 115:1**

Franklin Church of Christ Edwin Crozier February 13, 2005 AM Worship
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**Introduction:**

What is the bottom line in my life? When the race is over and the finish line crossed, how should I measure my victory? Should I measure it based on my property, my possessions, my positions, my posterity, my power or my prowess. Notice the common denominator in all of those pursuits—me. If I make these issues my measuring stick, most of my time will be spent on me. I will be pursuing my wealth, my fame, my status and my glory. Sadly, many people end the game having racked up huge scores in these areas, but losing the game. **Psalm 115:1** explains what our bottom line should be. “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory.” We will win in this game of life not based on how we have magnified ourselves, but based on how we have magnified God. Our bottom line must be God’s glory, not our own. If you want to win this game of life and receive the crown of victory, then learn the lessons from **Psalm 115** about glorifying God.

**Discussion:**

- I. We must acknowledge Him as God.
  - A. In **Psalm 115:3-8**, the psalmist contrasts Jehovah with the idols. The idols cannot speak, cannot see, cannot hear, cannot smell, cannot feel, cannot walk and cannot talk. Jehovah, however, is all-powerful. Consider the parallel point made in **Jeremiah 10:1-16**. However, the frightening point is that those who follow after these dead idols will become just like them according to **Psalm 115:8**. They will be destroyed. Jehovah alone is God and we must acknowledge that.
  - B. Amazingly, among the New Age movement, a great deal of the ancient pagan superstitions and idolatries are making a resurgence. These false gods can do nothing and have done nothing. However, I highly doubt anyone listening to this lesson is tempted to follow after the New Age gods or goddesses. But there are many who follow after the god of their own appetite as **Philippians 3:19**. They follow after their own fleshly desires, catering to their own physical whims. Paul said their end is destruction. We must learn that God is God and we are not.
  - C. Another passage demonstrates those who follow the God of possessions and material things. According to **Colossians 3:5**, covetousness is idolatry. All our possessions are man made. They are like the lumps of gold or sticks of wood men used to bow to. They can accomplish nothing and in the end we will become as dead as they are if we follow after them. We must recognize that only God is God and only God can provide the blessing we crave and need.
- II. We must submit to His sovereignty.
  - A. **Psalm 115:3** says, “Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.” **Vs. 15** says, “May you be blessed of the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.” Our Lord, as maker, is the sovereign ruler of heaven and earth. He is in control and He gets to do whatever He pleases.
  - B. That being the case, we must recognize Him as our King and Judge. We glorify God by submitting to His sovereignty, by obeying His rule. We submit to God’s sovereignty when we do God’s things, God’s way, letting Him rule our lives. I think of the prayer Jesus taught in **Matthew 6:10**. “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” How can we pray this prayer unless we have first allowed God’s kingdom to come into our hearts and His will to be done in our lives. Is God your king?
  - C. Finally, we submit to God’s sovereignty when we let God do His things His way. Too many pray and then get upset because things do not happen exactly the way they asked. Too often we act as though God is at our beck and call to accomplish our will whenever we pray long enough, hard enough or with enough faith. We must learn to wait on the Lord and accept His working as good in its time. **Psalm 37:7-11** is a great example. Do not get angry with God when things do not go your way. Wait on Him and submit to His sovereignty, in the end you will be rewarded.
- III. We must honor His ownership.
  - A. **Psalm 115:16** says, “The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men.” I realize that the text says God has given the earth to us. However, the point we must note is that the earth is God’s to give. In **Psalm 50:12**, God says, “If I were hungry I

would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all it contains.” While God has given the world to us, He has given it to us in stewardship. He is the owner; we are the servants that must use His possessions to His glory.

- B. Everything we have from money to possessions to resources to abilities to opportunities belong to God. He has granted us the use of them, but not to pursue our personal ends. We have the use of His gifts to pursue His ends. We are like the servants in **Matthew 25:14-30**. The Lord has left us in charge of His possessions but a day of accounting will come when we must demonstrate what kind of return we have made for Him—not for us; For Him. What are you doing that glorifies God with the house He has given you? ...the cars? ...the clothes? ... the money? ...the abilities? ...the time? ...the relationships?

#### IV. We must trust His protection.

- A. **Psalms 115:9-11** explains that we can trust God. He is a help and a shield. He is a protector and a defender. In **vs. 12**, the psalmist says, “The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us.” His point is that God had already demonstrated His lovingkindness toward them, they could trust Him to continue His protection and blessing.
- B. We are in the same boat. The Lord has been mindful of us. Paul explains this same point in **Romans 5:6-10**. If God would send His Son to die for us while we were sinners, how much more can we trust Him to protect us and give us what we need to live now that we have submitted to His Son? We can trust His protection. Consider **Romans 8:31-39**. God is for us and nothing can defeat us—as long as we trust His protection.
- C. **Matthew 6:33** is part of this trust. Too many people get caught up in the wrong bottom line because they do not trust God to take care of them. They are afraid God will leave them homeless or hungry if they trust Him. They subconsciously pursue life in a way that says, “God, I love You and I want to be Your child, but once I have my own bases covered, then I will order my life after Your will.” Seek God’s kingdom and righteousness first and trust Him to protect you. That is what glorifies God.

#### V. We must bless His worthiness.

- A. **Psalms 115:18** says, “But as for us, we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forever. Praise the Lord!” Based on all we have learned, God is worthy of praise and glory and honor. We, on the other hand, are not. The picture of worship around God’s throne in **Revelation 4:8-11** is a great illustration of this understanding.
- B. God is God and we are not. God is the sovereign ruler and we are not. God is the owner of all and we are not. God is the almighty protector and we are not. We should bless and praise God for all that He is. We should recognize how unworthy we are and quit trying to bring some of the praise, honor and glory to ourselves.
- C. That is not to say that we lie around and do nothing. Rather, it means that everything we do, we do in order to bear fruit that glorifies and honors God (**John 15:8**). Everything we do should find its root in obedience to God, glorifying Him.

#### Conclusion:

What is your bottom line? What is your standard of measure for victory in this life? Sooner or later, we will all face a day in which what is most important to us will be how much we glorified God. Why not make that day today? If we do, then on the day when we reconcile our accounts with God we will be able to hand back more talents than we were given. To God be the glory.