

The Psalms
(Lesson 33)

Introduction:

1. Jesus indicated in Luke 24:44 that the Psalms are included in the Old Testament Scriptures.
2. According to Romans 15:4, we must study the Psalms carefully because they *"were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."*
3. Throughout their history, the Israelites went through a number of periods when they were under the control of idol worshippers, including:
 - a. the Egyptians
 - b. the Canaanite nations
 - c. the Babylonians.
4. A number of the Psalms were designed to help the Israelites remain faithful to God during times such as these.
5. This lesson is a study of Psalm 115.
 - a. We do not know who wrote this Psalm, and we do not know when it was written.
 - b. However, its purpose was to encourage God's people to remain faithful to Him, even though their unbelieving enemies may have temporarily been in control.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1) GOD IS TO BE GLORIFIED
 - A. (vs.1a) Man deserves no glory.
 - B. (vs.1b) However, God deserves to be glorified for:
 1. His *"mercy"*
 2. His *"truth's sake."*
 - C. We can readily see why God is to be glorified when . . .
- II. (vs.2-7) GOD IS COMPARED TO IDOLS
 - A. (vs.2) Heathens may wonder about God's existence and where He is located, especially when they are controlling His people (Exodus 5:1-2; Daniel 3:14-15).
 - B. God is:
 1. in heaven (vs.3a; Acts 17:22-26)
 2. in control (vs.3b; Daniel 4:34-37).
 - C. Idols:
 1. are made of various materials by men (vs.4; Isaiah 40:18-20)
 2. are unable to speak, see, hear, smell, feel, or walk.
 - D. God demonstrated His power over idols, including:
 1. Baal (1 Kings 18:25-39)
 2. Dagon (Judges 16:23-30; 1 Samuel 5:1-7).
- III. (vs.8-16) PEOPLE WHO TRUST IN IDOLS ARE CONTRASTED WITH PEOPLE WHO TRUST IN GOD
 - A. (vs.8) People who make and trust in idols *"are like unto them"* (Psalm 135:15-18).
 - B. (vs.9-11) For Israel, the house of Aaron, and those who fear the Lord, *"He is their help and their shield."*
 - C. (vs.12-16) God will bless those who serve Him faithfully.
- IV. (vs.17-18) THE WRITER EXHORTED HIS PEOPLE TO BLESS GOD CONTINUALLY