

# COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

## PSALMS-LESSON 22

WEEK OF MARCH 1–MARCH 6

### PSALM 115

#### SOLI DEO GLORIA

Commentators are not certain about the authorship or the time **Psalm 115** was composed. Some think **Psalm 115** was written in the post-exilic period when the Jewish people were scattered among pagan cultures who scorned and ridiculed Israel's faith in a God they could not see. The contempt of the pagan peoples was demonstrated with the mocking words in **verse 2**.

“The psalmist is evidently indignant that the worshippers of foolish idols were able to put such a taunting question to the people who worshipped the only living and true God. Venting his indignation and sarcasm on the images and their makers, he exhorts the House of Israel to trust in God and bless His name.”

The Treasury of David, C.H. Spurgeon, page 1055

**Psalm 115** is a call for us to trust in His promised protection, blessing and confident assurance of His sovereign control of our lives no matter what our circumstances. The Psalm closes with a charge to us to bless and praise the Lord from “*this time forth and forever*”. In that we can give glory to His name.

#### Read Psalm 115:1-2 Glory to God Alone

1. How does the repeated phrase in **verse 1** emphasize the truth expressed in **Isaiah 42:8**?
2. When men seek glory for themselves or engage in self-promotion stealing God's glory, what sin do they commit? (see **Deut. 5:7-9**)
3. In **verse 1**, what are the two characteristics of God for which He receives glory?
4. What is the mocking taunt of the wicked of the nations in **verse 2**? See also **Psalm 42:3** and **42:10**. What similar mocking statements are made by the unbelieving in our day?

#### Read Psalm 115:3-8 God's Omnipotence Contrasted to Idols' Impotence

5. In **verse 3**, how does the psalmist respond to the mocking question? What does that verse say about God's authority and power? How is that truth a comfort in times of difficulty and challenge?
6. In **verses 4-7**, the psalmist describes man-made idols. How does the description of the worthless idols serve as praise of the living God?
7. From **verse 8**, what is the impact on the lives of those who worship idols? How is that also described in **Romans 1:21-25**

8. We see the foolishness of worshipping an object made by man. However, how does **Colossians 3:5** describe idolatry? John Calvin described the human heart as a perpetual idol factory. What does that mean? What are widely worshipped and common modern idols of our hearts? What should capture the focus of our hearts and desires?

### **Read Psalm 115:9-15 Trust in the Lord – Be blessed by the Lord**

9. In **verses 9-11**, what is the thrice repeated command and the thrice repeated blessing?

“if God tells us something once we should listen very carefully because He is God. If He says something twice, we should pay the most strict attention. How then if he repeats something three times? *In that case we should drop everything else we are doing, give our full attention to, study, ponder, memorize, meditate on, and joyfully obey what God has said.* In this case we should **“trust in the Lord” and not the other things that so easily take God’s proper place in our lives.**” [Psalms Vol.3](#), James Montgomery Boyce, pg 937

10. What is the assurance the Lord provides in **verse 12a**?

11. In **verses 12b-15**, what does the Lord provide for all who trust in Him?

### **Read Psalm 115:16-18 Concluding Praise of the Lord**

12. What does the psalmist tell us in **verse 16** of the breadth of God’s authority and rule?

13. **Verse 17** may refer to the unredeemed who do not praise the Lord. In **verse 18**, how do the redeemed respond to the blessings and assurances of **Psalm 115**?

“Right now, this moment is auspicious for beginning a life of praise, since today He invites us to hear His voice of mercy. **From this time forth** is the suggestion of wisdom, for this duty should not be delayed. It is the dictate of gratitude, for there are urgent reasons for prompt thankfulness. Once we begin to praise God, we have entered an endless service. Even eternity cannot exhaust the reasons why God should be glorified.

**Praise the Lord!** Hallelujah! Though the dead cannot and the wicked will not and the careless do not, we will shout Hallelujah forever and ever. Amen.” [The Treasury of David](#), C.H. Spurgeon, pg. 1062