

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 June Psalm 001 The Path
- 2) 11 June Psalm 078 The Past
- 3) 18 June Psalm 023 The Shepherd
- 4) 25 June **Psalm 138** **Our Response**
- 5) 02 July Psalm 084 His Presence
- 6) 09 July Psalm 095 The Creator
- 7) 16 July Psalm 019 God Revealed
- 8) 23 July Psalm 136 His Love
- 9) 30 July Psalm 146 His Faithfulness
- 10) 06 Aug Psalm 051 The Confession
- 11) 13 Aug Psalm 032 The Cleansing
- 12) 20 Aug Psalm 141 The Protector
- 13) 27 Aug Psalm 042 The Longing

INTRODUCTION

- In Psalm 138 we see gratitude and thanksgiving for God's goodness and mercy coming from ALL nations, yet God is focused on each individual's purpose in life – especially His chosen ones.
- Looking at the action phrases within this Psalm, we see some unique actions by King David, by God, and by the masses. Which actions should we seek to perform? Any actions to avoid?
 - ♦ v1. I will give thanks...
 - ♦ v2. I will bow down...for God magnifies His word
 - ♦ v3. I called on God...and God answered
 - ♦ v4. Everyone will give thanks one day...
 - ♦ v5. Everyone will sing one day...
 - ♦ v6. God regards the lowly, but ignores the prideful
 - ♦ v7. I walk amidst trouble and God revives me and saves me
 - ♦ v8. God accomplishes things for me

Passage	Comments
138:5	<p>Every Believer Will Sing to You One Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ways of the Lord” equates to God’s law. In the unrepentant human mind, God’s laws are oppressive and taxing. For sincere believers, they are reason for rejoicing as boundaries are lovingly set. ♦ Do we get excited about reading God’s word and obeying His principles or do we look for excuses to do something else and for loopholes not to obey? ♦ What should we change to make our experience digging into God’s word and living for Him exciting? Should we have: <input type="checkbox"/> Boldness <input type="checkbox"/> Gratefulness <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipation <input type="checkbox"/> Other traits?
138:6	<p>You Regard the Lowly but Ignore the Proud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a powerful principle for believers to absorb • Sin often withholds blessings from us Jer 5:25 • Pride goes before a fall Prov 16:18 • God even shows no pity to society’s weakest members (widows & orphans) when they are wicked Is 9:17 • So, to best position ourselves for God’s blessings, we need to possess humility and a righteous attitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What other behavior traits and attitudes should we have before a Holy God can bless us as He wants?
138:7	<p>You Revive Me and Save Me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we expect God to Revive us? To Save us? • How does God stretch out His hand against our enemies? <input type="checkbox"/> Does He slay them? <input type="checkbox"/> Or hinder them? <input type="checkbox"/> Or Promote us over them? <input type="checkbox"/> Other means?
138:8	<p>You Accomplish What Concerns Me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this mean? Does this mean He will do great things for us? Promote us? Bless us? Mature us? • Does God accomplish things for us for our sake or His? • Consider Phil 1:8, “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus”.

Passage	Comments
Psalm 138:1	<p>I Will Give Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: In Hebrew poetry, the 2nd line frequently repeats the sense of the previous line using different vocabulary for emphasis, clarity, or a different angle • For example, Line 1, “I will give you thanks” Line 2, “I will sing praises to you” • How do we give thanks “wholeheartedly”? Is it all emotional expression? Should we involve our mental or cognitive aspects, our physical aspects – and How? • Is there a wrong way to give thanks or to sing praises? • Can we overdo or underdo a good thing?
138:2	<p>I Will Bow Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humility is key to our Christian walk. How should we “Bow Down” before God? Is it posture or attitude? • What is it about God’s “Lovingkindness” & Truth that should provoke us to show gratitude? • Should our gratitude be private or public? What should it look like? <input type="checkbox"/> Should it be in words? <input type="checkbox"/> In behavior? <input type="checkbox"/> In offerings? <input type="checkbox"/> In attitude? <input type="checkbox"/> In all of them?
138:3	<p>I Will Call on You and You Will Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I prayed and you answered.” We are not told how God changed David’s circumstance, but David was changed • How does God make us “bold in strength” [NASB], “strengthened in the soul” [KJV]? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it internal motivation? <input type="checkbox"/> Physical endurance? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
138:4	<p>Every Believer Will Give Thanks to You One Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s promises are certain realities, not hopeful possibilities • All human institutions will eventually submit to God’s coming kingdom Rev 11:15 • How should this reality affect our witness? Our behavior toward believers or toward non-believers?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider how God has no equal with anyone or anything, yet, He is very focused on each individual, assuming they are humbled believers and not prideful sinners:
 - ♦ v3. God answers the prayers of individuals
 - ♦ v6. God regards the lowly, but ignores the prideful
 - ♦ v7. God revives and saves those in trouble from the wicked
 - ♦ v8. God accomplishes His plans for each of His children (He completes that which He started – [Phil 1:6](#))
- If we are faithful believers, not prideful or disobedient, we can take comfort God sees our hurts, fears, troubles, and concerns – and has plans to answer our prayers, to come to our rescue, and to save and protect us so we may render Him praise & glory

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 84. God provides light and protection for His people, and no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Security for sincere believers is found in God’s presence.

