

=Story Behind the Psalm=

Psalm 115

NOTE: *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

Scripture: Psalms 115

AUTHOR: Unknown

The Story Behind the Psalm

Psalm 115 was a choir number. The choir was divided into two parts, and it was sung with each part of the choir singing a portion and the leader singing a portion. One part of the choir would sing verses 1-8, the leader would sing verses 9-11, the other half of the choir would sing verses 12 and 13. The leader would sing verses 14-16 and then all would join together in singing verses 17 and 18. It was written specifically for choir use.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

It was used in public worship as a choir special number.

LESSON:

This Psalm is divided up into 5 key parts

1. **Jehovah God is the only true God (1-8)**
 - a. When we take credit ourselves for what God has done we make ourselves a god (115:1-2). So often we are tempted to glorify ourselves for accomplishments and successes even though all ability and talent came from God who gave it (I Cor. 4:7). When the Christian does give due credit unto God he loses a great opportunity to be a witness for Christ.
 - b. Anything we serve in place of God becomes an idol and is powerless. Human nature likes to see what it is serving and be in control (Hebrews 10:38).
2. **Trust in that Jehovah, the only true God (9-11)**
 - a. When God repeats Himself He does it for emphasis. In these three verses three times the psalmist says “trust”, “help” and “shield”.
 - b. The word *trust* here means to be secure in. Just as a child is secure in his parents. No matter what is happening around him as long as mom and dad are there he is secure knowing it will be okay.

- c. The word *help* in these verse means *to aid*. It is the same Hebrew word used when God made a *help meet* for Adam. Eve's job was to aid Adam in all His ventures and duties. God is our help (aid) while we serve Him.
 - d. The word shield means *protector*. Actually it is the scaly hide of an alligator. God is that tough protection we have against any lurking enemy.
3. **The blessing of the Lord (12-13)**
- a. When we serve the true God and trust in Him He will bless us. The word means to salute (or honor). The blessing of God refers to the position we hold in the eyes of God. In His eyes we are in a favored position because we trusted in Him.
 - b. Anyone can attain this honored position (both small and great). There is no respect of persons with the LORD (Romans 2:11)
4. **The one who does the blessing (14-16)**
- a. The blessing comes from God.
 - i. The blessing cannot be taken away by another person. For example our joy, provisions, or all things working together for good.
 - ii. God is powerful enough to always give the blessing.
 - iii. The blessing is sure to be good for us
5. **The dead praise not the Lord (17-18)**
- a. Most likely he is talking about the dead idols from verse 4-7.
 - b. Likewise those who serve them are dead (8)
 - c. Those who are spiritually dead cannot bring any praise or honor unto The true God (Jehovah). We must be saved and a child of God if we are to bring any pleasure to Him in praise, trust, service, or adoration.
 - d. Those who are saved will praise Him forever. Here we see eternal security.

Memory Verse: *But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*

Psalm 115:3