



**WBC Verse for the Year 2020**

*'The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'*  
(Lamentations 3 verses 22-23)

## Psalms 111 & 112

A summary, with some things to reflect on.

A video of this is on Youtube <https://youtu.be/Q8-7gJ3z1sw> or our website - [wychwoodbaptist.org.uk/resources/midweek-reflections/](http://wychwoodbaptist.org.uk/resources/midweek-reflections/)

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Psalms 111-113 all commence with a call to *'Praise the LORD.'* Of these, 111 & 112 are closely paired. Psalm 111 rejoices in the Goodness of God and how this is displayed in His works, deeds and redemption. It ends, v10 with a familiar refrain - *'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.'* Psalm 112 then reveals the outcomes, the blessings for the one who *'fears the Lord; who finds great delight in his commands.'*

*Let's look at each on in turn.*

### **READ: PSALM 111**

The psalmist opens, committing to extol the Lord with all his heart from his most intimate inner circle, to the wider assembly of God's people.

He then moves into the reasons for doing so - because of the Goodness of God!

Goodness demonstrated in the greatness of His *'works,'* which encompasses all that God says and does. These are things that are *'pondered,'* that are examined / meditated upon *'by all who delight in them;'* by His people.

Verse 3 reflects on His *'deeds,'* how he has acted on behalf of His people. These are *'glorious,'* they are wonderful, they are to be delighted in. They are *'majestic,'* reflecting His majesty, His rule and authority. Acts which reflect His eternal *'righteousness'* - His justice - that God is good and right! *We'll see a link here with his people, in Psalm 112.* That His *'righteousness endures for ever'* is a reminder that God always acts in a righteous and just way, because of His eternal wisdom.

His *'wonders to be remembered'* verse 4, point us to how we are to recall his acts of salvation. Original readers here, would likely recall the Exodus and how this is *'remembered'* in Passover celebrations. For us, it's the Salvation we have in Jesus, which we remember in the Lord's Supper. Reminders to us of God's grace and compassion.

Verse 5 speaks of his daily provision. The *'Daily Bread'* of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6v11). These stem from his faithfulness to his covenant, his promises of abundant blessings. All we have is provided by God. Our daily sustenance is from Him.

Verses 7-9 then remind us how God acts in faithfulness and justice. All His precepts, His commands are trustworthy. They are eternally *'steadfast,'* unwavering, and have provided *'redemption for his people.'* They reflect His eternal commitment to His covenant promises.

So, in response, verse 10, we should *'fear the Lord.'* To *'fear'* means to revere, to be in awe of Him. To recognise our standing before Him, and to willingly sit under His rule and care. To *'follow his precepts.'* Our Psalm calls us to do this in light of all God's works. To do so is the *'beginning of wisdom.'* God is eternally faithful, just, righteous and trustworthy. He has *'provided redemption for his people.'* So *'to him belongs eternal praise.'*

## READ: PSALM 112

Psalm 112 takes us from this call to *'fear the Lord'* (111v10) to the blessings on the one who does so. God's *'works'* are delighted upon in Psalm 111 (v2). Here it's His commands, sitting under His instruction.

*So what are these blessings?* Well, verses 2-3 suggest prosperity! A family of influence, considered *'upright,'* are blessed with wealth and riches. On the surface this may seem strange. There are no personal guarantees of material well-being for the Christian, and many if not most of us won't experience such in our lives. Yet, as those redeemed by God, we have been blessed with an abundance from Him. As the psalm develops, we see how the one who has been blessed abundantly by God, is one who in turn responds with generosity towards others.

There is emphasis, vv3-4 on his *'enduring righteousness,'* which echo's what we read of God in 111v3. Of how light can be found in even the darkest (the most difficult) of times.

Verse 4 similarly echo's 111v4 in its' emphasis on his grace and compassion. Then, as we move into verse 5 we see how this is reflected in his generosity, in his *'giving'* to others. God has provided sustenance for the righteous man (111v5). He in turn is generous and giving towards others. As God is *'just'* (111v7), so he verse 5 *'conducts his affairs with justice.'*

As God is *'steadfast'* (111v8), so verse 6, this man *'will never be shaken.'* He has, verse 7, no fear in the midst of bad news. Instead *'his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.'* In God who (111v7) is *'trustworthy.'*

Verses 8 continues this emphasis on his heart being secure as he trusts in God. The fact that he has no fear. It does so with an eye to the future. *'In the end'* this man is victorious, unlike those who oppose him (*'his foes'*). *How is that?* Well, remember we are looking here at the blessings bestowed on the one (on those) who live under God's rule in their lives. As we consider the eternal life

graciously offered by God, we recognise how we, like this man *'triumph'* in comparison to those who reject it.

As one who has submitted his life to God, this man is blessed, verse 9 with an enduring righteousness. He will be honoured. Whereas, in comparison, verse 10, *'the longings of the wicked'* - those who have rejected God's free gift of Salvation, and who willingly live in opposition to Him - *'will come to nothing.'*

### REFLECTION

*Spend some time re-reading the passage, and thinking about the following*

Spend some time in Psalm 111 reflecting on *'the works of the LORD,'* including the works He has accomplished in your life. *Give thanks to God for them.*

Romans 8v28 reminds us that:

*'in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'*

*How does the above verse, along with Psalm 111, which reflects on the eternal / enduring nature of God in His actions, give you confidence and reasons to trust in the LORD.*

In Psalm 112 we see characteristics and actions which reflect those of God in Psalm 111. *Why do you think that is?*

*How might passages such as 2 Corinthians 5v17 and Galatians 5vv22-26 help us answer this? Can you think of others?*

*In what ways are you reflecting the characteristics of Psalm 112 in your life?*

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***These are just some thoughts.***

***What else strikes you about this passage?***

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