

A Celebration of God's Works and Character

Psalm 111 is composed of twenty-two lines in the original Hebrew and is known as an *acrostic psalm*. Each line begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The first line begins with *Aleph*, the second with *Beyth*, the third with *Gimel*, and so on through all twenty-two letters. This structure is also found in Psalm 112. These psalms are intentionally crafted to reflect the full expression of praise—from A to Z, so to speak.

It opens with a call to worship:

Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. (Psalm 111:1)

This opening declaration, *Hallelujah*, sets the tone: wholehearted, public, and joyful praise is fitting for God's people.

The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. (Psalm 111:2–3)

God's works are not only magnificent in themselves—they're worthy of deep reflection. Those who love the Lord will take time to study His works, both in Scripture and in His providential dealings with His people.

He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Psalm 111:4)

This verse counters the misconception that the God of the Old Testament is merely wrathful. Here, the psalmist clearly declares His grace and compassion. This is the same unchanging character we see in Jesus, "*the express image of His person*" (Hebrews 1:3).

He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant. (Psalm 111:5)

God provides for those who revere Him, and He never forgets His promises. His covenant loyalty is steadfast and can be trusted in every generation.

He has declared to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure. (Psalm 111:6–7)

Everything God does is right, and everything He commands is true. His moral and judicial authority is unquestionable. He has the right to command because His ways are righteous and just.

They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. (Psalm 111:8)

God's word and His works are both eternal and trustworthy. When we anchor ourselves to His truth, we stand on a foundation that never crumbles.

He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name. (Psalm 111:9)

This verse declares God's redemptive character. From the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt to the ultimate redemption through Christ, God is the Redeemer. His name is *holy* and *awesome*—set apart, revered, and not to be taken lightly.

This brings up a practical application:

"Holy and awesome [reverend] is His name."

The Hebrew word translated *reverend* means "to be feared" or "to be held in reverence." It appears only once in Scripture—here, describing the name of the Lord. The psalmist's observation about the use of the title *Reverend* for human beings challenges us to evaluate our motivations. There's nothing inherently sacred about human names like Paul or Duarte—or Ike. For a man to take to himself a title reserved for God can reveal spiritual pride, though in many cases it may simply be tradition or ignorance.

While some men may use the title *Reverend* innocently, following custom rather than exalting themselves, it's a reminder that we should always reserve our reverence for God alone. As Philippians 2:9–11 declares, *"God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and every tongue should confess."*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10)

To truly revere God—to walk in humility and obedience before Him—is the beginning of wisdom. The wise are not merely those who know facts but those who live in the light of God's truth. This verse reminds us that true wisdom isn't found in titles or accolades, but in loving obedience to the Lord.

Personal Application:

- Worship God wholeheartedly and publicly with integrity.
- Reflect on and study His works; don't rush past the wonders of His Word or the testimonies of His faithfulness.
- Rejoice in God's gracious, compassionate, and covenant-keeping nature.
- Remember that reverence belongs to God alone. Let your life elevate the name of Jesus, not your own.
- Pursue wisdom not through self-exaltation, but by fearing the Lord and walking in His commandments.

Let His praise—not ours—endure forever.