

## PRAYING PSALM 111

“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).

In Hebrew this psalm is an acrostic poem. It is a resolution to praise the Lord. Where? In the congregation. Why? To encourage the upright. 1. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS MIGHTY WORKS (1-9). The greatness of His works (3). The honor of His works (4). Reminders of His works (5). Power of His works (6). Goodness of His works (7). Permanency of His works (8). Purpose of His works (eternal redemption) (9). 2. PRAISE GOD FOR WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING (10). The fear of the Lord is the beginning of both.

The first purpose of a gathered congregation is to praise the Lord. Every able-bodied sound-minded believer should make it a practice to gather with other believers for praise. That gathering should include a study of the revelation of who God is, what He has done in the past, and what you can expect Him to do in the future. The works of God are related to the all-encompassing redemption of His people. You are to praise God according the wisdom and understanding of His eternal being and His holy character. Praise must be intentional. If you do not decide when and where to praise God with others, it won't happen. The New Testament encourages the church to be faithful in gathering for the purpose of studying the Word and worship – “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner or some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day (of Christ's return) approaching” (Hebrews 11:25).