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*“Oh, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD endures forever”.* (Psalm 117)

This is the shortest psalm and the shortest chapter in the Bible. As the shortest verse, *Jesus wept*, has only two words, this psalm has only two verses. It is at the chapter center of the Bible, preceded by 593 chapters and followed by 584. Only one chapter separates it from the longest psalm and longest chapter in the Bible. Though it be short in volume, it is mighty in content, for it declares in a breath the duty and privilege of all men in adoration a praise to God, the extent, magnitude, character and duration of gospel blessings which provoke such praise.

*“All you Gentiles”.* Gentiles would be vainly exhorted to praise God if they had no redemption and effectual calling. The universality and oneness of God’s people is not merely a New Covenant idea. All nations were to be blessed in Abraham. The outpouring at Pentecost was expressly declared by the Saviour to be the “Promise of the Father”. The resounding chorus of the 67<sup>th</sup> psalm is *“Let all the peoples praise you, O God; Let all the peoples praise You...And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him”.*

The overabounding character of gospel salvation is *merciful kindness!* In God’s kindness toward wicked sinners in mercy! That is the summation of **Grace!** Such grace is not merely objective imputation or subjective love, but it full of *truth*, hearty, soul-satisfying content for the mind and soul and for our walk and life.

The purpose and end of such gospel blessings is not merely to rescue sinners from the hell they deserve, but that God may be worshiped in Spirit and in Truth. Our Lord tells us as much in John 4:23. This is God’s sought desire, and the believer’s joyful response. Christianity, therefore, is intensely spiritual and mystical. It is however, never irrational. Its transcendent mystery does not confound or impel us into confusion, but intensifies our adoration.

The duration of these things is forever. God’s truth will never need updating, modification, or accommodation. It is as immutable as God Himself. Like the show-bread placed fresh every day in the tabernacle, it is ever fresh and vital. The eternal God ever lives to give substance and reality to His word and surety to His covenants. His promises are secured forever.

How do we praise God? We praise Him with our voices, in testimony, song and prayers. We praise Him in our closet and in worship gatherings, in public and in our daily conversation. We praise Him in our attitude: Grateful, Joyful, Content, Optimistic. We praise Him in our thoughts: Meditation,

Admiration of HIM. (Not ourselves, “celebrities”, “heroes”, events.) We praise Him in our obedient lifestyle, our constancy in faith. May we do so with all our heart, mind and strength. –*C.M.*