

How Great Thou Art

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Gray

Introduction

1. Psalm 86:8-12
2. In 2001 a survey of all-time favorites, “How Great Thou Art” was second on the list behind “Amazing Grace.”
3. The history of the song according to “Forty stories of famous Gospel songs” by Ernest K. Emurian
 - a. Carl Boberg, wrote the original in 1855.
 - b. He was inspired by the beautiful country after a midday thunderstorm
 - c. Sturat Hine, a missionary to the Ukraine translated and published the song in English in 1948
4. The song does contain truth about God and His creation
5. Let us notice two things in this sermon, the greatness of God is powerfully demonstrated and the greatness of God is necessarily demanding

II Discussion

1. The Greatness of God is powerfully demonstrated Deuteronomy 3:24
 - a. In His creation
 - i. “It was good” said 6 times in Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25
 - ii. When is the last time we have stopped and noticed the stars, the rolling thunder, woods, forest glades, birds and their songs, the scenes from lofty mountains; heard the book or felt the gentle breeze?
 - b. The Greatness of God is powerfully demonstrated in His work of providing a Savior for fallen man
 - i. Since the fall man has needed redemption
 1. Genesis 3:15
 2. Ephesians 1:7 from what did He have to buy us? Slavery to sin Romans 6:16-18
 3. This plan unfolded over the ages and involved the giving of His Son Galatians 4:4-7
 4. All can partake of this plan through obedience to the Gospel Romans 1:5; Hebrews 5:8-9; Acts 16:30
 - c. God’s greatness is powerfully demonstrated in His work as Judge
 - i. God is the judge of all the earth Genesis 18:25
 - ii. God will judge according to His Word John 12:48
 - iii. God will judge through His Son Acts 17:30-31
 2. God’s Greatness is demanding
 - a. The Old Testament impresses us with the way people were to show their respect for God, including how they dressed, addressed Him, and offered their sacrifices to Him Exodus 28: 40-43; Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 10:1-2;
 - b. God demand our heart-felt worship and devotion
 - i. This greatness should cause us to fall down before Him Genesis 19:27; John 4:24; Hebrews 12:28-29
 - ii. This greatness demands our best Malachi 1:6-8
 - c. God’s greatness demands our full obedience
 - i. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 - ii. Joshua 24:14-15
 - iii. Matthew 7:21 why sing about His greatness and do not what is commanded of us?

III Conclusion

1. We teach our children and grand children to pray, “God is great, God is good...
2. But do WE understand what that really means?
 - a. Reverence His name
 - b. Worship Him in spirit and truth
 - c. Do what He says
3. What will you do?

Sources: Sermon by Tom Miller 9/24/06 Karnes church of Christ; Forty Stories of Famous Gospel songs; Praise for the Lord, song book