Psalm 115

Our God is the true God, and He is great

"No mere human being deserves glory or praise, but You do! Yes, You rightfully deserve glory and praise from the whole world because of Your truth and the immensity of Your tender love and kindness."

The nations have no concept of the true God

² How is it then that the heathen nations could be so ignorant of the LORD as to ask or assert,

"Where is Your God when you need Him? Who is the LORD, and what has He done? We don't know anything about Him. Just who does He think He is anyway?"

³Well, they can continue in their ignorance if they insist, but our God is the true God. He is seated on His throne in the heavens in all of His glory and splendor, and from there He does anything His heart desires regardless of what the heathen nations think or do.

The gods of the nations are a cheap imitation

- ⁴ We believe in a God who is alive and powerful, but the nations have only dead idols that are nothing more than silver or gold. They are simply the work of those who fashioned them, and in reality those dead idols are absolutely useless. This is what their idols are like:
 - ⁵ They have what appears to be mouths, but they cannot speak; they have what appears to be eyes, but they cannot see;
 - ⁶ they have what appears to be ears, but they cannot hear; they have what appears to be noses, but they cannot smell;
 - ⁷ they have what appears to be hands, but they cannot feel anything; they have what appears to be feet, but they cannot walk; and they cannot make a sound with their throat.

Put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ

⁹ Folks, this is a terrible price to pay for following false gods, so don't let those who trust in them convince you to worship their gods along with them. Instead, all of you who are Jews (or children of God by faith in Jesus Christ), put your confidence in Jesus Christ, the Messiah¹, because He is the helper and protector of all those who put their trust in Him.

¹ Dear LORD,

⁸ Those who fashion them will become like them, and those who put their trust in them for safety and security will find that those idols are powerless to help in times of trouble.

¹⁰ You who are the priests of Israel (or leaders in the church), put your confidence in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, because He is the helper and protector of all who put their trust in Him. ¹¹ You who fear the LORD and show it by avoiding or abandoning every sinful practice, put your confidence in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, because He is the helper and protector of all who put their trust in Him.

Our privilege to live for Christ

¹² Christ the LORD has not forgotten us. In fact, He is fully aware of all that transpires in our lives. He will bless His followers, and He will bless their spiritual leaders. 13 He will bless those who fear the LORD and show it by avoiding or abandoning every sinful practice. Everyone should fear the LORD regardless of whether he is small and unimportant or great and distinguished. You might be surprised to find that a few of those who fear the LORD may be even more important to God than so-called important political leaders. 14 I pray that the LORD will cause both you and your children to prosper in everything you do.

May the LORD Jesus, maker of heaven and earth, give to both you and your children all of the knowledge, ability, and desire you will need to be able to serve Him well, and I pray that He will bless you in every way. ¹⁶ The heavens belong to the LORD, and they are His home. The earth belongs to men, and it is their home because God has given it to

them.

¹⁷ Dead men don't boast about the LORD Jesus Christ nor do any of those who lay silent in the grave, 18 but we are not dead. Therefore, we who trust in Jesus Christ as personal Savior should do good to and for the LORD and give Him his rightful place in our lives from now until the end of time. So, brag about the LORD Jesus Christ, and tell the whole world about His goodness and greatness.

¹ People → trust Him
² Priests → trust Him
³ FOTL → trust Him

12 He will bless the people
He will bless the leaders
13 He will bless those that fear Him

JLSParaphrase Copyright © 2001 by Jerry L. Simms E-mail comments to proverbsguy@gmail.com See our website at www.jlsparaphrase.org

¹ Since Christ said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," the names "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" have be used in place of the word "LORD."