

Thursday, September 24, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things your name and your word."**

Psalm 138: 1-2

There is only one God! So, who are the "gods" that David is referring to in this Psalm? He says, "before the gods I sing your praise." This would be like going to a Joe Biden rally wearing a "Donald Trump" t-shirt, or going to a Donald Trump rally wearing a "Joe Biden" t-shirt. You would stand out in either situation.

David says that He worships God in the face of the other "gods." David lived in a time when "gods" were plentiful. (Of course, so do we.) It's as though David says He went to a "False Gods" rally wearing a "Yahweh is the Only God" t-shirt. A "god" is anything you bow down to, literally or figuratively. It's anything that you are living for and focusing on the most. It might even be anything that has your greatest attention in life; say like... a pandemic or a shaken-up society filled with violence and threats of violence. It could be unemployment or sickness. It could be the drudgery of life in the midst of heartache and heartbreak.

I have a hunch that if David was alive today and living in our country that He would still be leading the way in the worship of God. Not just in going to church, but in continuing to rejoice in the God of heaven and earth even in the midst of everything that is going on. David would never allow the troubles and fears of life to distract him from his worship of God – from his CELEBRATION of who God is! God is always worthy of our celebration because His love and faithfulness are steadfast. They are never diminished. His name and his word are always exalted above all things. God rises above everything!

As God's people, you and I can rejoice on a daily basis no matter what else is going on because God's love and faithfulness never waver.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim