

PRAISE THE LORD
Psalm 150

INTRODUCTION :

***Don't forget the reason for Thanksgiving.**

On January 31, 1957, the Canadian Parliament proclaimed:

"A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed ... to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."

We already know how important it is to give thanks. But we also have to realize that when we give thanks inspite of our circumstances, it affects also the people around us in a good way.

John Wesley was about 21 years of age when he went to Oxford University. He came from a Christian home, and he was gifted with a keen mind and good looks. Yet in those days he was a bit snobbish and sarcastic. One night, however, something happened that set in motion a change in Wesley's heart. While speaking with a porter, he discovered that the poor fellow had only one coat and lived in such impoverished conditions that he didn't even have a bed. Yet he was an unusually happy person, filled with gratitude to God. Wesley, being immature, thoughtlessly joked about the man's misfortunes. "And what else do you thank God for?" he said with a touch of sarcasm. The porter smiled, and in the spirit of meekness replied with joy, "I thank Him that He has given me my life and being, a heart to love Him, and above all a constant desire to serve Him!" Deeply moved, Wesley recognized that this man knew the meaning of true thankfulness.

Many years later, in 1791, John Wesley lay on his deathbed at the age of 88. Those who gathered around him realized how well he had learned the lesson of praising God in every circumstance. Despite Wesley's extreme weakness, he began singing the hymn, "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath."

Let's thank God in everything because we will never know who we can affect.

Today : We're going to talk about praising God.

Thanking and praising God goes together

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

- To thank someone is to express appreciation

Example : "Thank you for helping me with my Math homework."

- To praise someone is to express admiration (heard that Praise is advertising God)

Example : "You are very good in Math."

Quote : I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. – C.S. Lewis

Example : There is pleasure you derive when you tell someone you love, “You are beautiful”.

Psalm 150

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power;

praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,

praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,

praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Pray

Background :

Psalm 146-150 are called the Hallelujah Psalms because all of these 5 Psalms start with “Praise the Lord” and ends with “Praise the Lord” just like in the Psalm we’re studying.

Our study by God’s grace : going back to the basics

- I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAISE THE LORD?
- II. WHERE DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?
- III. WHY DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?
- IV. HOW DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?
- V. WHO SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD?

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAISE THE LORD?

Psalm 150 ¹ Praise the Lord.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Etymology : Praise the Lord or Hallelujah “Hallal Yah!” Hallal means to praise; Yah is a shortened version of Yahweh.

Note : The Hebrew “hallal” which means praise is not the same with the Arabic “halal” which means “lawful”

- An expression of rejoicing in God

Note : In Ethiopia, the primitive Amharic language, the women on occasions of public rejoicing are accustomed to repeat the sound ellel-ellel-ellel whence “to make ellel” is equivalent to rejoice.

Example : “*God has healed me! Wooh! Praise the Lord!*” or “*Praise the Lord! I have passed the board exam!*” or “*Hallelujah! I got a job!*”

In short : It means you are rejoicing on what God has done!

- **An expression of highlighting God**

Note: Hallal also means to shine; to flash forth light; to boast

In short : it means you are giving the glory to God. You are turning the spotlight to God instead of taking the limelight for yourself.

Illustration : If you remember Joseph, God has given him the gift of interpreting dreams but when he was asked to interpret Pharaoh’s dream.

Genesis 41: 16 “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

He highlighted God and that’s one way of praising the Lord.

II. WHERE DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

- **We praise Him in a holy place.**

Praise God in his sanctuary;

Etymology : sanctuary “qodesh” separateness; holiness

Note : In the Old Testament, the sanctuary is the place where God resides in the temple.

But today : The church is the place where God is in our midst. When I say the “church”, it’s not the building...it’s the “ekklesia”, the called out people.

1 Corinthians 3: 16 Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?

Application : Whenever we gather, God is in our midst and we can praise Him here. All of us are here to admire God and be amazed at His goodness, His love for us and etc.

Note : If you are a Christian, you are the holy place (God has separated you for His glory to shine.)

As Christians, when we praise Him, He is in our midst.

Psalm 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

- **We praise Him in any place.**

praise him in his mighty heavens.

Etymology : mighty heavens “rakeah oz” it’s the firmament (as one supporting the waters above) or the expanse (it’s the expanse above us)

Application : We can praise Him while at work or in school or inside the mall or while jogging...anywhere and in any situation.

Illustration : The famous preacher D.L. Moody told about a Christian woman who was always bright, cheerful, and optimistic, even though she was confined to her room because of illness. She lived in an attic apartment on the fifth floor of an old, rundown building. A friend decided to visit her one day and brought along another woman -- a person of great wealth. Since there was no elevator, the two ladies began the long climb upward. When they reached the second floor, the well-to-do woman commented, "What a dark and filthy place!" Her friend replied, "**It's better higher up.**" When they arrived at the third landing, the remark was made, "Things look even worse here." Again the reply, "**It's better higher up.**" The two women finally reached the attic level, where they found the bedridden saint of God. A smile on her face radiated the joy that filled her heart. Although the room was clean and flowers were on the window sill, the wealthy visitor could not get over the stark surroundings in which this woman lived. She blurted out, "It must be very difficult for you to be here like this!" Without a moment's hesitation the shut-in responded, "**It's better higher up.**" She was not looking at temporal things. With the eye of faith fixed on the eternal, she had found the secret of true satisfaction and contentment.

Quote : We can always praise God down here because we're always looking to God up there.

III. WHY DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

- We praise Him for what He has done.

² Praise him for his acts of power;

Etymology : mighty acts “gebuwrah” mighty deeds

Application : We admire/praise Him for His mighty act of deliverance.

Example : If you were in need and God has provided for you, praise Him! That's God's mighty act!

To see the colors of the leaves changing during autumn, that's a mighty act no one can do.

PRAISE HIM! Admire Him for that! Compliment Him for that! THAT'S A MIGHTY ACT BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE CAN DO IT.

If there is a miracle in your life, praise Him! Tell Him

Greatest miracle : You know what's another mighty act that we sometimes forget to praise Him? The fact that we are dead in sin and He made us alive in Christ...that's a mighty act!
PRAISE HIM!

- We praise Him for who He is.

praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Note : We think we should only praise God for what He has done for us. But we must also praise Him for who He is.

The fact that He is God, He is worthy of all our praise.

Example : We call Queen Elizabeth, Your Majesty. Why do people call her “Your Majesty”, it’s because of her position as queen and not because of what she has done.

Quote : Why should I praise God? Because it gets my focus off myself and onto God -- so I can talk to Him and not at him. That's why we start with praise. If you want help learning how to praise God, read through the Book of the Psalms. Many of them were written simply to praise God. If you read them aloud, you'll learn a lot about praising God in prayer. – Rick Warren

IV. HOW DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

³ *Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*

Note : Please remember that the musical instruments laid out here were used in different ways in the Old Testament. We will now study it and find out the ways we can apply on how to praise the Lord.

- **Recognize Him as Ruler**

³ *Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,*

Etymology : trumpet “shophar” like a ram’s horn shaped like the letter C; it can only play three tones so it’s not necessarily used as a musical instrument.

Note :

- The trumpet was used in transferring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem again (2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 15). The trumpet sounded with shouts of rejoicing signifying that they acknowledge that God is entering the city of David again.
- The trumpet was used when a king is being anointed or he is now officially taking over the throne (Absalom in 2 Samuel 15; Solomon in 1 Kings 1; Jehu in 2 Kings 9)

***Illustration :** If you remember the story of how Joshua defeated Jericho by destroying its walls. What did God instruct them to do?

Joshua 6: ² Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³ March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

What does this symbolize? Remember Israel has no king during that time. GOD Himself is their king. The trumpets and the ark symbolizes that God is claiming now the territory of

Jericho for His people. And of course, you already know what happened next in this famous story.

Important Application : You praise the Lord by saying to Him, “Lord you are ruler and in control of my life, even though there’s a big wall there, I will continue to praise you and show people that you are my God!!!”

Tip : Do you want to get out of worry or anxiety? PRAISE HIM!!!! SING TO HIM!!!!

Quote : Praise is not the inevitable byproduct that comes when everything is going right in our lives; it is the driving force. Praise will get our focus where it needs to be—on God. If we start praising God in the middle of our problems, our problems will shrink so much that we’ll hardly remember to bring them to God! We’ll be so busy praising Him and thanking Him for His blessings that our problems will be an afterthought. – Andrew Womack

- **Rejoice In His Presence**

Illustration : We show our admiration or acknowledgment to a person if we acknowledge their presence. One time when we are at the airport waiting for Chicay, Mica just kept on asking, “When is Mom coming? When is Mom coming?” And when we saw her, all of us ran to her and embraced her. The kids were already rejoicing because she is there.

Quote : Praise God because He is present not only because of His presents.

Now, let me explain this to you :

*praise him with the harp and lyre,
⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,*

Look : There’s harp, lyre, tambourines (timbrel), then dancing, then strings (Hebrew “minim” which means all kinds of stringed instruments) pipes (Hebrew “ugob”)

***Note : All of them are used for rejoicing**

*Job 21:12 They sing to the music of timbrel and lyre;
they make merry to the sound of the pipe.*

Good to note : In Job 30:31, the lyre and the pipe were also used in mourning...but never the timbrel (tambourine) and of course there’s no “dancing” when you mourn as shown here in Psalm 150

*⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*

Note : Again, the cymbals (tselatsal) were used in the presence of the ark...

2 Samuel 6:⁵ David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. (NLT)

Why? They were rejoicing and celebrating that God's presence (as symbolized by the ark) is in their midst again. And usually, the best way we celebrate our joy is through music.

Proof : A real party is never complete without music.

Application : This is the reason we sing during worship service, not because we have to but because we want to celebrate God's presence and goodness in our life and the best way to express it is through singing.

Note : Do you know that the Christian faith is the only faith that sings. Why? Because true joy expresses itself through shouts of joy or singing.

In short : We praise God when we are excited about His presence.

V. WHO SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD?

⁶Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Note : I think this is self-explanatory already.

In short : Everyone who is alive praise the Lord. That will happen one of these days (Phil 2)

Illustration : I was reading this story of a boy who seemingly went to a coma for 12 years. Little did the people around him know that he can see and hear what's going on around him. He wanted to express something but his body cannot. Some people wanted to give up on him thinking that he was already dead because he has no reaction at all to anything.

Some of us are in a spiritual coma, we can hear and see things but when it comes to praising the Lord, we don't give Him praise enough.

CONCLUSION :

David Jeremiah said that as a church there are three things that we do – Preach, Pray and Praise. In heaven, there will be no more preaching because the Bible says

¹Corinthians 13:12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

In heaven there will be no more praying because we are constantly in God's presence. The one thing that's left that we're doing here as a church that we will continue to do in heaven is Praise.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

S.G.D.