

Praising the Lord - September 6, 2020

What is the most important thing you are to do? You are to love the Lord, you are to praise Him, you are to worship Him. This command is found all over the Bible, and especially in the Psalms. Now today I want to look at some Psalms that speak about worshipping God, ones that I believe will motivate you in your worship and love for God.

Psalm 100:1-2. Right away we see that we are to shout joyfully, which is one way we can worship God. Then there's this command that we are to serve Him, and what this shows us is that serving God flows from our worship of God. And if you see a Christian not really working for God, not serving Him, or not being diligent in His work for God, then you have to question his love for God. John 14:21, 23
- And so worship and serving go together, for you cannot separate them. A worshipping Christian will be serving God, and a serving Christian will be worshipping God. Then we read that we are to sing to God, which is one of the main ways we are to worship God.

Psalm 100:3. But now we are given reasons why we should worship God.
- 1st, it says the Lord Himself is God, and every person in the world should worship the One who is God, and who is supreme, who is the sovereign ruler of the world.
- 2nd, we understand that the Lord is our Creator, and we should worship the One who created us, who made us. Rom. 1:20-25
- 3rd, we're His people, meaning we've been redeemed by God. And we should worship the One who has purchased us, who is our Savior and has forgiven us, and who loves us so much.
- 4th, we're the "*sheep of His pasture*" meaning the Lord takes care of us. Ps. 23:1.
And so there are many good reasons why we should worship the Lord.

Psalm 100:4-5. We are also to thank the Lord. And verse five gives us three more reasons why we should thank and praise God, and it relates to His character. He is good to us, He loves us, and He is faithful to us. And so this Psalm tells us that we are to worship God for who He is and for what He does. And this Psalm tells us that we can worship the Lord by shouting to Him, by singing to Him, by thanking Him, by praising Him, and by blessing Him.

Psalm 101 – This says that David was singing to God, singing praises to Him. Now the whole rest of the Psalm is about how David was a holy man, for he hated sin and evil, and dealt with it, and got rid of it, whether it was some worthless thing, a person who was evil and perverted, or was a slanderer. And the person who worships and praises God will be a holy and godly person.

Psalm 103:1-17. We read that David blesses the Lord, is praising the Lord. And our soul is the source of this blessing, this worship of God. Worship is not just some ritual, not just some words – it has to come from our soul, our heart. This Psalm then goes on to give all these reasons why we should praise God.

We are to bless and praise God because of His benefits, because of how God blesses us:

- He pardons our iniquities. He forgives us of our sins.
- He redeems our life from the pit.
- He shows us love and compassion.
- He satisfies our years with good things.
- He performs righteous deeds for us.
- Now verse 8 is the key verse in this Psalm for it gives us four aspects of His character, and it is the character of God that then leads to His godly actions, what He does for us.

The Psalm goes on to talk about how God forgives us, loves us, and is compassionate towards us, and all this is seen in what God does for us. The thing I want to stress here is that you need to think about what God does for you. Think about all these benefits of being a Christian, all the different ways God blesses you. As you do this, you will praise the Lord, for you will see how much God loves you.

- Psalm 119:27, 145:5, 92:2; Psalm 103:20-22

Psalm 105:1-3. This Psalm starts off by talking about how we are to praise the Lord. And what's the reason? Because of how God dealt and worked with His people. This entire Psalm is how God has worked with the Jewish people. There are the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and specifically that they would inherit some land. We see that God led and protected His people. We see that there was a famine, and that Joseph was in jail, that Egypt hated the Jews, but how God was sovereign and worked all this together for good. We read that God caused Israel to grow in numbers, that He raised up Moses to be a deliverer, that He used these plagues to cause Pharaoh to release them, that He led them through the desert, fed them with manna, and gave them water out of a rock.

Psalm 105:42-45. Finally, we see that God, according to His promise, brings His people into the Promised Land, so that they "*might take possession of the fruit of the people's labor.*" That is, there were houses, animals, farms and fruit trees already there. And they were to keep God's statutes and laws. But notice the final words of this chapter. They were to praise the Lord, they were to worship the Lord. They were to recognize and know that God was their God, and it was He who led them, took care of them, and blessed them. And if they recognized those things God was doing, then they would worship God. (Psalm 78:11, 17, 22, 32). Now sadly, we know that the Israelites, for the most part, weren't worshipping God. The golden calf

Here's the lesson for us – take the time to think about what God is doing in your life, in the lives of others, in the church, and in the world around you, and be worshiping God, and thanking Him for who He is and what He has done and is doing. A person who does not think about God's works, and then thank Him for His works, but instead, forgets God's works will not worship God, but instead will be unbelieving, bitter, discouraged, and sin against God. Psalm 145:4-7

Psalm 106:1-2. This is similar to Ps. 105, but there's a lot more here about the sin of the Israelites. Vss 13-22. And so we see all this sin, and we also see the continued mercy and patience of God towards them. But we also see that He punished them. Then they go into this wonderful Promised Land, but there they continue to sin against God, and He punishes them again, and then exiles them to other countries. Vs. 41-42

Psalm 106:40-47. We read how God judged His people, but we're also reminded of His promise and character, and how there was prayer. Jer. and Daniel. And we don't read the answer here, but we know that God keeps His word and answers their prayer, and that He will deliver them. Now the conclusion is vs 48. The Lord is to be blessed, to be praised. And let me say it again – that for your own life, you need to take the time and be thinking over the days, months and years of your life. And when you do this, you will be encouraged, and you will praise the Lord.

Psalm 145. This Psalm is a classic and famous praise Psalm. It is written by David, and it's his testimony, for as we read this, we can see that he is writing from experience.

- Vss. 1-2. The most important thing in life is to be praising the Lord and here we see that David is committed to praising the Lord every day of his life and forever and ever. And each of us should have the same mindset.

- Vss. 3-7. David tells us that God does these mighty and awesome acts, these wonderful works, and these are the general reasons why we should praise the Lord. (Ps. 150:2) Now God's works and acts show us His character, what He is like, and specifically, that He is powerful, good, righteous, awesome, glorious, and wonderful.

But what else do we learn from this?

1. We see David meditating on God's works. As Christians we should meditate on God's word, we should think about His word, but we should also meditate, we should also think about His works, His actions. Psalm 119:23, 27
2. We see that David tells others about the greatness and goodness of God. David was not just praising God, but was proclaiming to others who God is and what He was doing.
3. Other people are proclaiming the greatness and goodness of God too. And they are eagerly and excitedly doing this - they are shouting joyfully about what God is doing.

Verses 8-13. God's work is based on His character, for here we read that God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, loving, good and merciful. That is, God does what He does because of who He is. He is good and so He does good things - and He is good to every person. Again we see that God's people are to be speaking to others, to be telling others the mighty, powerful and wonderful things He is doing, and about the glory of His kingdom.

But we are also to be thankful, to be thankful for who God, and for what He is doing. And being thankful is a key to praising God, and a key to proclaiming the mighty acts of God. (Ps. 100:4-5). And all that we are talking about relates to God's kingdom, a kingdom that is glorious, majestic, and eternal, and during this church age is spiritual in nature. And we need to see this big picture, that God has a kingdom, and that He is building His kingdom, and we also need to do our part in building the kingdom of God with Jesus. Matt. 6:33, 16:18-19; Matt. 6:9-10, 13

Vss 14-20. Now David gives specific reasons why we should praise God, and I'm sure he had experienced all these things in his own personal life. What then does God do for us?

- God sustains those who fall, who are discouraged or downcast, or who sin.
 - He raises up those who are bowed down, who are broken, who are humble.
 - He gives food to people, and He gives it to them at the right time, when they need it.
 - He satisfies the desires of every living thing, of every person, and of every animal too.
 - He is righteous, He is holy and just in everything He does, in all His dealings with people.
 - He shows His kindness in everything He does – He is kind to every person in the world.
 - He is near, He's close, He's intimate with those who seek Him, who call out to Him in truth.
 - He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him, of those who honor and respect Him.
 - He hears our cries, He hears our prayers, and saves us from physical and spiritual problems.
 - He keeps, He sustains, He protects all who love Him, all the believers, all the Christians.
 - He destroys the wicked, He punishes them; He casts the unrighteous unbelievers into hell.
- There are ten things listed here that God does for the righteous. And what is the conclusion? We are to praise the Lord, we are to bless the Lord forever and ever.

Well, I hope you see the importance of praising God, the reasons for praising Him, and that you then are committed to praising Him today, tomorrow and forever.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13, Hebrews 13:20-21, Jude 24-25