

PRAISE

The Hebrews writer challenged his readers to go outside the camp, the world, and be with Christ because they were to seek heaven (Hebrews 13:12-14). He then charged them to praise God, saying, “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15). “Praise” literally means, “a thank-offering” (Online Bible Greek Lexicon, #133). It originates from a Greek word meaning, “to praise, extol, to sing praises in honor to God” (#134). In the Old Testament, a thank-offering, was a free-will offering given to God to thank Him for some blessing bestowed upon the giver (2 Chronicles 29:31; 33:16). The picture in Hebrews 13:15 is that of children of God offering praise to God, the reason for doing so being the giving of the blood of Christ in order to sanctify the people (verse 12). We should never be negligent to praise God because of this tremendous gift.

Over 200 times the word “praise” is found in the Bible. The Psalms use this word more than any other book. This is fitting because the Hebrew title for this book means, “praises.” Throughout this magnificent collection of inspired psalms, the joy of praising God is extolled. Early on in this collection we read, “I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness...” (7:17). Later the sweet psalmist would write, “...his praise shall continually be in my mouth” (34:1). Notice his reason for praise: “Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee” (63:3). The final words of this grand book are, “Praise ye the Lord” (150:6).

As we think about the blessing it is to have the ability to praise God as His children, we should think of the words of Peter: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should

shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9). We would do well to ask the question, “Why is God to be praised?”

There are numerous reasons for praising God. The fact that God created man in His own image should cause us to praise Him (Genesis 1:26- 27). The fact that God loves us enough to have sent His only begotten Son into the world should cause us to praise Him (John 3:16). The fact that God gives us all spiritual blessings in Christ should bring praise to His name (Ephesians 1:3). The fact is, it is our duty and privilege to praise the heavenly Father.

Another question that must be asked is, “How can I praise God?” One way to offer praise to God is through song. James wrote, “Is any merry? Let him sing psalms” (James 5:13). “Psalms” means, “to celebrate the praises of God in song” (#5567). One version translates it as, “Let him sing praises.” Throughout the Old and New Testaments singing and praising God go hand in hand. In our worship, we sing songs of praise to God (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16 - “psalms” has as its root word the word for “psalms” in James 5:13). Another way that we offer praise to God is through our prayers. Jesus told His listeners that, when praying, a right way to begin a prayer is, “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name” (Matthew 6:9). The word “hallowed” means, “to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God” (#37). Its root word is a Greek word that means, “most holy thing” (#40). Surely we can see that this indicates praise to God for His holiness and greatness. Jesus taught His followers to praise God in prayer and did so Himself (Matthew 11:25-26). Most of the prayers that are recorded in God’s Word include praise for the greatness of God, the protection of God, or some other blessing bestowed by God upon the one offering the prayer.

We also praise God by being obedient to His will. Paul wrote, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). If sin fails to glorify God, and it does, then obedience must glorify God. When we bring glory to God that is bringing praise to His holy name. Just calling His name does not mean that He is being praised. “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Those about whom Jesus then speaks did great things. They prophesied, healed and did great works. They were lost because they were not obedient to the entire will of God. When we are what we should be we bring glory to God. Earlier in this sermon Jesus stated, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). One version of the Bible renders that last phrase, “...and praise your Father in heaven.” When we are obedient, we praise God, and cause others to praise Him as well.

In order to truly praise God, one must be a member of the church of which we read in the New Testament. Paul stated, “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus...” (Ephesians 3:21). The word for “glory” here is translated “praise” in other passages. In order to properly praise God, we must be obedient to His will by being placed in Christ Jesus by baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). Christians praise God through song, prayer and an obedient life. Let each of us examine our lives in order to make sure that we are properly praising our great and glorious God who truly is, as the great hymn says, “worthy of praise.”

Ben Wright from Vigil

ILL

Sunday: Janice Carter; Debra Gragg (PM); Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was away on business last week. The Nemechek family visited family in Abilene, KS last week. Debra Gragg and her family visited relatives in Augusta, KS over the Thanksgiving holiday. Clara Scott has been spending time with the family of her sister.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, December 6, following our AM worship. All are welcome to come and enjoy the good food and company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, December 13, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY SEMINAR

There will be a Saturday Seminar at the 39th Street congregation on December 19. The theme is "*What If...*" with lessons at 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, and 11:30 AM. See the flyer on the bulletin board for titles and speakers.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 31; Wednesday PM, 30.

Those To Serve

December 6, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (1)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Joel Nelson
PRESIDE..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Trent Thrasher
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jared Nelson

WEDNESDAY Dec. 9th

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher
INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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