

*From Pastor's Desk...*

## **Our Priority: Live a Life of Praise**

Praise is a theme that pervades the whole of scripture. Words that are often used as synonyms or in parallel with praise are 'bless', 'exalt', 'extol', 'glorify', 'magnify', 'thank', and 'confess'. To praise God is to call attention to His glory. Unquestionably the book of psalms is a centerpiece for any concern about praise. In it the believer's vocation to praise is wonderfully modeled, so that even laments (one- third of all psalms) contain elements of praise.

The Psalms as a book of praises build to a remarkable crescendo of praise (Ps. 145-150), in which creatures are summoned to incessant praise of God, as are the stars and planets in the heavens, and even the angels. We have seen and heard many choirs but never one like Ps. 148. The highest heavens and the water laden clouds are singing "Glory to God in the highest..." All are honoring God as their creator. It is He who gave permanence and stability to His creation, and who built into it certain laws and principles which are unvarying.

Praise is a matter of obedience to our God. It stems from deliberately focusing on Him. It is the result of being willfully God-centered in our thinking. Praise is a natural and necessary response. The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The Believer's commentary on Ps. 150 raises four key questions and answers on the subject of praise: Where, What, How, and Who?

Where? Praise Him in His sanctuary and in His mighty firmament, which is another way of saying everywhere- on earth and in heaven.

What? For His mighty acts and according to His excellent greatness. It means for what He has done for us and for who He is.

How? With an orchestra of every kind of instrument. Capture every note and chord in the world of music to honor the King of Kings.

Who? Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Here is the basic qualification for praise. How much more are we blessed in the redemption and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which helps join in the choir for a burst of praise to God, Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry

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## **The Reason for Praise**

Jeremiah Johnson

We sing praises to God every Sunday but why do we praise him? Is it because we have grown accustomed to going to church every Sunday, or does someone tell you to sing and praise God on Sundays? If so, we have to understand why we praise God.

Praise is not just about singing a song or two on Sunday or just going to church. Praise is showing how much we love God. He has thousands of angels who praise him every day. Praising God should be done by us willingly to show how much we love our God. This time on earth is like a dress rehearsal before we go to heaven because when we go to heaven, we will be praising and worshiping God on a daily basis. If you can't even do it on earth, how do you expect to sing praises to him in heaven?

It says in Psalm 150:6, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.", because God is holy and deserves the praise and honor. He has done so much for all of us including sending his son to die for our sins. The only thing we can do to show our gratitude and love for God is through our praise.

Take time to praise God every day and one day when we are in heaven, I hope we will be praising god together again.

## **Let Everything that has Breath Praise the Lord**

Finney Jacob

Praise the Lord for His breath gave life to us  
Sun, moon, and stars praise him by shining bright  
Winds blow by whispering His name  
For the sea and everything in it shouts His praise  
All offering praises to its creator

Praise the Lord for His breath gave life to us  
With fields and their crops bursting out in joy  
How pleasant to hear birds chirping in the trees  
As trees of the forest rustle him with praise  
All offering praises to its creator

Praise the Lord for His breath gave life to us  
For the Kings of the earth and all people, praise His name  
All offering praises to its creator  
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.