

Praise & Worship Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, September 10, 2023

COMMUNION

- 1) The Wafer Symbolizes the BODY of Christ – Broken for Us
- 2) The Juice Symbolizes the BLOOD of Christ – Shed for Us All

QUOTE – “Nowhere is God so near to man as in Jesus Christ; and nowhere is Christ so familiarly represented to us, as in this holy [ordinance].” –J. I. Packer

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

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INTRODUCTION

KEY – Today I want to introduce a series which serves as the natural outflow of our study through the psalms. If the Psalter emphasizes one critical arena of life and living, it is the praise and worship of a God most worthy. Therefore, I want to spend several weeks addressing the interconnected topics of biblical praise and worship. Please allow me the opportunity to present the following broad strokes on a rather broad and significant topic:

RE: PRAISE & WORSHIP PT. 1 (PRAISE)

KEY – We do well to recognize that praise and worship, though interrelated, speak to very differing activities. Accordingly, understanding the distinctions between praise and worship can add depth to your sp. expression!

NOTE 1 – Let us begin with the theme and/or topic of praise. Scripture offers numerous calls to praise the Lord.

NOTE 2 – Thus said, let us take the time to explore a number of questions related to the topic of sacred praise:

Q1. WHO is called to the activity of praise?

A1. The angelic hosts called to praise the Lord:

Psalm 103:20 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

20 Praise the Lord, you his **angels**,
 you mighty ones who do his bidding,
 who obey his word.

Psalm 148:2 (Emphasis Mine)

2 Praise him, all his **angels**;
 praise him, all his **heavenly hosts**.

A2. The heavenly bodies are called to praise the Lord:

Psalm 148:1, 3–6 (Emphasis Mine)

1 Praise the Lord. [lit. Hallelujah]
 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights above.
 3 Praise him, **sun** and **moon**;
 praise him, all you **shining stars**.
 4 Praise him, you highest heavens
 and you waters above the skies.
 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for at his command they were created,
 6 and he established them for ever and ever—
 he issued a decree that will never pass away.

A3. The varying inhabitants of the earth are to praise the Lord (i.e., including you and me):

Psalm 148:7–13 (Emphasis Mine)

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you great **sea creatures** and all **ocean depths**,
 8 **lightning** and **hail, snow** and **clouds**,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
 9 you **mountains** and all **hills**,
fruit trees and all **cedars**,
 10 **wild animals** and all **cattle**,
small creatures and **flying birds**,
 11 **kings** of the earth and **all nations**,
 you **princes** and all **rulers** on earth,
 12 **young men** and **women**,
old men and **children**.
 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Psalm 150:6a (Emphasis Mine)

6 Let **everything that has breath** praise the Lord.

Q2. HOW are we to praise the Lord?

A1. We may praise the Lord with shouting:

Psalm 98:4 (Emphasis Mine)

4 **Shout** for joy to the Lord, all the earth . . .

Psalm 100:1–3 (Emphasis Mine)

1 **Shout** for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
 come before him with joyful songs.
 3 Know that the Lord is God.
 It is he who made us, and we are his;
 we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

A2. We may praise the Lord with singing:

Psalm 13:6 (Emphasis Mine)

6 I will **sing** the Lord's praise,
 for he has been good to me.

Psalm 33:1a, 3 (Emphasis Mine)

1 **Sing** joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
 3 Sing to him a new **song**;
 play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Psalm 59:16–17 (Emphasis Mine)

16 . . . I will **sing** of your strength,
 in the morning I will **sing** of your love;
 for you are my fortress,
 my refuge in times of trouble.

17 You are my strength, I **sing** praise to you;
 you, God, are my fortress,
 my God on whom I can rely.

Psalm 95:1–2 (Emphasis Mine)

1 Come, let us **sing** for joy to the Lord;
 let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
 and extol him with music and **song**.

Psalm 96:1–3 (Emphasis Mine)

1 **Sing** to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 **Sing** to the Lord, praise his name;
 proclaim his salvation day after day.

Psalm 104:33 (Emphasis Mine)

33 I will **sing** to the Lord all my life;
 I will **sing** praise to my God as long as I live.

A3. We may praise God with instrumentation:

Psalm 33:1–3 (Emphasis Mine)

1 Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
 it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

2 Praise the Lord **with the harp**;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

3 Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Psalm 150:3–5 (Emphasis Mine)

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**.

A4. We may praise the Lord with dancing:

Psalm 150:3–5 (Emphasis Mine)

- 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.

Psalm 149:1–4 (Emphasis Mine)

- 1 Praise the Lord.
 Sing to the Lord a new song,
 his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
 let the people of Zion be glad in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his name with **dancing**
 and make music to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the Lord takes delight in his people;
 he crowns the humble with victory.

A5. We may praise God with the lifting of hands:

Psalm 63:1–4 (Emphasis Mine)

- 1 You, God, are my God,
 earnestly I seek you;
 I thirst for you,
 my whole being longs for you,
 in a dry and parched land
 where there is no water.
- 2 I have seen you in the sanctuary
 and beheld your power and your glory.
- 3 Because your love is better than life,
 my lips will glorify you.
- 4 I will praise you as long as I live,
 and in your name I will **lift up my hands**.

ULTIMATELY...

Q3. WHAT is praise?

A. Praise is the joyful recounting of all that God has done for us; the celebration of His workings in the earth. As one author posits, praise is “the truthful acknowledgement of the righteous acts” and activities of the Lord!

Q4. What ACTIVITIES of God are we to celebrate?

A. Let us consider the following psalm which offers some reply:

Psalm 100 (Of David)

- 1 Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- 2 Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- 5 who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- 9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
- 14 for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
- 15 The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
- 17 But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
- 18 with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
- 19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
- 20 Praise the Lord, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
- 21 Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
- 22 Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

RE: PRAISE & WORSHIP PT. 2 (WORSHIP)

NOTE 1 – Worship, however, has a very different emphasis. Whereas praise centers upon what God has done, worship centers upon who and what He is. Its priority is not the work of the Lord, but the Lord of the work. Worship is the rightful expression of one who has come to recognize the wonder of His holy nature–character!

QUOTE 1 – “What is worship? Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Are in Heaven.” –A. W. Tozer

QUOTE 2 - “To worship God is to recognize his worth or worthiness; to look God-ward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the value of what we see. The Bible calls this activity ‘glorifying God’ or ‘giving glory to God,’ and views it as the ultimate end, and from one point of view, the whole duty of man (Ps. 29:2; 96:6; 1 Cor. 10:31).” –J. I. Packer

Q. What aspect(s) of His being should move us to worship?

NOTE 2 – Worship is also the “art of losing oneself” in the Lord. I think this musing of one author is insightful: “Praise may be easy; worship is not. To truly worship God, we must let go of our self-worship. We must be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is, not just what He has done. Worship is [therefore] a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity.”

NOTE 3 –It is through worship that we invite God to speak to us, convict us, comfort us and change us! Through worship, we realign our prioritizes with those of the Lord and acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives. Just as praise is connected with thanksgiving, worship is associated with surrender.

NOTE 4 – Delving deeper, Scripture usually presents praise as something boisterous, joyful and uninhibited. When the Bible mentions worship, however, the tone shifts. Worship is often associated with the acts of bowing or kneeling, which serve as expressions of humility and/or contrition (cf. 2 Chron. 29:28 and Rev. 19:10). For instance:

Psalm 95:6–7 (Emphasis Mine)

6 Come, let us **bow down in worship**,
 let us **kneel before** the Lord our Maker;
 7 for he is our God
 and we are the people of his pasture,
 the flock under his care.

2 Chronicles 7:1–3 (Emphasis Mine) [Dedication of the Temple by Solomon]

1 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. 3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they **knelt** on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they **worshipped** and gave thanks to the Lord, saying,

“He is good;
 his love endures forever.”

TRANSITIONS TO CLOSE

FYI 1 – There are many ways for me to elaborate upon the interrelated themes of biblical praise and worship. Thus said, we shall progress in a rather unique way. Next Sunday I want to expand upon these topics by examining the Hebrew and Greek terms for praise and worship. Since Scripture was originally penned by those who communicated in Hebrew and Greek, what did praise and worship mean to them? This is a worthy query.

FYI 2 – We can learn much about these topics and the impact they should have on our lives through such a study.

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – Feel free to give either in person or online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 2 – Check out our website for any of our beyond Sunday ministries (MM, WM & C.Y.C.).

NOTE 3 – Of particular note: **a)** Men’s Ministry; **b)** CYC; **c)** WM; **d)** Church Picnic; and **e)** Family Fun Day.