PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GLORY

Text: Eph. 1:3-14
Intro. The psalmist often said, "Praise the Lord." It was a statement and an admonition. The redeemed are to be God's glory and praise. We are to reflect what the Saviour can do for fallen man. How we need to praise the Lord. Our speech should let others know how we feel about our precious Saviour and King. We should love to praise the Lord.

I. A REDEEMER THAT SAVES.
   A. Jesus saves from the penalty of sin.
      1. We will die physically because we are sinful. Rom. 5:12; 3:23
      2. We are dead spiritually because we are sinners. Eph. 2:1-3
      3. Spiritual death is complete separation from God. Read Rev. 20:11-15
   B. Jesus saves from the power of sin.
      1. As a saved people, sin doesn't have to dominate us any longer. Rom. 6:14
      2. Sin doesn't have to reign or rule in our lives. Rom. 6:12
      3. We are no longer children of darkness, but we are children of light. I Thess. 5:5
   C. Jesus saves from the very presence of sin.
      1. Lot was troubled in his righteous soul because of sin around him. II Pet. 2:7
      3. We are given a promise in Rev. 21:27. Sin shall not enter in heaven.
   D. Jesus saves from the purpose of sin.
      1. The devil wants to blind the lost. II Cor. 4:4 He wants them forever lost.
      2. The devil wants to destroy the christian's influence. II Tim. 4:10
      3. The devil wants to divide the people of God and stop the work

Charles Swilling

of God.

4. Jesus has set us free. John 8:32

A REDEMPTION THAT SEPARATES.

A. Separates from sinners.
   1. When you repented of your sins, God separated you from those who haven't repented.
   2. There are two kinds of sinners, saved sinners and lost sinners.
   3. Jesus is the crossover from being lost to getting saved. We are no longer numbered with the lost.

B. Separates for service.
   1. Some turned from idols to serve the living God. I Thess. 1:9
   2. In redemption the Lord instills a new nature that loves God, Christ, christians, and spiritual things. Rom. 5:5

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3. True lasting joy comes from being obedient to the Lord in service.

C. Separates from sin.
1. We are not saved to continue in sin. We are saved to live according to the Lord's law.
2. Sin divides, destroys, damages, discourages, and depresses.
3. Jesus saved us from all of this. V.

D. Separates from satan.
1. We are no longer children of the devil. John 8:44
2. We are no longer his people.
3. We were delivered from him and what he wants to do to us.

III. A RELATIONSHIP THAT IS SECURE.

A. Secure because of pardon.
1. The redeemed have their sins forgiven. V7
2. We have settled our debt with the Lord. Isa. 1:18
3. We have made our peace with God. Rom. 5:1

B. Secure because of position.
1. We are born again. We are born into the family of God. I Pet. 1:3,4
2. We are the children of God by faith. Gal. 3:26
3. We are His children entitled to be heirs. Rom. 8:16-18

C. Secure because of promise.
1. The LORD PROMISED US ETERNAL LIFE, if we would repent and believe. Luke 13:3; John 3:36
2. The relationship in Christ is eternal because of His promise and power.
3. We are kept by His power. I Pet. VI. 1:5

IV. A RESERVATION THAT IS SANCTIFIED.
(set aside)

A. The decision.
1. Each person decides to receive or reject Jesus. Rom. 10:13
2. No force is applied. God's word is preached, the Spirit convicts the person decides.
3. The devil influences and God influences, but you decide.

B. The date.
1. When you repented and believed, God recorded your decision.
2. Most of us may remember the day, week, year, place, who preached, etc., even when we forget God remembers.
3. Our birth certificates have the date of birth. A record was made.

C. The date.
1. The birth information was not recorded by man for God. No com-

puter involved.

2. God has the data. He recorded your name in the Lamb's book of life.

3. The book contains the names of the redeemed of all ages. We have an inheritance awaiting us.
I Pet. 1:3-5

A RESURRECTION THAT IS SPECIAL.

A. The future.
1. We will not live forever in this body of clay. Rom. 5:12
2. Death is not the end. It is just the beginning. II Cor. 5:8
3. Death carries us home to the Lord.

B. The first.
1. Every person will be resurrected. The saved and lost alike will be raised. John 5:28,29
2. The saved will be raised first. Rev. 20 We will rule with the Lord 1,000 years.
3. Then time will be no longer.

C. The fulness.
1. The adoption of children. V5
2. Be holy and without blame before him. V4 We will be unblameable and unreprovable. Col. 1:22
3. We will be the finished product of the Redeemer's work.
4. The resurrection day is ahead. The grave will give up it's fruit. The body and spirit will be re-united.
5. Death is just the beginning of our eternal praise and service to our wonderful Lord.

A REJOICING THAT IS SUPREME.

A. Rejoice in the Lord. Phil. 4:4
B. Rejoice in His love. I John 3:1,2
C. Rejoice in His light. I Thess 5:5
D. Rejoice in His lifting. Hebs. 13:5,6
E. Rejoice in His life. John 10:10

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SOUND OUT THE WORD
THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION

J. A. Kirkland

Text: II Cor. 5:19
Intro. The whole book of God is a message of God's love and care for the lost man. It tells us of man's fall and there the story of His loving care begins. It tells of the terrible fate of them who spurn His loving care. God is not to be mocked or trifled with.

I. THE FIRST GREAT TRUTH OF OUR TEXT.
A. God is in His Son reconciling the world unto Himself.
B. What is reconciliation? It means to bring together in peace, unity, or fellowship.
C. Thus it recognizes the fact of man’s estrangement from God.
   1. We were foreigners and strangers without hope.
   2. But now made nigh by the blood of His cross.

II. EVERYTHING NECESSARY WAS DONE TO ACCOMPLISH RECONCILIATION.
A. Sin was atoned for.
B. God was satisfied. When I shall see the travail of His soul, I shall be satisfied. Isa. 53:11

III. THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.
A. It is the word or message of peace.
B. It is the gospel of blood redemption.
C. It is the invitation of salvation by Christ.

Con. "Oh be ye reconciled to God." Two neighbors had fallen out. They were bitter and had sworn vengeance on each other. Another had tried to make peace for he loved them both, but he could not avail. One day they met in town and on sight drew their guns and fired. The man who had sought to make peace ran between them hoping to stop them, but it was too late. Both fired and the man who ran between caught both bullets. Over his dead body they were reconciled.

FOUR TEEN-AGERS IN TROUBLE

R. H. Ledford

Text: Daniel 1
Intro.
A. Three different times of difficulty are seen in the lives of these Hebrews.
   1. Their testing upon arriving in Babylon.
   2. The fiery furnace in chapter 3.
   3. The lions den in chapter 6.

B. In each experience Daniel and his friends won the victory.
C. These teenagers were faithful to God while they were young and God was faithful to them in the years that followed.

I. A DIFFICULT TRIAL.
A. They were taken from their homes to a foreign land.
B. These teenagers were suffering because of the sins of their parents.
C. These three youngsters were godly examples. They were devoted to the Lord.
D. The king wanted to force them to conform to the ways of Babylon.

E. Being a godly teenager isn't easy, but "They can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens them."

II. THE CHANGES THAT WERE MADE IN THEIR LIVES.
A. "A NEW HOME." No longer had their parents to lean on.
B. "A NEW KNOWLEDGE." They would be forced to learn the wisdom of the world. Paul said that "The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God."
C. "NEW DIETS." They were supposed to eat the king's diet.
   1. The diet was contrary to the dietary laws of the Jews.
   2. The word of God should be our daily diet.
D. "NEW NAMES." The world does not recognize the name of God. The king wanted to make these teenagers forget their God and become like the heathen.

Con. What and whom are you becoming more like? Are you becoming more like Christ? Do your friends see evidence in your life that you have been to Jesus?
LOSING TO WIN
Joe Stevens

Text: Luke 17:33
Intro. From our youth we are programmed to win. To be a loser is almost shameful. However, there are a few times in life when it is more desirable to lose.

In our text, Jesus spoke one of the great paradoxes of the Bible. (A paradox is a statement contrary to common belief, but that may actually be true in fact.) He was speaking of conditions in the last days. "When the Son of man is revealed." He was warning against seeking to gain and loving the things of the world to the point of losing one’s own soul. For an example He used Lot’s wife. She lost her life trying to save her old life. To the dismay of multitudes, they are going to find that their gain is going to be loss to them.

I. SOME THINGS WE MUST loose TO WIN.

A. Pride.
1. This is not the kind of pride that causes one to desire to be a respectable person.
2. It is selfish, sinful pride that stands between one and God. Lack of humility. "Except ye repent..." Destructive pride. Prov. 16:18 "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." James 4:6
3. One must come humbly to the throne of God to find grace and pardon.

B. Plans.
1. Our plans may not correspond with His plans for our lives. You may plan to be a Sender - goer -- teacher -- learner -- listener-speaker -- sayer -- doer.
2. Our will and plans must be surrendered for God’s will and plan if we are going to be a winner in life and death. Jesus is our example.

C. Popularity.
1. One cannot be popular with the world and with God at the same time. Matt. 6:24
2. Some friends must be lost. James 4:4
3. Praise of man. The Chief Rulers were losers. John 12:42,43

D. Personal preference.
1. Paul’s personal preference was to depart life.
2. Winning in the christian life calls for surrender of person-al preference.

II. SOME THINGS WE WIN BY LOSING.

A. Power of God.
1. For salvation. - By humble repentance.
2. For service. "All power is given me..."

B. Peace of God.
1. Peace with God. A rebel against God cannot have peace. Rom.5:1

C. Praise of God.
1. It will be better to have the praise of God and hear him say "well done" than to have the praise of all men.

D. Promises of God.
1. Eternal life.
3. Home in heaven.

Con. A time will come when all who have devoted all their time and energy into saving their life with things of this world, with no regard for the Lord, will lose all.

Many saved people are going to be losers also because they were more interested in the things of this material world.

LIKE A FATHER DEALS WITH HIS CHILDREN
James Kirkland

Text: I Thess. 2:7-12
Intro. Paul uses two metaphors here to describe his ministry to the people of Thessalonica: "nurse", actually "nursing mother," suckling and caring for her baby; and "father."

There is guidance here for me both as a pastor and a father. My pastoral care is to be a fatherly care, but I am instructed also in the kind of father I am to be.

How does a father deal with his children? Several ways mentioned here.

I. HE IS A MODEL IN CONDUCT. V10

A. Paul’s conduct: "holy, righteous, blameless."

B. We choose what conduct we will model.

II. HE DEALS WITH EACH OF THEM INDIVIDUAL-LY. V 10 "...each of you...."

A. No two children are alike, not even "identical" twins.

B. Each child needs us.
1. No favoritism.
2. None overlooked or neglected.
III. HE ENCOURAGES THEM. "exhorts."

A. There is a lot to discourage children.
   1. Parents' own handling of them.
   2. Peer pressure on them.

B. Encourage them:
   1. By letting them know that you love them just as they are.
      Unconditionally. They don't have to earn your love.
   2. By helping them understand themselves; discover and appreciate their own gifts and develop them.

IV. HE COMFORTS THEM.

A. There is a lot to worry and grieve children.
   1. A death in the family, or loss of close friend, perhaps even a pet.
   2. Anxiety from stresses in the world; conflict at school; adolescence is the most confusing time in life; grades; getting into college of choice.
   3. Circumstances and situations they did not create and do not understand; divorce.
   4. Fear of war, disaster. Children are often more alert and far more sensitive about such things than we are aware of.

B. Give them a lot of understanding.
   1. Be patient with their anxieties.
   2. Try to answer their questions sensibly and from the word of God.

V. HE URGES THEM. Will "charged"

A. Urging -- what is it? A gentle push; not hounding, nagging, berating, criticizing.

B. Urging -- to do what? Fulfill dad's expectations? or to be the best they can be within the limits of their abilities?

C. Urging includes discipline: teaching, counseling, and correcting.

D. Most urgent urging is "to walk worthy of God who called us..."

Con. Think about the choices you have recently made about how you are living. Ask, "Do I want my child to live...?"

Take a look at how you are dealing with your children. Attitude? Fairness? Encouraging or embittering? Comforting or making them more anxious by pressure? Leading them to what God wants?

Seek God's forgiveness for your sins, His help to overcome your failures, His strength to conquer your weaknesses.

Trust in Christ as your own Saviour and Lord; commit your life to Him; make Him Lord of your life and home.

HAVING WE LOST INTEREST IN....

By D. B. Wright

Text: Lam. 1:12
Intro.

A. You will be reminded that this is the man who WANTED TO QUIT preaching because the Word of the Lord made him enemies. Jer. 20:8

B. I do not mean this message to be JUDGMENTAL or a PUT DOWN...yea, I pray God's Spirit will use it to CHALLENGE, PROVOKE, ADMONISH all who name the name of Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Hebs. 3:13;10:24; Col. 3:16

C. MY QUESTION FOR US TODAY: Are we living the fulfillment of the Laodicean Church age? Rev.3:15,16

D. Could Apostle Paul write and ask of us, "WHERE IS THEN THE BLESSING YE SPAKE OF?"

E. Have we lost interest in things that really matter??

I. HAVE WE LOST INTEREST IN THE EFFORTS OF SATAN?

A. He seeks to devour the CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE OF EVERY BELIEVER. I Pet. 5:8

B. He wants to SIFT US AS WHEAT. Luke 22:31

C. He wants to fill and dominate our hearts as he did with Ananias and his wife Sapphira. Acts 5:3

D. Satan would have us USE OUR Christian liberty for an occasion to sin... and wound the conscience of others. Rom. 6:1; Gal. 5:13; I Cor. 8:9; II Sam. 12:10-14

E. Satan's ultimate aim is to blind hearts to the light of heaven as revealed in Christ. II Cor. 4:4

II: HAVE WE LOST INTEREST IN THE EFFECTS OF SIN??

A. Gal. 6:7
B. I Cor. 15:33
C. I Cor. 5:6
D. Sin's pleasures are short lived! Hebs. 11:25
E. Then comes the FINISHED PRODUCT. James 1:15; Rom. 6:23
THE WAY
TO BLESSEDNESS

Glen Tropp

Text: Psalms 1:1-3

Introduction:
A. Broadly speaking, the text presents some very valuable admonitions.
1. Don't concur with the advice of this ungodly world — secular humanism.
   a. Most people today are more concerned in impressing the world and others than they are in having the approval of God.
2. Don't stand in the way of a sinner.
   a. This deals with lifestyle.
   b. This embraces being a stumbling block to others.
3. Don't look with scorn on the principles of God or the people of God.
4. Delight yourself in the Word.
5. Prayerfully meditate upon the Word.

B. Specifically — 3 things we are to do if we desire blessedness in the light of the afore mentioned admonitions.
1. Be submissive to the Lord.
2. Be sensitive to the Spirit.
3. Be settled on some goals.

BE SUBMISSIVE TO THE LORD!

A. The TRUTH that needs to be ASCERTAINED.
1. A mere reading of the Word is not going to help you.

B. The TRUST that needs to be APPROPRIATED.
1. Recognize Him as LORD — You and I are the servants.
2. Respond to Him as LORD:
   a. We are to listen to Him and do what He says.
   b. His Word to us is the Bible.
   Josh. 5:13-15
C. The teaching that needs to be
accepted. Whatever the Lord tells
you to do - do it - and you will
be blessed.
1. Illus - The erroneous idea and
the enlightened perception of
this reality that I learned
in the matter of soul winning.
2. I used to be filled with unhappiness when I would witness
and folks wouldn't respond.
Then, I was enlightened to the
fact that my Lord didn't demand
results from me but rather
obedience.

II. Be Sensitive to the Spirit.
A. The Warning. 1 John 4:1
1. Try the spirits.
2. This is done with the Word. The
Holy Spirit will never contra-
dict the Word of God. He'll
never lead you to do anything
that is contrary to the Word.
B. The working of the Spirit.
1. Enlightens and guides - according
to the Word and through others.
2. Exhorts through conviction.
3. Empowers.
C. The willingness of the saint.
1. Don't resist Him. Acts 7:51 "YE
STIFFNECKED AND UNCIRCUMCISED IN
HEART AND EARS, YE DO ALWAYS RE-
SIST THE HOLY GHOST: AS YOUR
FATHERS DID, SO DO YE."
2. Don't quench Him. 1 Thess. 5:19
"QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT."
3. Don't grieve Him. Eph. 4:30-32
"AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT
OF GOD, WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO
THE DAY OF REDEMPTION. LET ALL
BITTERNESS, AND WRATH, AND ANGER,
AND CLAMOUR, AND EVIL SPEAKING, BE
PUT AWAY FROM YOU, WITH ALL MAL-
ICE: AND BE YE KIND ONE TO AN-
OTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING
ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD FOR
CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU."

III. Be Settled on Some Goals.
A. View our behaviour in the material,
academic, professional and busi-
ness realm.
B. View these scriptures. Prov. 29:18;
Phil. 3:10-19
C. Visualize - In the future we're
going to look at some goals for
Christians.
1. Point out the goal.
2. Pursue the goal.

YOU CAN HELP US

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MAGNIFICENCE OF THE MASTER

Text: John 1:1-5

Wesley Waldrum

I. THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS. V1
A. Shown in a message.
B. Special to many.
C. Supplied to mankind. Luke 19:10

II. THE POWER OF JESUS. V2
A. Divine revelation.
B. Devastating reality.
C. Delivering reassurance. Exod.14:21

III. THE PROVIDENCE OF JESUS. V3,4
A. Life everlasting. John 3:16
B. Light energizing. John 8:12
C. Love effective. 1 John 4:7

IV. THE PEACE OF JESUS. V5
A. Certain to the saints. Eph.2:14
B. Cheers the sad.
C. Comforts the soul. Psa. 23:4

THE LAMB

Luther Crawford

Text: Gen. 22:7; John 1:29
Intro. Jesus is presented and pictured
to us by many names and titles. These
names and titles depict His character, His
attributes, His nature, both spiritual and
physical. His responsibilities as Son of
God and Son of man.
I am going to speak to you today on
the subject "The Lamb." I want you to
see Christ as the LAMB. I desire to point
out the WORTHINESS, THE WILLINGNESS, THE
WILL, AND THE WRATH of the Lamb. There
are some other vital and interesting
things about the Lamb that could and
should be said, such as the War of the
Lamb and the Wedding of the Lamb, if
time permits.

I. THE WORTHINESS OF THE LAMB.
A. Worthy to receive the 7 sealed book. V7 He deserved to do so. No one else could, no one else deserved to do so.
B. Worthy to receive POWER. He deserved this power.
   1. This is the kind of power involved in creation. Hebs. 1:3
   2. The kind of power in salvation. Rom. 1:16
   3. The kind of power in security. I Pet. 1:5
C. Worthy to receive riches. II Cor. 8,9 speak of His riches. Paul speaks of the riches of His grace. Supplies all our need according to His riches.
D. Worthy to receive Wisdom, glory, strength, honor, blessing. All of these the lamb was worthy to receive. He deserved to receive them.

II. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE LAMB.
A. Willing to stand as a lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:4
B. Willing to descend to earth through the seed of Abraham. Hebs. 2:14-16
   1. Willing to be born of a woman.
   2. Willing to be a babe.
C. Willing to be tempted (tested).
D. Willing to be ridiculed of men.
E. Willing to suffer and die the death of the cross.

III. THE WILL OF THE LAMB.
A. To do the Father's will. Not mine but thine.
B. His will is that sinners receive Him as the once and for all sacrificial lamb of God.
C. His will is that those who do receive Him will follow Him in all things.
D. That we love Him, the Father, the Bible, one another, and the Church.

IV. THE WRATH OF THE LAMB.
A. In the Bible the term wrath carries the meaning: Of something fierce, rage, raging, heat, fury, anger, trembling, trouble. To be or become angry. To anger beyond measure. Used in Eph. 6:4
B. Did you ever see an angry LAMB? Angry goat yes, angry bull, yes, angry lion yes, elephant, dog, yes.
C. But we just don't think of an angry LAMB. We think of a lamb as meek and gentle and tender.
D. But here it is, the Lamb's wrath.

Rev. 6:16
1. When the Lamb had opened the sixth seal of the seven sealed book.
2. A great earthquake occurred. The sun became black, the moon became as blood, the stars fell unto earth, the heaven departed as a scroll, every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Verses 15-17

E. In every age God has certainly manifested His LOVE to sinners, and His people, but He HAS ALSO because of sin, and unfaithfulness, poured out His WRATH, FURY, AND ANGER UPON THE WORLD.
F. Paul speaks of God's wrath being revealed from heaven. Rom. 1:18 Against the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
G. John speaks of God's wrath abiding upon the sinner, the unbeliever, "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."
H. Habakkuk knowing something of the wrath of God in his prayer for revival said, "In wrath remember mercy."
I. Again Paul gives hope, Rom. 5:9 "Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED

God wants us to make sure we are not deceived by the lies of the Devil. To insure this we need to protect ourselves by obeying the Word of God.

1. Put on the ARMOUR OF LIGHT. Rom. 13:12
2. Put on the LORD JESUS. Rom. 13:14
3. Put on the NEW MAN. Eph. 4:22-24
4. Put on the WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD. Eph. 6:10,11
5. Put on KINDNESS. Col. 3:12
6. Put on BOWELS OF MERCY. Col. 3:12
7. Put on HUMBLNESS OF MIND. Col. 3:12
8. Put on MEEKNESS. Col. 3:12
9. Put on LONGSUFFERING. Col. 3:12
10. Put on LOVE. Col. 3:14

These are the kind of changes we all need to be making.

Kenneth Click