

LEARNING TO PRAISE GOD

Psalms of Summer | A HEART FOR GOD

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Psalms | DEVELOPING A HEART FOR GOD

1. Finding Our Greatest Pleasure in God
2. The Power of Praise
3. Getting Real with God
4. Passion Leads to Action

This week we will see how enjoying life depends upon learning to praise God.

PSALM 150

In 6 short verses we are told 13 times to praise God! What are the Psalms trying to teach us?

LET ME ASK US 3 QUESTIONS TO GET GOING:

- Do you believe that every human being should learn to praise God?
- Do you believe that we- you and I- should praise God all of the time?
- Do you believe that you are currently praising God as you should be?

PRAISE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAISE GOD?

- A good definition of praise: The joyful thanking and adoring of God, the celebration of his goodness and grace (The NIV Bible).
- Praise is found within the larger context of a life of worship, but specifically describes the way we offer joyful gratitude for who God is and all he has done.

SHOULD EVERYONE PRAISE GOD?

Praise God in His sanctuary and his mighty heaven. **Notice that everything that breathes is commanded to praise the Lord as He deserves.**

- The Truth of God is obvious to everyone, through creation. But there are many people who suppress the truth of God. This is not right.

They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Romans 1:25
New Living Bible

WHAT IS SO WORTHY ABOUT GOD

Praise God for His mighty works and His unequalled greatness- who He is and what He's done.

- He is the strong and wise creator
- He is love and remains faithful to us
- He rules from heaven over all creation
- He forgives our sin and saves us from death
- He is good and He gives us good things

Praise him according to his excellent greatness, according to the multitude of his magnificence! Not that our praises can bear any proportion to God's greatness, for it is infinite, but, since he is greater than we can express or conceive, we must raise our expressions to the highest degree we can attain to. Be not afraid of saying too much in the praises of God!

Matthew Henry commentary on the whole Bible

DO WE PRAISE GOD AS WE SHOULD?

Let's recall what we learned earlier about praise:

Praise is found within the larger context of a life of worship, but specifically describes ***the way we offer joyful gratitude for who God is and all he has done.***

What we worship leads to what we serve, and what we serve leads to how we use our bodies.

- Romans 1 says if we worship what is created we become distorted and begin to act in ways that are unnatural with our bodies.
- Romans 12 says that if we worship God we are transformed into His image and our bodies become living sacrifices for His will.

"Our worship is either aimed at our ruin, or our worship is aimed at our restoration, but it is aimed in either case. We are becoming what we worship. Thus the process of sanctification is the gracious redirecting of our worship and affections away from worldliness and toward God's image in Jesus as we are conformed to that image (see 2 Corinthians 3:18)."

JOHN PIPER

*adapted from: Beale, Greg
We Become What We Worship*

WHY DO THE PSALMS WANT US TO PRAISE GOD?

1. Human Beings enjoy life when God is their God. Only He is worthy as God of your life.
2. Praising God will cause us to become more like Him as we are transformed.
3. Praising God lifts us above circumstances and replaces despair with Joy.

HALLELUJAH

"Hallelujah" is a compound word meaning Praise the Lord. 'Hallelu' is second person plural, meaning 'all of you praise.' 'Jah' is a shortened version of YHWH and is God's name. Thus the word is essentially a call to a group to give God praise- "Praise God all you people!" That is what the Psalms want us all to do.