

THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8).

Have you ever stopped to think how little praise to God there is in the life of the average Christian? How much time do you give to praising God? Go where you will, enter any church you please, you will not hear many actually praising God. You will readily hear somebody asking God for something. It is so natural and easy to ask God for things.

I don't know of anything that will dispel the blues and drive away the clouds of despair like praising God. David praised the Lord so frequently. Of course, David got down in the dumps, as all must do sooner or later, but the glorious thing about him is that he did not stay there. He began counting his blessings, and it wasn't long until he was shouting the praises of God.

Our text is a call to give praise to the Lord for all of His goodness and mercy toward the children of men. It is a refrain that occurs four different times in this beautiful psalm. Has it ever occurred to you that the call of God comes to each of us to praise Him for His grace toward us and His power within us?

I. For What Should We Offer Our Praises To God?

1. Our physical blessings.

(1) Life.

Let us praise the Lord for His gift to us of this mysterious, wonderful, and unfathomable thing called life.

(2) Health.

Give Him grateful praise for the good health which He has given you.

a. Praise the Lord for your eyesight.

Do you realize what a wonderful blessing good eyesight is. It enables you to enjoy the beauties of an autumn sunset when the sky matches the woods in their riot of color. Who can describe the beauty of those snow-capped peaks in the moonlight, or a sunrise over the ocean, or the glory of a storm upon the deep, or the fairy land in which you revel when you fly above the clouds?

b. Praise the Lord for your hearing.

Think of the joy that comes on a beautiful spring morning when the larks are filling the air with music and all nature responds to the warmth of spring. Think of the pleasure of hearing the greatest music that man has produced. Think of the joy of hearing the conversation of loved ones and friends.

c. Praise the Lord for the gift of speech.

It is truly wonderful to be able to think, to remember, and to speak.

2. Our material blessings.

- (1) This beautiful world in which we live.
- (2) This wonderful nation in which we live.

In it there is so much to arrest the attention, excite the interest and admiration, and to swell the heart with national pride.

- (3) Ample food.
- (4) Respectable clothing.
- (5) Numerous comforts and conveniences.

3. Our spiritual blessings.

- (1) God's love for us.

Displayed in His creating, redeeming, saving, sustaining, and blessing us.

- (2) Our Saviour.
- (3) The Scriptures.
- (4) Our church.
- (5) Our home in heaven.

Praise the Lord for the assurance that He has given me that when He calls me home, I shall have a rest from my labors, a reward for my service, a residence with my Lord, and a reunion with all the saved.

II. Why Should We Offer Our Praises To God?

1. It will please Him.

God is pleased and glorified when we give expression of praise to Him. Since the offering of genuine praise to God will be one of our chief activities after we have entered the eternal home, which Christ is preparing for those who love Him, we should get accustomed to praising Him in this life.

2. It will enrich our lives.

When we offer praise to God, we will find our hearts strangely warmed and encouraged. If we will do more thinking about His grace and mercy, we will do more thanking Him for His blessings upon us. The offering of praise encourages a positive and optimistic outlook upon life. It will provide aid at the point of our efforts to practice the presence of God.

3. It will bring great blessings to others.

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If each of us would use just a few of the opportunities that we have to offer praise to God, we would be surprised at the beneficial results in the lives of others. By praising God we can pass on to others the benefits of our experiences with God.