

The Case for Praising the Lord

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise . . .

Psalm 145:3

By Daniel Mark

The Book of Psalms strikes me as one of the most spiritual of books in the canon of scriptures, judging from its numerous exhortations to worship. It isn't necessarily the most theological, a distinction that would belong to either the Gospel of John or the Book of Romans. The theme of worship runs throughout this entire book of one hundred-fifty chapters, and it's been the inspiration for countless songs and hymns for Jews and Christians for millennia.

Praise, the theme of this article, is unfailingly recurrent in the Psalms along with thanksgiving and petition as the dominant features of any true worship experience or prayer. Whereas with thanksgiving we acknowledge and appreciate the Lord's kindness toward us, praise is a far superior activity in worshipping the Lord. With praise the attention focuses on God Himself and His unique attributes of unlimited power, knowledge, wisdom, understanding, total goodness, perfect love and quintessential holiness. A snap inspection of the model prayer commonly but erroneously known as the Lord's prayer, helps us see the divine hierarchy of priorities when praying. Praise can be seen as the highest form of worship because it is a means of confessing who and what God is over and above all His creation.

The people of God in all generations and periods are enjoined to be people of praise regardless of circumstances of any sort or duration. David, who wrote over half the Psalms, was forever effusive with praise to the

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"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

Children's Church



Kate and Tom Taylor are our teachers for the Children's Church classes for children four through third grade.



“The Case for Praising the Lord,” continued...

Lord and vowed to do this for the whole of his life. (Psalm 63:4) 2 Chronicles records a spectacular victory wrought by God on the enemies of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. When a massive alliance of armies attempted to destroy the kingdom, they set out to do battle in a most unconventional way by marching and singing praises to the Lord! (2 Chronicles 20:22) Many other instances of praise to God resulted in dramatic results as recorded in the scriptures. At a point in the dedication of the Solomonic Temple, which included an elaborate ceremony of praise and thanksgiving, the priests temporarily halted their service because the glory of the Lord overwhelmed the temple. (1 Kings 8:10, 11)

All stripes and varieties of believers agree without controversy or contradiction that praising the Lord is in the highest pleasing to Him. Protestants and Catholics and Orthodox denominations certify that praise works wonders: firstly, it magnifies God as He is; and secondly, it is self-sustaining. It’s a spiritual discipline that feeds on itself and empowers us to praise the Lord yet even more. Of praise, the Bible contains a most gracious guarantee that God inhabits our praises! (Psalm 22:3) It appears as if our praise does what at first blush would pass for an impossibility – the containing of God. However this passage is translated, there’s no disputing that our praises move God to show Himself strong on our behalf.

As God cannot be limited by any conditions, so must our praise of Him be unconditional and expansive. When His promises seem to work for others but not for you, it’s worth remembering that God shows partiality or favoritism to no one and therefore all the more reason to persevere in praise of Yahweh. (Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34-36) When the sheer magnitude and pressure of circumstances tempt us with the thought of an impossible solution, we must draw upon the fact that

nothing is too hard for God and all things are possible with Him. (Genesis 18:14; Luke 18:27) When waiting upon God appears to be an eternity and a futile exercise, we must take heart that waiting is the exact opposite of wasted time and unavailing spiritual capital. (Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31) The Apostle Paul exhorted a young pastor, Timothy, to preach the Gospel in season and out of season, i.e., at all times and on all occasions. Ditto for praising the Lord. Personally, I’m learning how incredibly reinforcing it is to cultivate the discipline of praising the Lord, albeit at times it’s an easier-said-than-done proposition.

There possibly can’t be a better conclusion to an article on this topic than resorting to the ultimate authority on the subject or any subject for that matter. Psalm 150, the final chapter of the longest book of the Bible, says infinitely more in six verses than all that’s been written here. I strongly urge you to read it upon reading these feeble words of mine. The chapter is universal and definitive in its claim and exhortation.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised . . .
Psalm 48:1

Financial Update

(Through September 2018)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$184,392.46	\$231,750.00
Expense	\$229,903.43	\$280,089.00

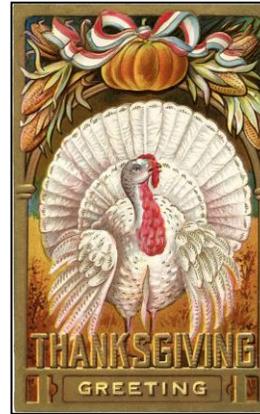
Windsor Chapel has sent \$37,593.57 to our missionary partners this year. That’s 20% of your giving!

The giving in September was \$40,994 (compared to an average of \$18,000/month for the first 8 months in 2018). Praise God for always meeting our needs!



Our Nursery provides a loving environment during the worship service for children three years old and younger. Janice Straubel, Barbara MacQueen, Bridget Bernheisel and, not pictured, Olivia and Ella Bernheisel, are our nursery volunteers.

Share the Bounty of God's Blessings!



Help us partner with the Harris Ministry in Trenton in providing **75 Thanksgiving meals** this year. Here's how... below

- Bring the items to feed each family in double paper grocery bags, handles would be nice (no glass please) by:

**Sunday, November 11th or
Sunday, November 18**

Canned Goods—corn, peas, string beans, yams, pie filling (2), applesauce, cranberry sauce

Boxed Goods—biscuit or cornbread mix, pie crust mix (2), stuffing, rice, extras like tea, coffee or juice, candy.

(Please keep in mind that many families are larger than six people.)

Windsor Chapel is purchasing the turkeys and potatoes for each family. If you are unable to help with the grocery bags, would you consider a donation to Windsor Chapel for these items? If you have any questions, just give Scott Bruno a call at (609) 213-9545.



Turn Back Your Clock!

Remember that Daylight Savings Time ends **this Sunday, November 4**, at 2:00 am. When you're resetting your watches and clocks (don't forget the one in your car) on Saturday night, use this annual event as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms.

Elder's Corner

By Ken Bills

***"Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am
In my Father's house, there's a place for me
I am who You say I am"***

Who You Say I Am

In the past month, two of the Sunday offertory songs at Windsor Chapel were "Who You Say I Am" and "You Say." Both have a very similar theme. We may have ideas (or pride, or sometimes even fears or shame) about who we are. Our families, friends and co-workers may see us in certain ways. Others may label, judge or stereotype us. But ultimately, it is God's view of us that matters.

That got me thinking about what God's Word actually says about who we are. There is way too much in the Bible to cover it all here, so these are just a small taste from the New Testament about who God says you are, if you are a Christian.

You are a **Child of God** (Galatians 4:6), adopted into his family. You are forever his son or daughter; you are his **Beloved Child**. (Ephesians 5:1) His love for you is like a parent's for his or her child, but stronger and purer and more certain than the love of any earthly parent could be. God's love for you is higher, deeper and wider than you can comprehend. (Ephesians 3:14-19). Neither life nor death – nothing! – can separate you from his love. (Romans 8:38-39)

As a child of God, you are a **Brother** or **Sister** to all other believers. (James 2:15) The idea of being a Christian alone isn't a Biblical one. Every Christian is part of a large family! A community where we can learn to give (and receive!) love and grace. As with any family, it may get messy and you will be closer to some of your siblings than others. But you remain a brother or sister to all believers. And not only that, you are a **Member of one Body** with them, in which every one of us is needed and has equal worth and an equal value.

You are also a **Servant** of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:1; Colossians 4:12) Does that sound disappointing in comparison to being a child of God? Well, yes, but our relationship with God is too deep and rich to be fully captured by one description. Even more, as strange as it may seem, it is freeing to be a servant of the King. If the Lord is your only Master (and he refuses to be less), you are free from the demands and expectations of others, because you answer to him alone. (Romans 14:4)

And so, speaking of freedom, you are **Free from Slavery to Sin** (Romans 6:22), no longer trapped and helpless under sin's power, for though our struggle with sin continues, God is at work in us both to will and work (Philippians 2:3). You are free from slavery to your own self-centered desires, pride, and sin nature. True freedom only exists as we live for our Creator, for only then can we fully live out the purpose for which we were created and experience the tremendous privilege of participating in his redemptive work in the world. You are also **Free from the Law** (Romans 8:2) and its system of rules and punishments because Jesus has paid the penalty for your sins on the cross and you have died and been raised with him and are now free to love others. (Galatians 5:1)

The Bible has an amazing amount to say about who we are—**Saints** (Hebrews 13:24), a **Royal Priesthood** (1 Peter 2:9), **Ambassadors of Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:20), **Temple of the Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 3:16), **Redeemed** (Galatians 3:13) – the list goes on and on. Why does it matter? Because God created us in his own image. Because we are so precious to him that he sent his Son to die for us. Because he loves us and knows us more fully than we know ourselves. Because he is making us new and alone knows who we are becoming and he alone knows all we can be. And only in him can we find and be our true selves.

***"You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
You say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours
And I believe"***

You Say

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

A Thankful People

Chapel Challenge. November. Giving Thanks. Writing for the November edition of the Chapel Challenge seems to require a focus on thankfulness, on gratitude. We celebrate Thanksgiving soon, which gives us an excellent opportunity to gratefully count our blessings before we head into the Christmas rush.

There is a lot to be said in favor of giving thanks. Many of the Psalms reveal that King David, the man after God's own heart, was a man of praise. In I Chronicles 15 and 16, we read about David bringing the ark of the covenant of the LORD into Jerusalem amid great celebration: David leapt as the ark was brought into the city, and he appointed some of the Levites to specifically thank and praise the LORD God of Israel as the ark was established in its new location. A few chapters later, in I Chronicles 23, we read that of the 38,000 male Levites, David appointed 4,000 to praise the LORD with instruments that David had made specifically for giving praise.

The giving of thanks and praise continues in the New Testament. The Gospels record Jesus giving thanks to the Father as a matter of practice. Those who are touched by Jesus in some way almost always respond with thanks and praise. The Apostle Paul exhorts the believers in Philippi to dwell on those things worthy of praise, and he encourages those in Thessalonica to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks.

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday for God's people. It is a way of life.

In the 1940 Book of Common Prayer used by the Episcopal Church, a responsive acknowledgement of thanks is part of the weekly communion service. The priest says: *"Let us give thanks unto our Lord God."* The congregants respond: *"It is meet and right so to do."* The priest continues: *"It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God."* These words ring as true today as when they were written generations ago. But it seems to me that it would be very dangerous to our spiritual health if we stop there. If giving thanks was nothing more than duty, a fulfillment of an obligation, a practice of a tradition, we miss the point, badly.

Giving thanks is not about meeting an expectation or fulfilling a duty. It is the fruit of a genuine relationship with our Lord and our Redeemer. It isn't something we *have* to do. It is something we *get* to do. Giving thanks is not just about what we do, but about who we are, and who we are becoming. To be sure, it isn't always easy. We are fallen people in a fallen world. Jesus said that we would have tribulation in the world. The writers of the New Testament did not shy away from the reality of suffering. But we can give thanks that Christ has overcome the world and that He will redeem our suffering and transform it into glory.

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving and enter the holiday season, may we, like King David and the Apostle Paul, give thanks as thankful people.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or cbills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....

Giving a Blessing

By Janet Berrill

Many people are surprised when I tell them that I walked the Camino earlier this year. You just do not meet a lot of people who walk 500 miles in thirty-five days. Although what I did is relatively unusual, it is nothing compared to what Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray did when they walked the Camino in 2014.

Justin and Patrick have been lifelong friends. The boys were born just thirty-six hours apart, and since their parents were good friends with each other, the boys grew up together. They developed a deep, brotherly friendship that stood the test of time. When Justin was sixteen he started having trouble with his left foot. Over the course of a couple of years and countless doctor visits, he was eventually diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease similar to ALS where his autoimmune system attacks his nervous system and the nervous system shuts down. Over many years he has lost control of most of his body. He is now entirely dependent on others to take care of basic things we do for ourselves without thinking about it: get out of bed, feed, clothe, bathe, etc.

In the spring of 2012, Justin was watching a show on television where the host was talking about the Camino. Justin had never heard of the Camino but the show intrigued him so he taped the episode. The next time Patrick came to visit, Justin showed the video to Patrick and asked him what he thought about walking the Camino. Without hesitation, Patrick responded, "I'll push you." Little did they know at the time what they were getting themselves into!

Two years later Patrick and Justin embarked on a life-changing journey. To say this was a difficult trip for Patrick who not only pushed and pulled Justin's wheelchair up and down hills, but was his primary caregiver for five weeks, is an understatement. But it is not the difficulty Patrick endured that I want to highlight, but rather Justin's. Justin was in the position of being cared for, of receiving constant help from Patrick and many other pilgrims along the way.

In our society, we often think of needing help as a sign of weakness. We like to solve problems on our own rather than accept help. Justin wrestled with being helpless while his best friend exhausted himself physically to push him over the often-difficult roads of the Camino. But Patrick never complained nor did any of the other people who helped them out along the way. To the contrary, those who helped Justin were joyful. After receiving help from about fifteen people to climb up the steepest hill of the Camino, Justin reflected, "When you deny someone the opportunity to help you, you deny them the joy in life. The joy that I saw in the faces and the demeanor of the people that helped that day, I will never forget."

In John 13, Jesus serves His disciples by washing their feet. When He had finished, He told them that He set an example for them to follow. In verse 17 He says, "*Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*" Jesus says that we will be blessed when we serve others. So, when we refuse to let people help us, we rob them of that blessing. Additionally, we miss the opportunity to work together and deepen our relationship. May I suggest that the next time you could use some help you accept it from the person who offers it. You will be helped, the person will be blessed, and your relationship will grow deeper. What could be better?!

Perisseia:

Our women's growth group has concluded its fall series on Godliness in the World. We will meet Thursday, November 8, in the Chapel House for a movie night. We will gather at 6:45, and the film will begin promptly at 7:00. Please come even if you haven't participated in Perisseia. You are welcome but not obligated to bring a snack or treat to share. For more information, please contact Cindy Bills (clbills@verizon.net; (609-275-8557).

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

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