“Praise God the Creator”

Psalm 33:1-9

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Introduction:

Praise. A simple, six letter word on the outside. Yet, the depth and meaning it carries on the inside magnifies and glorifies the person, place, or thing to which it is directed.

All biblical praise points to one worthy enough to receive it: God. Hebrews 13:15 reminds us, “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually . . .” And, Charles Spurgeon is quoted as saying, “Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song . . .” (Quote Source: Christianquotes.com). We should never stop praising God for it prepares us for our heavenly service to Him.

Once saved, praise should be a natural part of our daily language toward and in reverence of God. His wonders, His might, and His excellency should be something our lips and hearts have no trouble telling and singing of.

In these upcoming January lessons praise comes to the forefront. Perhaps the church needs a refresher course on what it truly means to appreciate the God of heaven, Creator of the universe, and to praise His holy name. After all, it was Dwight L. Moody who said, “I don’t care where it is, what part of the world it’s in, if we have a praise church we’ll have successful Christianity,” (Quote Source: Christianquotes.com).
Do you have or attend a praise church? What of your personal temple of God, is it a praise church in your heart? These upcoming lessons will let us know if we do or not.

**Psalm 33:1** “Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.”

There are many similarities between this psalm and the one before it, Psalm 32, leading many biblical scholars to believe they are connected. While an author is not ascribed to Psalm 33, David’s name appears in conjunction with Psalm 32 also leading some to believe he may have penned Psalm 33 as well. But, this is just theory and no one can say for sure.

The wording from Psalm 32:11 (the last verse of that particular psalm) and Psalm 33:1 (the first verse of the psalm we are studying) follows the same train of thought. Both show the command for the “righteous/upright” to “rejoice.”

When one is speaking of the “righteous/upright” they are referring to those who are in right standing with God. These individuals are in a relationship with God. They are devoted and have given their lives to heed the call of God. They have opened themselves up to receive of Him and to follow as He directs.

Being in such a close knit relationship with God, these should have no problem with praise and rejoicing flowing from their hearts. It should be a natural expression of overwhelming desire that seeks to please Him and lift Him up. The faithful followers laud Him who is the only faithful God.

Therefore, “rejoice!” That power packed word commands us to celebrate with all that we have in us and the target of that celebration is “in the LORD,” (look back also at Psalm 32:11). God is not only the center of His people’s universe, but He is the only center of their praise.

There are many occasions we find to clap our hands for people and to send nice words of edification their way, but true, reverential, holy adoration goes to God. “But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD . . .” (Jeremiah 9:24; emphasis mine).
“Praise is comely for the upright;” meaning it is fitting. It is like a garment; a lifestyle that suits a child of God just right. It’s a beautiful thing to see those that are His children sending up expressions of praise that magnify His goodness. Compare that to the ugliness this world promotes and you see why it is a good thing for the righteous to adorn “praise.”

Psalm 33:2-3 “Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.”

It’s not only with the voice does our exuberant rejoicing go up before the Lord. But, instruments are also commanded to be used in praise. Psalm 33 cites the “harp, psaltery, and an instrument of tens strings” are to be played “skillfully with a loud noise.”

David, who penned many psalms, was an accomplished musician. When an evil spirit was tormenting Saul his servants sought for a skillful player to ease his affliction and to soothe him for a time. David’s name came up as being a “talented harp player . . .” (1 Samuel 16:18, NLT), amongst other things.

To this day not only does King David stand out as a man after God’s own heart, but he is also remembered for his skillful playing and his propensity for pouring out what was in his heart in songs of praise to God.

Adding instruments bring another dynamic to music that the voice cannot. The beat of the drum, the blow of the horn, the twang of strings melodiously help songs of praise and worship climax into a realm of spiritual wonder and delight. The accompaniment of instruments, played “skillfully” enhances the atmosphere of worship, drawing one deeper in the celebration of God.

Instruments are tools to assist in the service of God. Therefore, “praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.” Let the skill of the hands meet with the voice that sings with heart, and praise God with all that you have in you!
If you have ever attended a service with no instruments; where the talents of musical instruments are not in use, you will notice that music makes a difference.

Musical instruments are employed throughout the Bible in the form of tambourines (Exodus 15:20), harp (Psalm 98:5), trumpets (Leviticus 25:9), and others (2 Samuel 6:5); including those listed in today’s lesson. Instrumental pieces with or without words are seen all over God’s word and the use of them cannot be negated now or in our future. “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the *trump* of God . . .” (1 Thessalonians 4:16; emphasis mine).

God loves the celebration of praise!

“Sing unto him a new song.” David, who wrote Psalm 32 and many, many others; and who may or may not have written Psalm 33, had a son who was his successor as king: Solomon. King Solomon had 1,005 songs attributed to his name.

Wow! Talk about topping the charts. The importance of music in worship cannot be underrated. It is a key element in every way.

How is it that people such as King David and King Solomon could have penned so many inspirational sonnets and expressions of prayer and praise through songs? I personally believe (just me thinking), that as God moved in their lives they were inspired to write a “*new song*” (as today’s lesson calls it).

Through trials and tribulations; through celebration or loss; through mountain top experiences or valley lows; even through the mundane of everyday to the entering in of the presence of the Lord – these men hearts and souls became alive and activated by what God was doing through every area of their lives that they just had to express it; they had a praise and they had to get it out. The avenue through which to do that was through song.

For one to get there they have to forego many of the distractions our modern world offers and be more attentive to what God is doing and how He is moving (also a good thing to just do in life period). This allows one to be more in tune
with and appreciative of the measure of God in their daily lives and may give birth to a “new song.”

God’s glory never rests in a stale representation of who He is or what He has done. One should continually be opened to the wonder of Him, thus compelling the soul to sing a “new song.” And, if the new song is not a new song per se, at the very least sing your song with fresh fire anointing that exalts Him to the highest.

Praise is not a quiet affair. In fact, quite the opposite is noted. “With a loud noise” we are to enthusiastically celebrate God.

Why?

Here’s my take: just take a moment, dear righteous one, to view back over your own life. Are you not happy for where God has brought you from? Are you not excited that He lifted your soul from the flames of hell? Are you not in wonder of how He has weaved Himself through your personal history to bring you to where you are today?

Then, make some “noise!” God has been too good to be quiet on Him! Shout His praises loudly!

We teach our children from a young age that old song:

“If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands!

If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands!

If you’re happy and you know it, and you really want to show it;

If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands!” (Source: Wikipedia)

If you are happy about what God has done in your life, and you know it – make some “NOISE!”
Psalm 33:4 “For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

“For the word of the LORD is right.” There is absolutely, 100% no failing or flaws in God’s word. It is as perfect as He is. It is never wrong or in error. It’s always “right!” Proverbs 30:5 reminds us, “Every word of God is pure . . .” His word has stood the test of time and is without want. It lacks nothing though man continually tries to find fault and discrepancies where it can’t be found.

God’s word stands as authority of all life on its own and needs no help from man. We are warned, “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar,” (Proverbs 30:6; compare Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19).

For “all his works are done in truth.” The Bible tells us, “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither son of man, that he should repent . . .” (Numbers 23:19). We can take comfort in the solidness of His holy word because it will never let us down. What He said is what it is and that’s it – that’s the “truth!” “The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandments of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes,” (Psalm 19:8).

Psalm 33:5 “He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.”

“He loveth righteousness and judgment.” Turning to Psalm 89:14 we learn that “righteous and judgment” are the very foundation of God’s throne. God will always do what is right according to His holy word and ordinances. In a world that is confused over what is right and what is wrong, God remains the same. He “loveth” what is right! “For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright,” (Psalm 11:7).

God is not going to compromise who He is or the integrity of His word to match up with modern thinking. One of the reason we can praise Him so is that He is unchanging and faithful. He upholds and adheres to His own words and works. And, all that fall in line with those just ways, He “loveth” it!
Remember: God’s righteousness endures forever (Ps. 112:9) and everything and everyone is measured on the scales of it.

“The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.” “Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights . . .” (James 1:17). God has showered this world with His “goodness.”

Although many may look on the horizon of this world and see nothing but evil deeds, unrighteousness, and injustice taking hold of men, women, and children – the “earth,” and all its inhabitants have been blessed by the “goodness” of God.

“How so,” you may ask?

You are here, the “earth” is here – a new day has graced us with the opportunity of another chance. God is longsuffering and that characteristic alone tells us of His “goodness,” (compare 2 Peter 3:9 and Romans 2:4). As fed up as we may get over the daily disputes we face – on a global and historical scale it amazes me that God’s hasn’t just wiped the earth clean once and for all (with no after flood new beginnings) and be done with the headache of dealing with humanity. In that, He demonstrates His “goodness.” This is why many of us can readily and easily tell you, “Thank God, I’m not God!”

God’s mercy, grace, and every loving attribute we can align to His holy name shows His “goodness” is alive and active even in our broken days. If you are reading this you have experienced God’s goodness today. If you are hearing these words being taught you have been a partaker of the gift He has blessed humanity with. God’s goodness leads one down the path closer to Him if they will but trust and follow it (Psalm 25:8).

God is good (see Psalm 100:5; Nahum 1:7; Matthew 19:17) and God does good (see Psalm 119:64; Genesis 1)! God cannot separate Himself from who He is and what He does, and as a result the “earth” daily gets to experience His love toward it. Therefore, we can sing with another psalmist and say, “Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes,” (Psalm 119:68).
Psalm 33:6 “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”

For the believer (and anyone else who will open their eyes to the truth), to find out the how-to and history of our world and universe, they would have to venture no farther than the first pages of the Bible that spell out the creation story. There it reads, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” (Genesis 1:1).

At the speaking of His “word” and by the “breath of his mouth” that which was “without form, and void; and dark . . .” (Genesis 1:2) began to take on new characteristics. That which was uninhabitable began to be a place where life could thrive. Void was made full. Darkness gave way to light. Chaos came to order. By the voice of God all things were “made.”

Psalm 104:5 tells us, “Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.” Notice that this verse begins with “Who” but ends with a period. The “Who” is not asking a question, but rather making a statement of the one responsible for the events that are being talked about, which is creation. The “who” here is God Himself. God is sole owner and solely responsible for the earth being “made.” No other being is a part of His divine creation plan. He is the one that spoke it.

Psalm 33:7 “He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.”

The “waters” were shaped by God at the call of creation.

We don’t normally consider the “waters” as something being shaped because of its liquid form. Well, it may not have a solid form of itself, but it has boundaries that mold it or “heap” it “together” in specified areas. Considering that the earth itself is made up of approximately 70 percent of water, it is absolutely astounding that they follow the course and order which He commanded; whether they be in the “sea” or held in “the depth in storehouses.”

In her song “My Redeemer Lives,” Nicole C. Mullen asks the question, “Who told the ocean you can only come this far,” (Songlyrics.com)? Proverbs 8:29 declares,
“He gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commands,” (emphasis mine). For the ancients, and even today, man realizes the power of water and that it is nothing to balk at; For God, all creation, including the rushing forces of water that covers the majority of the earth, is obligated to fall in line with His plan of design for it.

Psalm 33:8 “Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”

“Fear” and “awe” has trouble getting through to the minds of today’s culture. We are so used to seeing just about anything and everything that we have mostly become desensitized to the goings on of the “world.” Through the barrage of news outlets, social media, and the like we have become so exposed to wrongs and evils that we hardly pay any attention at all.

But, the “world” and all its “inhabitants” are in serious trouble if they don’t learn to respect and “fear the LORD.” God is God! He is awesome in deed and power. He is not to be pushed to the side. He is not to be surpassed by another or any alien ideology.

We are commanded to “remember that the heavenly Father to who you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as ‘foreigners in the land.’” (1 Peter 1:17, NLT; emphasis mine).

As Creator, God is the final authority and judge of all. As such, we and all the earth would do well to respect Him in that and “fear” before Him. Deuteronomy 10:12 states, “What doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,” (emphasis mine).

Fearing God (and I am not going to water this down) is a requirement that if fulfilled can lead to a life of reward; and if ignored, to judgment. No matter who you are, you are commanded to not take God for granted, but to “stand in awe of him.” In the language of today’s youth they would say, “You better recognize!”
Meaning respect is demanded for the position and authority of whom He is (read Genesis 35:5).

Psalm 33:9 “For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

This is a continuation of praise of the awesome power of just one spoken word from God. Whatever He speaks it’s already “done.” Even if we have not seen the literal fulfillment of it yet, it will come to pass.

As a testimony to the truth of this just view the pages of prophecies and promises that have already occurred or fell into place at their properly appointed times. This happens because not one word of God can ever fail or fall short of His intentions for it (see Matthew 24:35). Whatever He commands, be it the sun, wind, waves, or people – it has to obey.

In terms of creation, the bulk of today’s lesson as a reason for praise, Psalm 148:5 tells us, “Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created,” (emphasis mine). Praise is due to God alone for He is the Creator of all. When He spoke, we and everything on this earth, past, present, and future, came into being.

**Conclusion:**

God is worthy to be praised because He is Creator of all.