

Points On Praise

Text: Psalm 107:8

Introduction

Have the congregation read Psalm 150 aloud.

Message

1. The priority of praise.

- a. Praise is in order in the church (Psalm 22:22; 100:4; 150:1). Praise should be part of every service, along with prayer and preaching.
- b. The duties of the Levites listed in 1 Chronicles 23:28–31 included standing every morning and evening to thank and praise the Lord.

2. The possibility of praise.

- a. Every church, regardless of its size or facilities can be a place where God is praised. Every individual can offer praise to God. Not everyone can preach or teach, not all are blessed musically, but all can praise.
- b. Christians can praise with instruments (Psalm 150:3–5). If a person cannot play an instrument, he can praise in song (Psalm 47:6; 69:30). If he cannot sing, he can speak His praise (Psalm 35:28). If laryngitis sets in, he can still praise by clapping his hands (Psalm 47:1), or dancing before the Lord (Psalm 150:4) —David, Miriam
- c. If a person cannot speak or move, but Jesus is his Savior and he has the hope of heaven, he would still have reason to praise, and praise would still be possible (Psalm 119:7).

3. The privilege of praise

- a. The Bill of Rights gives Americans freedom of religion, but God gives Christians freedom of worship.
- b. Isaiah saw seraphim gathered around the throne crying, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Isaiah 6:2,3). Angels at the birth of Christ sang, “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:13,14). Yet, even though God is surrounded by such majesty and beauty and has the worship and adoration of heavenly beings, He accepts our praise.

4. The power of praise

- a. Invaded by three armies, Jehoshaphat used an unusual defense strategy; he sent singers in front of the army. As the singers began to praise God, the Lord set ambushes against the enemy (2 Chronicles 20:20–22).
- b. The Children of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho seven times, but it was not until they shouted that the walls fell (Joshua 6:20).
- c. Some victories will not come until we learn to praise. Praise is powerful. It lifts the one giving the praise, breaking the bonds of discouragement and fear. Praise is powerful because it invokes the presence of God.
- d. Praise packs a punch when it comes to witnessing. The jailer had probably heard many prayers at midnight, but hearing prisoners sing and praise God was a different story (Acts 16:25). If Christians praised God more, the world might doubt Him less.

5. The permanence of praise.

- a. Praise will endure throughout eternity.
- b. Prayer will not be necessary in heaven, but praises to God will continue.

Conclusion

Read Psalm 147:1 and close with praise and worship choruses

—Kaye Loughridge, Patterson, Missouri