

March 5, 2023

A Call To Praise

by George Slover

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations. (Psalms 100:4-5)

This simple praise Psalm has been a favorite of mine for a long time. It has been used to help me prepare my mind for worship. Consider some of its important features.

There are two parts to this Psalm. The first section is (vs. 1-4) an exhortation to praise. Section two supplies (vs. 3-5) the reason for this exhortation. Then, intertwined in the context are some important details about praising God.

The first section (vs.1-4) calls for “all ye lands” to offer their thanksgiving to God. Such praise is to be done heartily, with a joyful shout. (vs.11) This is to be a cheerful activity. It is accepted when the worshiper is aware of God’s presence (vs.2). The psalmist calls upon those involved to intelligently acknowledge who God is (vs.3) and to come before Him with gratitude (vs.4). This praise is to be offered frequently and in His “gates” and “court”.

In section two (vs. 3-5) the reason for such devotion is grounded in the nature of God, for Jehovah is God (Elohim) – thus, he is the only one worthy of worship. He is our Creator (vs.3). He

has graciously called upon us to be His people (vs.3). That we might be drawn to worship him, the Psalmist reminds us of God’s “goodness” (vs.5) from which flows his “mercy” (vs.5) and “truth” (faithfulness). And that we might have greater confidence in him, God’s mercy and truth are constant in every change of life and extended to all generations.

God is so good. He will save any who will come to Him through Christ. Therefore, be thankful and speak well of God’s name.

Keeping the Promise

by George Slover

“So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has said we will do.” (Exodus 24:3)

The giving of the Book of the Covenant now completed, Moses descends from the mountain and declares it to the people. (vs.1-3) When the people heard they expressed a willingness to obey: “All the words which the LORD has said we will do.” Moses takes the blood and sprinkles half of it on the altar and half of it on the people and their acceptance of the covenant is complete.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Gospel Meeting with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Prayer Requests

Upon this occasion God accepted the accolades of Israel. With the altar and sprinkling of blood, God provided a means by which Israel could be reminded to make good on their promise. Unfortunately, Israel would prove to be a fickle people and soon forget their commitment to Jehovah.

The fickleness of Israel has been often repeated by others. One has good intentions, but often fails to follow through. He is torn by emotions that draw him in one direction and his reason which draws him in another. Thus, one will make promises, as Israel did at Sinai, but when the emotion of the moment is gone and life gets ordinary and dull, he finds his pledge hard to keep.

The gospel of Christ demands commitment. We are not just saved to be saved (Romans 12:1,2), but we are saved to serve. God demands implicit faith committed to righteousness rather than sin. (Romans 6:18) All too often the new convert on the day of baptism start with lofty goals, but will soon drop out of the race.

Like Israel God has implemented ways to remind the Christian of his initial commitment. The Lord's Supper is our memorial of Christ, should rekindle our spirits. (I Corinthians 11:23-29) The word is designed to stir us up.

(II Peter 3:1,2) God's people should provoke us to love and good works. (Hebrews 10:24,25)

So when our life ends will we be among those who followed through or among those who failed? Take up the tools God gave you, keep the heart burning for Christ, and one day you will reap the rewards.

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet and was hospitalized for infection.

Doug Adair is preparing to have surgery on his back

Mike McMurray is under treatment for prostate cancer.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is under treatment for cervical cancer that has spread.

Dinah Williams is having cataracts removed in April.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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