

Praise The Lord

“Praise the name of the Lord: Praise Him....For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure” (Psalm 135:1-4)

Two outstanding reasons why God ought be praised are given in verse three:

Jehovah is good! His goodness is full, complete and obvious. His creation is perfect and orderly. Cause and effect are wonderfully orchestrated so that all needs are met. Everything is protected, fed, nourished, and its survival and perpetuity secured through gloriously designed reproductive processes. His creation is filled with delights, pleasures and bounties. Songs to Him abound from His creation so that the whole earth is filled with music. God ought be praised especially because this goodness is not of any necessity outside His own Person. No law, no governing power exists to order His actions other than Himself. The earth is filled with His goodness simply because He is good. In fact the English word “*good*” is derived from “God”. “Good” exists because of God!

The second reason why God ought be praised is that songs of praise to Him are pleasant! It is a joyous sound, from a joyous heart that sings praise to God. The saints love to sing praises to Him. They have no need of a grinning, arm waving “conductor” to get them to sing properly. Put a song of praise before them, give them a key and a melody, and they will sing to the top of their voices. Nothing on earth is more beautiful and lovely than congregational singing.

But it is a special people who will sing like this, who will praise the Lord with loud and exuberant voices. Who are they? They are the “servants of the Lord” (vs. 1). They are they who “stand in the house of the Lord, In the courts of the house of our God” (vs. 2). And who are these servants of the Lord who stand in the house and courts of our God? They are not merely folks who joined the church, and who come regularly. Steeple houses of the land are regularly peopled with glum-countenanced, weary, bored, and restless people, eager to get this chore over with, who render no more than half-hearted mewling of songs, and no praises at all!

No, these are not people who have chosen the Lord or decided to go to church regularly, or who have been fast-talked into committing themselves to so do, and have signed on the dotted line. Not at all! These are people who have been sought of the Lord, particularly chosen and purchased by His own obedience and suffering on the Cross. They have been pursued, wooed and conquered by God’s blessed Spirit and brought to a place of repentance of their sins. They have been made sick of their wicked and vain lives, and have fled to Christ for refuge from the righteous wrath of God. They have found in Him a sweet and blessed refuge for their souls! You cannot stop them from singing His praises. Beat them black and blue, lock them up in the maximum security of the darkest dungeon. At midnight they will be heard singing praise to God!

These are God’s elect. His chosen people. The Old Covenant psalmist calls them “Jacob”, “Israel, His special treasure. But the New Covenant reveals this elect people of God to be not all of Israel, but *elect* Israel (Rom. 9:6-8). And the elect are not Israel only, but all those of every nation and status who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26-29). Let these praise the Lord!

-C.M.