

- 1- *It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:*
- 2- *To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,*
- 3- *Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.*
- 4- *For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands (Psalm 92)*

It is good because it is right. God ought to be praised, adored, admired and thanked. This is a positive good, the neglect of which will surely result in a positive evil. The beginning of apostasy, reprobation and utter ruin is a failure of gratitude. *“When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful: (Romans 1:21).* To fail to praise God nurtures an evil, ungrateful heart.

It is good for us spiritually and emotionally. The devil is always sowing seeds of discontent, rebellion and unbelief in our minds. When we sense the rising of these unholy thoughts and affections, we need to declare and sing praises to God. As light banishes darkness, so doth truth evaporate lies: Truth declared in faith chases away the devil.

It is also good, because we are thereby declaring our faith and demonstrating the reality and glory of God to an unbelieving world. We have a responsibility never to let the world rest in its unbelief, its no-God, anti-God delusions. Praise to God discomfords and irritates the wicked. It is a two-edged sword in the hands of the saints (Psalm 149:5-8).

We declare His lovingkindness in the morning, for His mercies are new every day. We awake in the sunshine of His love, marveling at His forgiveness for our sins, for seeking us and finding us and making us His beloved children. Then at the end of the day we declare His faithfulness, for He has been with us in all our waking hours. He has faithfully delivered, protected, counseled, sustained us. And we may lie down and rest in the security of His care while we sleep.

What is it of God’s works that have made us glad? What *are* God’s works? Ah! Herein is the provocation of the Christian praise. What is it that is *not* of God’s works? Whatever *is*, is of His works. *“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36).* *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork: (Psalm 19:1).* To the believer, everything he sees, hears, touches, smells and feels, reminds him of the wisdom, power, glory and grace of God. Even that consciousness of God in everything, is His work in us. Without His sovereign, regenerating grace, we should be as brutish, senseless and unbelieving as a beast. We should be as obstinate an enemy of God as the worst infidel. That is the beginning of His work to make us glad.

This gladness and consciousness of God causes us to seek to know His thoughts and His counsel. *“Thy thoughts are very deep” (vs. 5).* And how shall we know the thoughts of God? Why, by His word! The God of the Bible has been pleased to reveal to us His mind. And the more we learn of His thoughts, His mind, His will and His purpose, the more glad we become. For therein we learn that He works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Could there be any greater provocation for praise? Could he who will not praise God be a true believer? How can we believe and know such things, and not sing praise to God? It is *good* to give thanks to God and to sing praises to His Name, to make a melodious sound to Him by any means available!

-C.M.