

PRAISE THE LORD!

Texts: Psalm 111; Psalm 146

INTRO: The Hebrew people had a word that in most of our translations is rendered, "praise the Lord." That word in Hebrew was "halleluia." That Hebrew word even found its way into the Greek N.T. in Revelation, chapter 19.

The psalmist, in Psalm 111:1 vows that with his whole heart he will praise the Lord. Amen! May it ever be so. With the intellect, with the emotions, with the will. With my whole heart, I will praise the Lord.

I. WHY IS GOD TO BE PRAISED?

A. Because of Who and What He is.

1. He is the Creator of the Entire Universe. Gen. 1:1
2. He is God--the supreme Being of all eternity.
3. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent.

B. Because of what He had done for each of us.

1. He has given us life, breath & all things.
READ ACTS 17:22-31
2. Every good & perfect gift, James 1:17
3. His word to help us from sinning, Psalm 119:11
4. His Son to pay the price for the sins we have done.
John 3:16; Rom. 5:8

C. Because of what He continues to do for us.

1. Provides the necessities to sustain our lives.
2. The forgiveness of our sins when we walk in the light, 1 John 1:7.
3. He hears & answers our prayers.

D. Because of what He will yet do for us.

1. He will keep all His promises.
2. He will judge the world in equity, punishing the wicked and vindicating the righteous.
3. If we are found faithful, He will take us home to heaven. READ REVELATION 19:1-9.

II. HOW DO WE PRAISE HIM?

- A. In song. The vast majority of the times the word "praise" is used in the Scriptures, it is connected with singing. We have many songs in our hymn books extolling the virtues and goodness & greatness of God.

- B. In prayer. Jesus taught His disciples to hallow or reverence God's name in their prayers, and when they prayed, they also praised. READ ACTS 4:23-31.

- C. Perhaps we praise Him best of all by living as He has directed us to do in His word. The psalmists wrote that the mountains, the seas, and all living creatures are to praise Him. They praise Him by being what He created them to be. We, too, praise Him by being what Christians are meant to be.

READ PSALM 117

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, September 3, 1995
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 2, 2000