

December 24th – The Beauty of Praise

*“Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.”
(Psalm 147:1)*

Our God is worthy of praise! Over and over the Bible commands us to praise the Lord, but really what else could we do? When we think about how holy He is, when we think of how loving He is, when we think of how merciful He is – what else can we do but praise Him? In today’s verse, the psalmist uses three words to describes the praise of God’s people. First, he tells us that praise is “good.” In other words, it is right, appropriate, and totally reasonable (Rom. 12:2). Praising God is never wrong!

Notice he says it is good “to sing praises to God.” I take that to mean that all able-bodied believers should sing praise to God. I’ve heard some use the excuse that they can’t sing so they just remain silent during worship. It’s been well-said that God doesn’t require a pleasant noise. Rather, He simply commands that we make a “joyful noise” (Psalm 100:1). Singing praise to God is good because it is simply the choral outpouring of a praise that rises as we serve Him.

The psalmist also tells us that praise is pleasant. That means praise is not hateful or contentious – it is like a cool breeze that blows across your face on a hot day. Praise will revive your spirit and refresh your soul. And of course, the writer tells us that praise is beautiful. It’s an amazing thing when God’s people praise the Lord “in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 96:9). When the praises go up, the message of Christ’s victory reverberates through all of hell.