

Praise the Lord, Jan. 6th, 2019, Pastor Karl Payne

We began this series by saying it is easier to trust and obey someone you know than someone you don't know. Hence, the more we learn about the attributes and character of God our Savior, the easier it becomes to trust and obey Him. **Psalm 32:8-10**

What attribute is mentioned most often in the bible? God is Holy. The holiness of God is the ultimate foundation for all of the rest of God's attributes.

This morning we are going to end this series by tying what we have learned about attributes and character traits of God to the most often repeated command given in the bible, because the two are related, and indirectly and directly impact our attitudes and actions on a daily basis.

Truth without relationship or application typically produces arrogance and isolation. Relationship without truth or application typically produces pluralism and confusion. In the same way that God's attributes cannot be separated from His character, so too we should not encourage or practice separating truth from relationships or biblical commands from biblical application.

(We are a church that stands on the faith of our fathers, and can dot our doctrinal I's and cross our theological T's. We do not get caught in cultural trends, sloppy agape, or feelings based easy believism. We are a church other churches and Christians should model after. We follow God's command to study to show ourselves approved, **2 Tim.2:15.**)

(We are a church that is theologically open minded and relationally inclusive; we love everyone. We don't worry about doctrine or theology, we just love others. We are a church that other churches and Christians should model after. We follow God's command to love Him or her or it, and our neighbors, as long as they agree with us that unconditional love is the Queen of God's commands. It's all somewhere in the bible.)

This morning we are going to look at the *command mentioned most often in the entire bible*, which is indirectly and directly related to the reality of the attributes and character of God, and our response to His attributes and character. What do you think that command is? **Praise the Lord!** Are you surprised? More important, do you know what it means?

Academic What does "Praise the Lord" mean, and where is it commanded? "The basic meaning of the word praise is "confession in the sense of a declaration." **Psalm 106:1; 135:1-3, 147:1, 148:1-14.** Words and verses do not mean anything I want them to mean or feel like they should mean. They mean what the author intended for them to mean, utilizing context, grammar and syntax, history, and location.

"To summarize: The praise of God is the declaration or confession to yourself or others of who God is and what He has done."

Attitude Praise is a reminder that God alone is the boss and only sovereign. Genuine praise to God is supposed to be directed toward God, not man. **Daniel, Dan.2:19-23; 26-30; Nebuchadnezzar, Dan.4:28-33; 34-37; Belshazzar, Dan. 5:13-23; Pharisee/Tax collector, Luke 18:9-14.**

How often is our praise to God an excuse to glorify and exalt who we are or what we have done?

I praise God because of Him I, and I, and I...

Glorify to God, because of the talents, gifts and abilities He gave me I, and I, and I...

When are you going to get your praise on and worship God like me, I, and I, and I...

Action Descriptive Praise, (Who is God?) **Psalm 145:1-21** or Declarative Praise, (What has He done?) **Psalm 30:1-12**.

Examples of both descriptive and declarative praise are found in the prayers of two faithful women of God who will be in God's hall of fame for believer's: Hannah, **1 Sam.2:1-10**; Mary, **Luke 1:45-56**.

What does praising God have to do with me in the 21st century and the circumstances I must deal with every minute of every day? Praising God will not pay the bills will it? I mean I am a Christian and I want to be faithful to God, but I am also a realist. If you want something to get done you had better do it yourself because no one else is going to do it for you? One of my favorite verses somewhere in the bible says that a Christian must pray like things all depend upon God, but work like everything depends upon you...you know that verse don't you; it's just common sense?

Application For Paul and Silas: **Acts 16:16-(25)-34**—the results, personal/public
For Karl, staff, leadership, congregation: **Rom.8:28; 1 Cor.10:13**;—the results, personal/public.
Is God bigger than my circumstances or are my circumstances bigger than God? My attitudes and actions demonstrate the answer to this question for me and others on a daily basis.

What did Jesus compare believers to in **John 15:5**? Do we live our daily lives believing and living with the understanding that God is the only sovereign? We are ultimately totally dependent upon Him and not Him upon us; apart from Him we can do nothing that is eternally meaningful to Him, whether others agree or disagree.

What should praising God as an immediate response to daily circumstances, whether they seem helpful or hurtful at the time, remind me of in the process? I am not ultimately in control of my circumstances or my life. I yielded both of those to the Lord Jesus Christ when I bowed to Him as God and received Him as Savior, **Psalm 9:1; 34:1; 42:11; 47:7-9; Isa. 45.:5-9; Rom.9:20-21; Gal.2:20**.

Because God is Holy, Omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, just, good, faithful, loving, immutable, and always faithful I must remember to rest in His hands, trust in His heart, and obey His commands rather than attempt to manipulate His hands, doubt His heart or disobey His commands.

Since God cannot violate His character and lie, I can live with confidence that the truths of **1 Cor.10:13** and **Philip.4:13** are true for me on a moment by moment basis regardless of my feelings. There is nothing I am facing that others have not faced and conquered, God is always faithful to provide me a righteous way of escape or dealing with my circumstances, and I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. So why do I doubt or grumble which ultimately are both insults to God's character?

"Praise keeps the character of God before our minds. The practice of praise forces us to relate God's character to the issues of life. The effect of praising God on our mental attitude is liberating, for praise focuses our attention on the person and work of God."

The quotes I have utilized in this outline are all from the book we used for the foundation of our recent study on the attributes of God, written by Myrna Alexander, Behold Your God. Although this study was written for women, I would encourage everyone and anyone interested in the topic to read the book and work through the verses, it is that good!