

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! — Calling saints in Christ, (in our Homes and with one another in Church), to Walk in the Steps of CHRIST, (1 Peter 2:15-25)!
(Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ)

7 16 25 V1n10 PSALM 150:1-6, AN EXHORTATION TO PRAISE GOD!

When SELF is central, only the works of the flesh will follow: Gal. 5:19-21; but when God is CENTRAL and PRAISE to God is the non-negotiable— the fruit of the Holy Spirit flows (Galatians 5:22-23). TO BE SELF-CENTERED is to be self-destructive and destructive of others. A COMMITTED FOCUS and PASSION ON GIVING PRAISE and HONOR TO GOD IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO MIRACLES OF LOVE, FORGIVENESS, MENTAL SANITY; and EVANGELISM! Therefore, let us meditate carefully!

SING! — ‘PRAISE YE the LORD!’ It’s not about ‘gifted musicians’ or grand performances! SINGING is for BELIEVERS! The relevant question is not, ‘DO YOU HAVE A GREAT SINGING VOICE?’ BUT ... ‘DO YOU HAVE SONGS OF PRAISE BURSTING FROM YOUR SOUL!’ **"Praise ye the LORD!"** Our praise and our thanksgiving is to be brought to the Lord; **to Yahweh**; to the eternal, creating, covenanting, loving God. (‘YAH’ or ‘YAHWEH’ is the redemptive name of God; and is God’s own distinct, personal name!) NOTE: The name ‘Jehovah’ appears in the Authorized Version about 6,823 times **and is generally translated as ‘LORD’ [With all upper case letters.]** The Hebrews referred to this name as the unpronounceable or

incommunicable name of God. The Hebrew letters for this name are four, the English letters **YHWH. YHWH (Yahweh) is the- 'I AM THAT I AM!'** It signifies "to be," or "I will be all that I will be." ***It tells us that God is the Eternal, the Unchanged, and Unchanging One; and He will be all that He is ever needed to be!***

This is more particularly seen in the various compound redemptive names of the Lord. These compound names are always linked with some need of man, and it is here that the LORD [Yahweh] will be all that His people ever need Him to be. He says of Himself "The LORD is My name... this is My memorial unto all generations." (Exodus 3:14, 15; 15:3; Isaiah 42:8; Jeremiah 16:21; 33:2; Amos 5:8, 9:6)

REALITY: Genuine Praise to the LORD is NOT about what I like. It is not about being relevant to a certain generation's type of music. It is not about impressing my emotional or ascetic senses. Today, pastors and church musicians spend countless hours and multi-millions of dollars of seeking to be creative in worship. **Why?** Because most folk in pews are bored, have come to be entertained, **and have not a thought about** having gathered to express the reality of Psalm 150 exclusively **UNTO THE LORD!**

"Praise the Lord!"— That must be the chief reason why we gather as a congregation! "Praise the Lord!" That's the reason

why we sing, why we pray. That's the reason for our church meeting place, for hymn and/or chorus books, for the piano and organ and or other instruments we use in worship. Moreover, it is the reason for every Biblical sermon! **"Praise the Lord!"** All things, all persons, all creatures exist in the highest sense – to "Praise the Lord," to say **"Hallelu Yah!"**

Psalm 150 answers 4 questions!

I. The Where of "Praise the Lord!" Where is this to be done?

Verse 1 tells us: (Ps 150:1) ***Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. We are told our praise is to be in the "sanctuary."*** Sanctuary is a Hebrew word which refers to God's chosen meeting place. In the Old Testament this place was Bethel, Gilgal, the tabernacle, the temple. **In the New Testament the focus is no longer on a place; it is on a people.** God is to be praised, to Him we say "Hallelu Yah," when the church gathers together for worship. Yes, we are to worship God at home in personal devotions. We are to praise God during a walk in the park or through the woods or when we are driving home or when we are in the midst of trouble and trial. BUT LET US NOT forsake praising God with the assembly of saints!

"Praise the Lord!" Where is this to be done? Verse 1 tells us this is also to be done "in His mighty heavens." We see this praise brought by the angels at Christ's birth: (Lk 2:14) "Glory to

God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." We also see this praise and thanksgiving in the many worship scenes found in the book of Revelation: (Rev 7:11-12) All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, (12) saying: *"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"* Indeed, the Revelation bursts forth with praise and worship to God the Father and the Lamb... AGAIN AND AGAIN! **"Praise the Lord!"** When we say this, when we do this, the voices on earth unite with the voices in heaven and there is brought to God one mighty wondrous crescendo of praise. The saints on earth and those in heaven are one in their praise and thanksgiving. **"Praise the Lord!"**

II. The Why of "Praise the Lord!" Verse 2 answers this question: (Ps 150:2)- *Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.* **We are told to praise God for "his acts of power."** Where do we start!? Surely, we should PRAISE the Great Triune God for his mighty acts at creation – out of nothing making heaven and earth, dividing the earth from the sky and the water from the land, forming man from the dust of the earth and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. As we look at creation and all that God has made, we can't help but

say **"Praise the Lord!"** Surely as we think of God's **"acts of power"** we should also think of God's continuing care of all that He has made. When we think of the food on our tables, health and strength, season faithfully following season, we can't help but say **"Praise the Lord!"**

Surely the grandest of God's "acts of power" are God's saving acts: saving Noah and his family, bringing Israel out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, Israel's victory over Jericho, Gideon's victory over the Midianites, and – most importantly – the bloody cross and empty grave of Christ. When we think of God's mighty acts of salvation, we cannot help but say **"Praise the Lord!"**

Why are we to "Praise the Lord"? We are told that we praise God not only for "his acts of power," but also **for His "excellent surpassing greatness."** We praise God not only for what He does but also for Who and What he is. We offer praise and thanksgiving to our Most High and excellent God.

CRITICAL QUESTION: Do we stop praising God when we seem to have nothing to thank Him for, when He seems to withhold His blessings, when His divine face seems to be set against us? Does that make God less praiseworthy? Of course not! God is to be praised simply because He is God, because of Who He is, quite apart from anything that He does for me... OR that he allows to touch me!

"Praise the Lord!" A lady named Carol, confined to a body the size of a baby's... She had no legs and no arms. She said, "One day I had my Bible propped up in front of me. I was reading the Book of Job and feeling sorry for myself. As I turned the pages with a pencil clamped between my teeth, I suddenly realized that **Job's hideous pain was no accident.** Neither was it caused by God. But God allowed it.

Nothing happens in the life of one of God's children without first receiving God's permission. God could have stopped all that was happening to Job -- He can do that you know," she said with a twinkle in her eye-- "but He didn't. He could have given me a beautiful, healthy, normal body, but He didn't. When I realized that, I stopped fighting and pleading.

I began just praising Him and thanking Him -- and you know what has happened?" "No, what's happened?" she was asked. **"I'm at peace."** She laughed as if she had discovered earth's best-kept secret.

GENUINE PRAISE IS ROOTED in revelation to one's heart of the WORTHINESS OF GOD to be worshiped and praised! **GENUINE PRAISE IS ALSO ROOTED in God's sovereignty:** God is God and God is Sovereign and free to act when He pleases, where He pleases, as He pleases and with whom He pleases. **God is only limited by His own nature— That is, he will never act**

out of character or contrary to His own nature. God was ruling and over ruling in Job's life; and He ruled and over rules in Carol's life ... and in your life and mine. He sets up kings. He puts them down. He does all of His good pleasure. *** **BEING RESENTFUL as to what GOD SOVEREIGNLY BRINGS OR ALLOWS IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF DEPRESSION!** So, it's a glorious day of miracles when any of us cries out in confession to God: "O God, you are sovereign. You are free to be God. You do as you please, when you please, with whom you please!"

The bottom line is this: God's sovereignty is the truth that enables me to say "THANK YOU!"... And give PRAISE to the One who allowed whatever it is that I have responded to with anxiety. God's sovereignty comforts me with the knowledge that God could have prohibited or controlled all the situations and/or people who are connected to my stress level. **Since He did not control or stop the 'evil thing' from happening; nor did He stop that fellow human from attacking me in some way -- SINCE HE DID NOT:** *"I can accept the fact that **infinite wisdom and unchanging love conspired with Almighty power** to cause something and/or to allow something that's ultimately for my good and His glory; that He has caused/allowed something that at present I may well deem evil or unfair or even cruel -- But it is, in fact, all for a glorious testimony to both saints and sinners!"*

III. The How of "Praise the Lord!" How are we to "Praise the Lord!"? **Psalm 150: Verses 1-5 give us the answer: "Praise** ye the LORD. **Praise** God in His sanctuary: **praise** Him in the firmament of His power. **Praise** Him for His mighty acts: **Praise** Him according to His excellent greatness. **Praise** Him with the sound of the trumpet: **Praise** Him with the psaltery and harp. **Praise** Him with the timbrel and dance: **Praise** Him with stringed instruments and organs. **Praise** Him upon the loud cymbals: **Praise** Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath **Praise** the LORD. **Praise** ye the LORD."

REALITY: WE MUST keep in mind that there is a world of difference between expressions of worship spontaneously from the heart in overflow of praise and gratitude to God VERSUS that which is planned, choreographed, and a show of the flesh! Positive example: OF HOLY DANCING before the LORD! AT First Baptist, Hartsville, Tennessee, in the early 1970s, 40 year old "Fay" and his dear mother, Louise Montgomery were recent converts to Christ. The church building had a middle aisle. Fay was sitting on one side and his mother on the other. Responding to the GOSPEL, Mr. Claude Montgomery RUSHED down the aisle and fell on his face before God, openly crying out for mercy, crying out to be saved! **Fay and Louise met in the center aisle and DANCED and shouted with holy abandonment! Praise the Lord!" IN**

CONTRAST: To use Psalm 150 as a justification for planned, choreographed dancing in church services as many do, is a false use of Scripture. Psalm 150 and/or King David's 'dancing before the LORD' is all about HOLY REJOICING IN GOD, that overflows from the heart. YOU DON'T PLAN OR REHURSE Holy dancing unto the LORD!

The Apostle John's vision of heaven in Revelation is filled with worship scene after worship scene – and the focus of these scenes is the praise of God through song and music. **But PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUST NEVER BE DIVORCED FROM HOLINESS or from LOVING OBEDIENCE TO GOD! IN CONTRAST to what takes place in heaven,** led by compromising Aaron, Israel had an awesome worship service — Wow! What a concert! They loved it! Joshua THOUGHT, "The noise of war is in the camp!" But Moses, said, "No, it's singing!" (They were having the first ever 'CHRISTIAN' ROCK CONCERT! ...) Singing and dancing and eating and playing! THEY LOVED IT! THEY HATED MOSES! In reality, they HATED GOD! ... and God's anger 'waxed hot!" (Ex. 32... also see, Isa. 1:1-20)

"Praise the Lord!" It's not about 'gifted musicians' or grand performances! It seems that most churchgoers have picked up the idea that "singing in church is for singers." **The truth is**

that "singing is for believers." **The relevant question is not, "Do you have a voice?" but "Do you have a song?"**

God expects and wants everyone in Christ, to be engaged in His praise. He expects it of choir, of quartets and duets and soloists, of organists and pianists, etc. "But I don't sound too good," says many. Yet, as far as God is concerned, how we sound makes no difference to Him – just so long as His name is praised in song and music... from hearts that are moving forward in loving submission to God. And, God never grows tired of hearing such praises either. No matter how many times we sing our songs or play our music, God never grows weary of praise from loving hearts!

IV. "PRAISE THE LORD! Who is to "Praise the Lord"?

Verse 6 says, (Ps 150:6) **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.** Everything and everyone in all of creation is to offer praise to the Lord. Psalm 148, verses 7-13: (Several sources used in compiling this message, including material from Adrian Dieleman and Don Baker)

GRACE TO ALL! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

EVERY SATURDAY * 8:00am,** — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits!*)
[7/19/25 – Ephesians 6:16–17]

NEXT Ladies Bible Study, JULY 22, 2025 @ 11:00am (LADIES Bible Study, from JOB!) (NO CHILD CARE.)

*****EVERY TUESDAY: LADIES PRAYER MEETING FROM 10:00 to 10:30am, come in back door, under drive-thru awning, go IN THE IMMEDIATE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT!**

***** Tuesday Evening, Southside Young Adult Group; Bible Study, (EXODUS), @ 7:15pm, at Jaden & Rhi's home**

WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm— ** Adult MEN'S Prayer Service **
Young FAMILIES STUDY/Prayer Service

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING; For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... *TO GIVE* via ONLINE GIVING:**

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