

23 January 2023

Psalm 34:1-3

Psalm 34:1-3, 33:1, 18:1-3, 46: God is worthy of our praise!

CHS: Praise will be the dress of the saints in heaven; therefore, it is befitting that they should wear it down here in the earth.

PRAISE toward God is one of the “garments of salvation” given to you by God! Isaiah 61:10, 3

The problem with us as fallen humans, even as saints of God is that we dwell in bodies of sin .and we are prone to take praise and glory to ourselves which belongs solely to God! This sin existed in the hearts of the religious leaders in Israel in the time of Christ.

John 12:43: “They loved the praise of men”. Remember from Sunday, the Apostles: Who’s the greatest?

Some of the most difficult times for God’s people to navigate are NOT in sore trials or afflictions, or when you’re being insulted, slandered, or persecuted, but in times of blessing, prosperity, personal success, or when you’re being complimented, commended, and praised.

Proverbs 27:21: “As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise”. One of the greatest spiritual tests for you as a Christian will be in how you react to being praised!

Charles Bridges wrote: “Praise is a sharper trial (and test) of spiritual strength than difficulty and reproach”.

Just as the refining fire proves gold and silver and reveals its quality and purity, so when you’re praised, that will reveal the highness of your view of God & how you view yourself before God!

I can tell you that I have rejoiced of late in how God has blessed our little gathering . but, in my rejoicing, I have also experienced fear. What is my fear, you ask? That we would begin to commend and praise ourselves for God’s blessings . rather than God .and that we would take to ourselves the PRAISE and GLORY which belongs to GOD ALONE!

Back to Psalm 34:1: “I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth”

The Psalmist, purposed in his heart to bless the LORD and to praise Him unceasingly for all of God's blessings toward him!
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22

Beloved, I pray that our hearts would be as the heart of the Psalmist, especially in how we receive the blessings of God to us as a church!

Ephesians 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"

In all of what God is doing, and in how He is working among us, and teaching us, I am so afraid (of pride entering in), and of us taking the praise to ourselves & robbing God of the glory that belongs to Him alone.

If we are rightly walking with God, when we are praised or commended, we will immediately DEFLECT that compliment and that praise to God where it belongs! You might ask: Is it wrong to "praise or compliment" someone?

NO! Proverbs 27:2: "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; and stranger, and not thine own lips"

But even in this, let us be so careful of how we give and receive praise or commendation! The worst thing for any of us would be to SWELL with pride and embrace praises and take the glory. Rather than DEFLECTING that praise and glory to God where it belongs. We must not forget that it is God, who is the Source and First Cause of EVERY good and edifying gift that would come from any of us.

The church at Corinth was a PUFFED-UP CHURCH. they were inflated with pride, thought too highly of themselves. *1 Corinthians 4:7*

Psalm 115:1: "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake"

Once again: "HIS PRAISE shall continually be in my mouth"

If God would be praised from our mouths, He must first be exalted, extolled, and praised in our hearts! Notes these Prayers of Psalmists:

Psalm 71:8: "Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day". 51:15, 145:1-6, 146:1-2

If true and genuine praise toward God is in your heart, it should come forth from your lips. *Psalm 107:1-2, 8,15,21,31*

Genuine praise to the Lord is NOT lip service, it is the love language of the regenerate soul to God! Psalm 34:2.

No one wants to hear someone else pridefully brag and boast about themselves or about their abilities and talents BUT, when humble Christians hear fellow brethren “BOASTING in the LORD” it’s edifying and brings gladness and encouragement to their souls!

We ought to BOAST in the LORD TO ENCOURAGE each other in how our God is working among us .AND continually recognize what is already there .in God’s rich and extraordinary blessings that continually flow to us from Him!

Jeremiah 9:23-24, Psalm 44:8, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Finally: When God’s people praise the LORD, they want others to see God’s glory as well, and to join in with them in praising the Lord! Psalm 34:3

“O magnify the LORD with me” . when you look through a magnifying glass, everything gets BIG right? In your Christian life, in your behavior, your attitudes, and your conversation, you should be magnifying God and making Him and His Name really big.

I love what John the Baptist said to his disciples when they came to him and told him that ALL the people were now following Christ:

“He must increase, but I must decrease”

Christian, you are called to be a magnifier of God! It should be obvious to everyone that knows you, companies with you, and converses with you that only One Person ought to be the CENTER of ATTENTION: GOD!

Let’s bring this back to GFBC .in all that we do for the Kingdom of Christ and in the church, let us ALWAYS make sure that ONLY ONE gets the glory and honor and praise and compliments (only One gets magnified), the Lord Jesus Christ! *1 Corinthians 10:31*

“Let us exalt His Name together”: Revelation 4:11

