

Spontaneous Praise in the Day of Christ

Isaiah 12:1-6

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Introduction:

Over that last little while,

- Isaiah has been giving us a description of God's marvellous grace that He is going to lavish upon His people through Jesus Christ!
 - When Isaiah wrote, God's people were in a mess,
 - but the day is coming that He is going to send Jesus Christ and set Him as a banner—crucified for sinners in the sight of all the world—
 - and then the LORD is going to gather both His people Israel and all the nations of the world to Him for salvation.
- Over and over again, Isaiah has referred to this glorious coming of Christ as “that day.”
 - He is not talking about one particular day—
 - the day of Christ's birth, the day of His crucifixion, the day of His resurrection, the day of His return...
 - He is talking about the whole entire age from the time of Jesus' birth on into eternity...
 - He is telling us of all the wonderful things that will happen in that day of Christ—in the day that He is with us—Emanuel—God with us...
 - Everything changes for God's covenant people because of this—
 - And because of His presence among us, there is a progressive succession of blessings for us...
 - there is the cross by which our sins are forgiven...
 - there is the gathering of the nations to Christ for salvation throughout this present age...
 - there is the perfection of peace and of the knowledge of God that reaches its completeness in heaven...
 - In Jesus Christ, the covenant people of God are brought from glory to glory!
 - So I would submit to you that when Isaiah says “in that day” in Isaiah 12,
 - (in verse 1 and again in verse 4)
 - He is speaking about the day of Christ—
 - A day that was future to Isaiah and his contemporaries, but a day that has already begun for us and that will continue forever.
 - And you see how Isaiah tells us how we, the church in that day of Jesus Christ...

- will spontaneously declare that we will praise the LORD...
 - We will not be able to help ourselves!
 - God has lifted up Christ as a banner and He has gathered us to Him for salvation—
 - What else can the church do now but set ourselves to the task of praising Him?
 - There is no other option!
 - That is why Isaiah says,
 - “In that day you **will** say, “I will praise you...”
 - He doesn’t say,
 - “In that day you **might** say, ‘I will praise you...’”
 - but that “You **will** say, ‘I will praise you’.”
 - This is what the church, gathered to Christ will do.
- And along with this, Isaiah adds two other related things that the church will do in that day...
 - We will draw water from the wells of salvation—we will drink deeply and eagerly of God’s salvation in Christ...
 - And we will endeavour to stir one another up to praise God and to glorify Him... we will stir each other up to join us in His praise.
- If you are in Jesus Christ, you will not be able to keep from doing these things.

Today we are going to look at these three things that Isaiah says will characterise the Church in the day that she is at last gathered to Christ...

- and as we do, you need to examine yourself to see if **you** are doing these things!
 - You see, not everybody who calls themselves a Christian has truly been gathered to Jesus Christ...
 - There are many who are baptised, but who do not do respond to Christ in the way that Isaiah describes because they do not know Him in a saving way.
 - They do not break forth in praise to God for Jesus Christ...
 - Nor do they draw with joy from the wells of salvation...
 - Nor do they stir up others in the church to praise Him...
 - They may be baptised and they may come to church,
 - but there is a disconnect between them and the Saviour.
 - Outwardly they are gathered to Christ so that they are very near to Him, but in fact they are far away from Him...
- And so I pray that you will all be able to discern if you are gathered to Christ...
 - and that you will all see what an excellent thing it is to be gathered to Him...

- and that you will be greatly encouraged to come to Him if you have not...
- and to come to Him all the more if you have!

So let us now consider in more detail each of the three things Isaiah says the church will do in the day of Christ—the days in which we now live...

- and so what you will do as an individual if you are truly gathered to Christ...

I. First, when you are gathered to Christ, you resolve that you will praise Him!

- Verse 1:
 - Isa 12:1: In that day you will say, “I will praise Him...”

A. In *saying* that you will praise Him, you are setting yourself to the task of doing so...

1. It is a resolution you make as a one who is constrained by the love of God revealed in Christ...

- I don't mean that you are driven by guilt, feeling that you must praise Him...
 - But I mean that you are motivated because of your great delight in the excellent things He has done...
 - You are like a young bride who feels constrained to speak of the excellence of her new husband...
- You say,
 - This is marvellous!
 - I cannot help but praise Him because He is so excellent!
 - You carry on as in the Song of Solomon...
 - You declare to all that you are going to praise your God.

2. And you say this out loud!

- It is the true response of your heart when you are gathered to Christ...
 - But it also comes out of your lips!
- God has always called His people to covenant with Him...
 - He states His intentions toward us who are in the covenant...
 - And He asks us to state our intentions toward Him...
 - To promise before others that we will serve Him and praise Him.
- The Scripture tells us that if we do not do this...
 - It is because we do not truly know Him...
 - And the Lord Jesus says that if we do not confess Him, He will not confess us.
 - There are some who are content to come to church, but they never want to publicly commit themselves to the Lord...

- They are like so many people today in our society today who want to have a relationship without marriage...
 - They do not want to make a covenant—
 - They come together and they tear apart what they have joined to the detriment of themselves, their partner, and their children.
- Our Lord does not accept such conduct from those He gathers to Himself.
 - He calls us to declare publicly that we are His and that we will praise Him forever...
 - Some of you children need to begin to think about this as you come on in the years...
 - You need to consider confessing your faith—
 - telling the rest of us that you will praise Him...
 - and telling Him so before witnesses.

TRANS> This is something you will do when you are gathered to Christ...

- I don't mean to say that everyone who confesses Him is sincere,
 - but I mean to say that all who are sincere will confess Him—will resolve and purpose that you will praise Him...

B. But just what are you saying when you say that you will praise Him?

1. The word translated praise in our English Bible's is *hdy yaw-daw*'
 - a. You may remember this word—I have spoken to you about it before.
 - It is a very rich word with a rich and full meaning that no word in our language can fill out.
 - b. It properly means, “to confess”
 - It is used of everything from confessing our sins to confessing our God!
 - When you confess, you say the truth about something...
 - When you confess your sins, you say what is true about yourself.
 - When you confess God, you say what is true about Him—what so many people do not want to say...
 - they do not like God, so they try to suppress the truth.
 - Instead of setting out to confess Him, they look for ways to deny Him—
 - Instead of confessing Him, they confess idols.
 - c. But why is the word *yaw-daw* translated by the word praise if it means to confess?

- That is because whenever you confess the truth about God,
 - when you tell what He is really like...
 - it comes out as praise—because everything about God is excellent and praiseworthy...
 - So to confess Him *is* to praise Him.
 - Praise is a good translation.
- And you should know that the word *yaw-daw* is also often translated by the words *give thanks*.
 - Can you see why this is also a good translation?
 - It is because whenever you confess what God has done for you in His covenant,
 - it always comes out as thanksgiving, because everything He does is good.

TRANS> So here we see that when you are gathered to Christ,

- you declare that you will praise Him and thank Him for what He has done!

2. And notice that when you make this resolution,

- You not only speak it before men,
 - but you speak it to God...
 - You say to Him—“O Lord, I will praise **you**”
- It is your commitment to Him...
 - Again, just like in marriage—
 - the bride and groom make their covenant before witnesses,
 - but the covenant is made *to* each other.
 - This is important because some people only go through the motions...
 - They say this before others in the church, but they have never consciously said this to God Himself.

TRANS> So you see then in short that when you say, “O Lord, I will praise (*yaw-daw*) you,”

- You are telling Him that you will speak the truth about Him...
 - That you will praise Him for His excellent greatness and that you will give thanks to Him for the great things He has done!
 - This is your commitment to Him.
- And this commitment is made when you are gathered to Christ because it is not until you come to Christ that you see how excellent God is...

- Until you come to know Him in Christ, you can't bear to see Him as He is...
 - because you are a sinner and He is angry with you and set to destroy you...
 - You have no reason to praise the one who is glorified in your destruction!
 - It is not until you come to God through Christ that you reason to praise Him...
 - That is why you say, "in that day."
- C. Let us then look at the reasons we have to praise God once we are gathered to Christ...
- These reasons are given in verse 1&2
 - You are to remember and repeat again and again these things that God has done...
 - not a mindless repetition, but with the thrill of a soul who realises the grounds you have for praising God...
 - True praise has reasons behind it...
 - And part of its task is to declare those reasons...
 - To speak of the great things God has done for you and of all that He is to you...
 - Let's look at the reasons for our praise that are stated here...
1. First, you tell Him that you will praise Him because He was angry and His anger is turned away!
- How excellent!
 - a. There is nothing worse than to have God angry with you—
 - His anger is always fully justified.
 - It is not something that He has to apologise for as we so often have to do with human anger...
 - His anger is a necessary moral response against our wickedness...
 - The divine character must pour out judicial wrath upon the wicked.
 - He cannot clear the guilty, but must consume them in holy fire and indignation.
 - And you know this—
 - If you have been gathered to Christ, you have been brought to face to face with this...
 - You have come to see and to confess that you have offended your maker and that your sin has made Him desperately angry...
 - and that His anger is perfectly justified.

- Those who have been gripped by the reality of God's wrath cannot bear the thought of facing God in His anger...
 - It causes them to shudder to even think about it.
 - Even Moses trembled and quaked when He saw the Lord revealed on Mount Sinai...
 - Hebrews 12:21 says of this:
 - And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling."
- b. But the thing so excellent that we tell God is that
- "though you *were* angry, your anger is turned away!"
 - His anger toward us is turned away—
 - It is turned upon Jesus Christ who is the propitiation for our sins!
 - God has done the unthinkable!
 - He has sent His only Son to bear our sins...
 - He has sent Him to bear God's wrath for us...
 - He has sent Him to receive our punishment!
 - He has sent Him to take all of God's anger as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 - Though He was sinless, the Son of God has faced the terror of God's anger and has also fully borne it for us...
 - He was punished for our iniquities and we are set free...
 - God's anger is turned away from us forever!
 - Oh yes, as a loving Father He chastens us and corrects us in this world to lovingly train us...
 - But His anger is turned away—
 - it is gone forever—
 - it has fallen upon Jesus Christ and we are totally free who have been gathered to Jesus Christ.
 - What a wonderful thing it is to have been in such danger and to be completely set free of it!
 - The moment you trusted in Jesus Christ as the sin bearing Saviour,
 - God's anger was immediately turned away!
- c. And now instead of threatening you and raging against you, the Lord comforts you!
- He assures you in His promises that there is no condemnation for those who have been gathered to Christ!

- He tells you that your sins have been taken off the record forever—they are removed as far as the east is from the west...
- He takes you to Himself and He calls you His child and promises that He has prepared a place for you in heaven...
 - That He is going to take you to heaven as your home where you will have pleasures in His immediate presence forever and ever!

TRANS> What a marvellous change in the condition of all those who have been gathered to Jesus Christ their banner!

- What cause for praise is yours!
 - You will be praising Him for this for all eternity—you will never get over it if you are His!
 - This is the first reason that is given.
2. The second reason you give for praising the Lord is because He who is God has become your salvation—
- a. This is such a remarkable thing that it is emphasised here...
 - Verse 2 begins and ends with the incredible statement that
 - **God** has become my salvation...
 - God Himself has become the bloody sacrifice that takes away my sin!
 - The very Son of God Himself has come from heaven, been conceived as a human being—
 - and then has actually born the full weight of God’s wrath and curse in His own person...
 - He has actually endured the pains of Hell to set us free!
 - b. Just consider who He is!
 - Verse 2 says that he is Yah Yahweh—that is what it is in the original...
 - The translation is Yah the LORD in the version from which I read...
 - Yah Yahweh is a combination of God’s covenant name—Yahweh,
 - and of the shortened version of that same name—Yah...
 - This is to emphasise that it was none other than Yahweh Himself that has become our salvation...
 - Yahweh or Jehovah is that name that expresses His deity as the self-existing one—the great “I am.”
 - The uncreated one who calls all other things to be that are!
 - Brothers and sisters, this is the One who not only saves us...
 - but who actually became our salvation...
 - He is the one who sweated blood at Gethsemane...

- He is the one who cried out in anguish on the cross and said to His Father,
 - “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me!”
- c. When we come to Christ in truth, we praise Him that **HE**—
 - Yahweh Himself
 - has become our salvation!
 - We praise Him for such remarkable love that would cause Him to even think of doing such a think for sinful rebellious creatures like us!
 - We praise Him that He is the kind of God that would do this!
 - The Jews and the Muslims cannot accept this...
 - It is too much for them...
 - But this is what God has done!
 - Come to Him and rejoice in what He has done!
 - It will do you no good to reject it!
 - It is the only way God’s anger can be turned away...
 - And this is what He has done!

TRANS> And as our Saviour, He is not only the one who turns away God’s anger...

3. He is also our strength and our song!
- a. Even after you have been forgiven, you need strength—
 - You live in a world that is filled with temptation—and you are weak.
 - You do not even have the moral strength to turn to Jesus in the first place—
 - much less the strength to go on in His service from year to year.
 - You would collapse, you would fall...
 - but that He is your strength!
 - Once you have been gathered to Him, you are as sure to stand as He is—because He keeps you by His grace and power.
 - You cannot depart from Him because you are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.
 - He lets you feel your weakness at times and He lets you stumble—
 - by He will carry you all the way through death itself so that your faith will never fail.
 - What grounds this is for praising Him!
 - b. And besides strength, He Himself is also our song...

- The sons of this world have their songs...
 - They have the things that they are drawn to like a magnet...
 - They have their drugs and their romance and their parties and their music and their riches and their honours and their pleasures...
 - They have their ways of comforting themselves...
- But when Jesus becomes our salvation, He becomes our song.
 - He becomes our joy and rejoicing so that our delight is found in Him!
 - We are enabled to see Him as He is so that we delight in Him and love Him and are truly attracted to Him...
 - He is even our song in the times of our deepest suffering—
 - He makes His love known to us in such times as never before.
 - As Peter says,
 - 1 Peter 1:6-9: In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

TRANS> Isaiah saw what wonderful days God’s covenant people were headed for—

- The day when God Himself would become our salvation and when His anger would be turned away...
 - This is the days in which we live!
 - If you are part of God’s covenant people, you are among those who are truly praising Him...
 - And now I want to look at the second thing you will do...

II. Second, when you are gathered to Christ, you draw from the wells of salvation with joy.

- That is what Isaiah tells us the church will do in the day of Christ...
 - He tells us in verse 3...
 - “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

A. What are the wells of salvation?

- The well is Christ Himself who is filled with everything we need for life and salvation.
 - He was broken for us on the cross and a fountain was opened for the salvation of the nations from His wounds.

- You will remember how Israel came out of Egypt into the wilderness and realised that they would die without water...
 - And how the Lord caused water to come from the rock—
 - The rock was split and out came the water...
 - Well we are told by Paul that Christ was the rock from which they drank...
 - that rock represented Christ who gives the water of eternal life.
- The people dying of thirst is a perfect picture of what we are without the well of Jesus Christ pouring forth the water of His saving benefits to us.
 - If you do not draw from the wells of salvation, you will die just as surely as you would die in the desert without water.
 - There is no other well from which you may draw the living water of life that alone can supply your thirsty soul.
 - There is no other name given among men by which we must be saved.
 - When He came, Jesus told us that He is the one who gives the living water to us and that if we come to Him, we will never thirst.
- All those whom God has gathered to Christ are thirsty for Him...
 - They come to Him, as Isaiah says,
 - “with joy” to draw from the water that He gives!
 - Like a parched man in the desert who finds water, they come with eagerness and joy to refresh themselves with the living water that He supplies.
 - Once you see Christ in truth, you cannot keep yourself away from Him.

B. And what do we draw out of the well?

- all the benefits of Christ’s salvation...
- 1. You draw forth continual forgiveness and acceptance...
 - You must have the initial forgiveness of justification...
 - When you first come to Christ and are pardoned—made righteous in Him—
 - His righteousness is imputed to you or given to you.
 - From then on, you live in the freedom of one who has met all that God requires for acceptance with Him.
 - And then you have ongoing forgiveness...
 - We all sin in many ways, but you keep coming to Christ for cleansing—
 - And you find that every time you come, He is ready to forgive you...

- Oh yes, he may chasten you and you may lose your assurance for a time...
 - but you can be sure that you will find the forgiveness your crave for your thirsty soul.
 - He receives you as His child, and He assures you of His great love for you as you draw from the well of salvation, turning your eyes on Christ who gave Himself for you...
 - You swim in the freedom of total forgiveness and acceptance,
 - having fully escaped God's anger and rejection.
2. Not only does He give you forgiveness and acceptance...
- He also gives you a whole new life—
 - We draw forth from Christ wisdom by which we know and understand God's will—what is pleasing to Him...
 - And we draw froth from Christ the grace that we need to love one another—
 - the grace we need to give our lives for each other the way He gave His life for us.
 - The water He gives us makes us beautiful—
 - It cleans up our lives so that instead of hurting and destroying each other, we help each other...
 - we live together in the new way that He has for His people...
 - we put away lying and replace it with truth telling...
 - we put away immorality and replace it with deep marital love...
 - we put away envy and replace it with delight in the prosperity and success of others—which we seek to further!
 - we put away greed and laziness and become those who give.
 - We cannot do this in ourselves, but we do it by the grace that Christ supplies us as our well of salvation...

TRANS> So we draw forgiveness and acceptance as well as grace to live the beautiful lives that God calls us to live...

- How delightful it is to have such a marvellous well as this from which to draw!
 - Open your mouth wide and He will fill it!

C. How we draw from Christ our well of salvation?

1. You draw the water from this well by the diligent use of the means of grace...

- a. The means of grace are those things that the LORD gives us to connect us Christ and all His benefits—
 - The primary means of grace are the word, sacraments, and prayer.
 - When Christ is yours, you come to these to draw forth the water that He promises to give you...

- b. Let me show you briefly how you use them...
 - 1) First there is the word...
 - In the word we learn everything we need to know about Christ...
 - We learn about our need of Him as sinners...
 - We learn about His will for us...
 - We learn about what He has done to save us...
 - We learn about all the benefits of His salvation...
 - And when you come to God's word with eagerness and hunger and preparation...
 - You receive the Word by the powerful working of God's Spirit so that it becomes part of you...
 - so that it joins you to Christ, working faith in you and bringing you His forgiveness and grace.

 - 2) And in the sacraments—
 - you come to baptism looking for Christ to cleanse you as the washing with water signifies...
 - and you come to the Lord's Supper looking to Christ to nourish you by His broken body and shed blood—to nourish your soul...
 - And when you come looking to Him by faith, He will do...
 - He will pour out the Spirit of life upon you.

 - 3) And then prayer—
 - Jesus told the woman at the well that if she had **asked** Him, He would have given her the living water...
 - The word tells us what to ask for, and then asking, we receive it.
 - Jesus also said to His disciples:
 - Lu 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
 - The Spirit is the water of life that He pours out on us when we ask.
 - If you are unsure of your forgiveness, if you are not growing in the new life—

- then ask the LORD to give you His Spirit!
 - Come to Christ, the well of salvation, and ask Him to pour out such an abundance on you that you will not be able to contain it!
 - Yes, come with joy and draw from the wells of salvation!
2. You are to engage in the means of grace individually, as families, and as a church.
- a. Each one of us is to come to Him to draw—
 - the word must speak into **your** heart—is must change **you**...
 - **You** must pray and **you** must seek the Lord for His grace...
 - Read the word in secret and pray in your own closet—the Lord will answer.
 - b. But you are also to draw from the wells of salvation as families...
 - The LORD has commanded that the head of the household command His household to keep the way of the Lord...
 - He is to wash them in the water of the word—both in set times of instruction and in the milieu of life...
 - He is also to pray for them and plead for God to work His grace in them...
 - He has promised to pour out His grace on you and your children.
 - Do not leave your household dying of thirst when the well of salvation is opened to you!
 - What kind of man would leave his children to die because he has no time to draw this water?
 - c. And we are to draw from the wells of salvation as a church...
 - The elders and the minister are to labour diligently to see that the means of grace are properly administered among us...
 - They are to carefully guard against replacing Christ with some other well that will attract the world...
 - It is Christ that is needed, and He is given to us not through plays and musical performances and silliness, but through the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer that He has appointed.
 - And you—you are not come to church as one who just drops in...
 - Oh no—you are to prepare all week for the assembly that God has appointed for His people...
 - You are to pray and ask God to bless us when we come together, for He has promised especially to meet us in the assembly.
 - The church, is not the building, but the people of God called out by God to seek Him in the ways that He has appointed...

TRANS> My brothers and sisters, Christ is the well of salvation—

- and it is for us to come to Him with joyful diligence to receive the fullness of His grace.
 - And you will draw joyfully from His wells if you are among those who are gathered to Him from out of this world!
 - How glad we are to receive His blessings and benefits...
- We have seen these two things that the church does now that we are gathered to Christ...
 - We praise Him for His saving mercy...
 - And we draw joyfully from the wells of salvation.
 - And now we turn to the third thing we will do...

III. Third, when you are gathered to Christ, you will stir up others to praise Him.

- You see how verse 4 repeats what is said in verse 1—
 - “In that day (that day that Christ comes and that the church is gathered to Him from all over the world)...
 - “In that day you will say, ‘Praise the LORD...’” and so on...
- In verse 1, Isaiah says that we would say, “I will praise the LORD,”
 - But now we are seen calling upon each other to praise Him.

A. That is just the way it works in God’s kingdom...

- When you are stirred to praise Him, you stir up others to do praise Him.
 1. This has much to do with what it means to glorify God.
 - When we glorify Him, it does not mean that we make Him more glorious...
 - We can’t do that because He is already as glorious as He can be.
 - But we glorify Him by recognising His glory and then showing His glory to others—
 - pointing them to Him and exhorting them to look at Him and to consider what He has done.
 - Like the woman at the well,
 - We see how great He has and we begin to praise Him,
 - and then we go tell all of our friends to come and see Him...
 - “Come see a man that told me all that I ever did—could this be the Christ?”
 - We go and tell them all the great things He has done and say,
 - Come and let us magnify His name together...

- Remember Isaiah 2?
 - Isa 2:3: “Come and let us go up to the House of the Lord... He will teach us His ways and we shall walk in His paths.”
2. You must realise that Christianity is not a private matter—it is a very social religion.
- All through the scriptures there is the great assembly of God’s people—called out to worship Him... called out to meet with Him and receive His grace.
 - Much of our joy comes in sharing in the glory of God with each other...
 - We rejoice when someone comes to know the Lord—turns from sin to Jesus Christ to live—
 - We rejoice in corporate praise, in sharing our experiences, in praying together, in receiving the word together.
 - What a privilege it is for us be able to speak of our Saviour to those around us and to stir them up to praise Him and to seek Him!
 - We are such worms, and yet we get to be His heralds to each other and to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...
- B. Consider some of the specific things we stir each other to do according to our text...
1. First, we continually stir one another up to join us in public worship...
- a. To praise the Lord (v. 4)
- We tell them the things that we praise Him for—
 - that His anger is turned away and He comforts us...
 - that He Himself is our salvation—our strength and our song...
 - And we say to those around us—praise Him—confess Him—give thanks to Him...
 - Join with me—do not miss what He has done—do not fail to thank Him for it...
 - Come and let us magnify His name together.
- b. To call upon His name (v. 4)
- to come and seek His grace with us—to come and draw water from the wells of salvation...
 - We stir up our children that we are going to get the most precious food in all the world when we worship...
 - We urge them pray to and to cry out to the Lord for the water of life.
 - We don’t want to come to the table without our friends...
 - and we don’t want them to come and not receive anything...
 - so we say,
 - Call upon His name!

- c. To sing to Lord (v. 5) because He has done excellent things...
 - It is very sad that there are so few who truly sing to the Lord with exuberance...
 - Let me tell you, I never sang at all until I became a Christian... except for a few silly sounding songs—
 - but I had to learn to sing when I became a believer...
 - But if He really is our song, we had best not sit there like a bump on a log barely mouthing off the words—
 - unless you have a cough or have no air in your lungs!
 - The things He has done call forth a song of praise from us...
 - let no one be silent who knows our God!
 - We are to make a joyful sound to Him!
 - We are to start singing when we come to know Him because He Himself becomes the song in our hearts.

TRANS> So there you see how we are to stir each other up to worship Him...

- to praise Him, to call upon His name, and to sing to Him...
 - But there is yet another way we are to stir each other up...
2. We are to stir each other up to make Him known among the nations—
 - We are to encourage each other to be part of the great missionary enterprise—
 - the work that Jesus gave us to do to make the gospel known to the ends of the earth...
 - There are two things that we speak of in this regard, both in verse 4...
 - a. First, that we stir each other up to declare to the nations what He has done...
 - The church is never big enough so long as there is one soul that is not praising Him...
 - He is worthy of all honour and glory and praise, and it ought to make us weep that the nations do not know Him and that there are people around us who do not even know what He has done.
 - We go forth, not driven by guilt, but driven by delight in our Lord and what He has done to tell the nations what He has done...
 - Again, how He has become our salvation and how His anger is turned away in Christ...
 - And about how He have gathered us to Himself to obtain life and salvation and every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

- We send forth missionaries and we pray for missionaries and we serve as missionaries wherever we are!
 - This is what we do when we are gathered to Christ...
 - We stimulate each other to go forth declaring what He has done...
 - We say to our brothers and sisters—do not be silent—tell of His goodness—tell what He has done!

- b. Second, we tell each other to mention that His name is exalted
 - Many of the religions of the world do not think that Christ can be God...
 - they cannot accept the fact that the Son of God would become flesh and then become a bloody sacrifice for sinners.
 - The Muslims cannot accept this, the Jews cannot accept this, and many who call themselves Christians cannot accept this...

 - But we stir each other up to mention to them that Christ has been given the name that is above every name and that every knee must bow to Him...
 - That God has made Him, our mediator who humbled Himself in our flesh at the cross—to be Lord and Christ and that the whole world will be judged by Him...
 - That He has been raised from the dead and is seated at God's right hand and that unless they bow to Him before He returns to judge,
 - they will be enveloped in the flames of His wrath and fury on the day of judgement.

 - This is the message the Apostles preached...
 - He did not simply tell them that Jesus was crucified for sins...
 - He told them that He was raised again and exalted and was coming to judge and that they had better repent lest they perish.

Conclusion

My brothers and sisters—do you see what glorious times we live in?

- The Saviour who calls forth all this praise came into the world 2000 years ago and God has been gathering the nations to Him ever since!
 - Christ means everything to us...
 - He is the cause of our praise—of our salvation—of our forgiveness...
 - He is the well of salvation from which we draw every spiritual benefit...
 - And it is because of Him and His work that we stir up each other to worship and serve and proclaim Him.

Isaiah neatly sums up the whole matter in verse 6—

- He tells all who are the inhabitants of Zion—that would be all those who are gathered to Jesus Christ...
 - to make a lot of noise about Jesus Christ!
 - To cry out and shout about Him...
 - To ourselves see that we have really come to know Him so that we are fired up for Him...
 - To praise Him—to seek His blessing—and to stir up others about Him.
 - We need to be making a lot of noise concerning Him.

- And Isaiah tells us why in this wonderful summary fashion...
 - He says,
 - because great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!
 - The Holy One who inhabits eternity has come among us to do great things!
 - He is Emanuel, God with us, and He has come here to be a bloody sacrifice for us that we might be pardoned and live with God.
 - He has been raised to the highest place...
 - This matters.
 - This needs to matter to you!
 - It needs to matter a lot!
 - The King of Glory Himself has come to save us.
 - And He has done it!
 - Cry out and shout if you inhabitants of Zion!