

Psalm 148
"Praise, an Imperative"

We do not have to look far to find reason to praise God. Here we are on the last day of the year assembled in God's presence. This alone is reason enough. God is not only worthy of our praise, but God demands it. The praise of God is not based upon how we feel. It is not dependent on whether we are facing favorable circumstances, nor is it determine by our faith tradition, etc. Praising God is not optional. It is a spiritual imperative. It is essential. Praise the Lord, the psalmist declares. Praise, a visual and/or audible expression of approval and admiration of God, of Jesus Christ. There is no such thing as silent or inward praise. So, praise the Lord saints! And everybody said, Amen! With this said, I want to provide three reasons I see in the text as to why the name of the Lord is to be praise.

First, the name of the Lord is to be praised because of His word.

V5 "Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created." Church, when God speaks, what He speaks happens. For those of us who trust in his word this is great news for this means no matter our situation in life, good, bad, or indifferent, what God has promised us, through faith in His Son, will come to pass. If God could speak the world into existence, certainly he can speak life into our varying circumstances. As a matter of fact, he already has. Jesus is God speaking life into all our situations, and this fact is reason enough for our confidence in God in an ever-failing world. The name of the Lord is to be praised because of his word.

Gen 1:1-3, “**1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Isaiah 40:8, 55:11, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever....so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

John 1:1-5 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God.**3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Second, the name of the Lord is to be praised just because. V13a

“Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted”. Now, some maybe thinking “just because” is no reason at all. But it is when the reason cannot adequately be explained. The psalmist declares God’s name alone is exalted. That is, God’s name alone is lofty, lifted-up, set on high, is excellent. He doesn’t provide explanation as to why this is so. It just is because it is and because it is it warrants our praise. There is something about the name of God that warrants our respect, our reverence, our devotion, our praise. And we cannot adequately explain why this is so or at least I cannot. It just is.

Isaiah 12:4-5 “**4** And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the

peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.⁵ “Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

Acts 4:11-12 “¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Phil 2:9-11 “⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Finally, the name of the Lord is to be praised because He sits high and lifted-up. V13b “his majesty is above earth and heaven.” I remember the excitement during King Charles’ coronation exhibited by Brits and Americans, alike. I remember the pomp and circumstance. I remember the reverence and praise given to the King and his court. I remember the splendor and majesty of it all. Church, God sits in splendor and majesty above the heavens and the earth. We can only imagine what God’s throne room must be like. We can’t but imagine the magnificence of it all and when we do, we can’t help but praise His name. The name of the Lord is to be praised because of his majesty. His magnificence and splendor.

Rev 4 “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ²At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³And he

who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."