



## CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Psalm 118:1, 4-9

**Title: Tis the Season for Praise**

**Theme: Reasons for Continual Praise unto the Lord**

**Introduction:** *This Psalm is a triumphant song of praise and it is to be sung with great joy and expression. It is a call to communal thanksgiving. Many believe it was written by King David after a period of anxiety, but when he saw the Lord bring about victory and a fulfillment of His promise, David calls the nation to praise God for His goodness and faithfulness. (Matthew Henry; The Treasury of David; The Expositors Bible Commentary) What we do know for sure is that it is to be sung to God and Him alone. The writer of this psalm is very careful to give recognition to the Lord.*

It is right that the whole body of Christ gathers in public worship and sings and gives thanks unto the Lord. Because in at least eight places we read in the Bible that God is good. (1 Chronicles 16:34; 2 Chronicles 5:13;7:3; Ezra 3:11; Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 118:1,29;136:1 KJV) Goodness is His nature and those who only praise the Lord when He does well for them should rise to a higher note and praise God because of who He is and He is good all the time.

The children of God should never tolerate one moment of unbelief, but rest upon what the Bible says about God, Christ and the Holy Spirit's influence. And the Holy Spirit moves all with ears to hear and a heart to obey to, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Verse 4 - ...Let those who fear the LORD say: 'His love endures forever.' In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and He answered by setting me free. The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The LORD is with me; He is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes." (Psalms 118:1, 4-9)

**Proposition:** *I would propose to you that those who learn to praise the Lord in every season of their lives are the ones who walk joyfully and victoriously over life's situations down here. They walk in a renewed strength, a continued hope and in full assurance that God's promises are true.*

**Interrogative Sentence:** *Just what are reasons for continually praising God?*

**Transitional Sentence:** *We can give continued praise to God because when we pray according to His will He is pleased to answer those prayers according to His plan. It is Christians who do not use the Lord as a bellboy; meeting childish whims they are the ones who give heartfelt praise that is pleasing to God. (1 John 5:14-15) Christians often miss the importance of having the same heart in prayer that Jesus did. (Luke 22:42; Matthew 6:10; Mark 14:36) "*

Christians not only can walk in confidence in Jesus Christ for their salvation and of the sure hope of the resurrection, but have a special fellowship of prayer with the Lord as long as they stay linked to the qualifying clause, which is asking according to His will. Prayer becomes not only a time for petitioning but of yielding their lives to the will and work of the Lord. When Christians learn to want God's will as Jesus did, they will have joy of receiving His answer to their prayers. (The Expositors Bible Commentary; Matthew Henry; Barnes notes;)

This "confidence" (*parresia*) means to have a freedom to enter into the "Throne of Grace" (Hebrews 4:16) with a freedom to speak all that is on the heart. We need never force our way in or compel God to hear us; He is waiting for us to come. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; William Barclay)

Let this truth be placed deep with in your heart, Christians who surrender to the will of God are able to enter the presence of God, know God personally and intimately. (1 John 5:15)

George Muller wrote, "I spend hours in prayer every day. However, I live in a spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk and when I lie down. His answers are always coming. I have seen prayers answered time and time again. When I am persuaded that a thing is right, I go on praying until I get a clear answer from the Lord. I never give up. I have been praying every day for fifty-two years for two boys, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted to Christ, yet, but they will be." (God's Revivalist)

Paul wrote:  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16)

**Transitional Sentence:** *God is worthy of praise because of His attentive ears toward our prayers and because of His enduring love.*  
(Psalm 118:2-4)

"Loving-kindness" (*hesed*) meaning to give acts of kindness and show mercy upon the repentant. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament) The application is the Lord God made an everlasting covenant of "loving-kindness" through the forefathers of Israel and goes on down to those who are Abraham's descendants by faith. (Genesis 15:5-6; Romans 4:11-12,16; Galatians 3:1-14; Who's Who in the Bible)

The Lord's "loving-kindness" is the national hymn to all who know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. How many times has God looked upon your sin and still called you His child? How many times has the Lord laid upon you His chastisements, as a Father would discipline his son? (Hebrews 12:5-7) How many times have you been found walking in and enjoying the favor of God on your life when you really did not deserve it?

The Lord has truly shown His enduring love upon this nation, even though she has sinned against Him greatly. He most certainly has raised up men who stand for Biblical truth and continues to call the next generation to Christ.

**Transitional Sentence:** *It is a season for praise because His presence and strength are promised in trials.*  
(Psalms 59:16)

God will not forsake those who are His own. The children of God who are walking in obedience can walk in confidence that the Lord will respond when they call to Him. Even though those who live in this world do all they can to hinder the work of the Lord - the flesh, the world and the devil cannot put a stop to what God is doing through his faithful servants. The servants of God can sing praises to the Lord because He is a mighty deliverer. He protect His people collectively and individually.

1 Kings 17: Elijah  
(1 Kings 16:30-33)  
(1 Kings 17:10)  
(1 Kings 17:2-3)

First God sets Elijah in a safe place and then provides for him. Through this form of provision we see that God is in absolute control and that even the birds of the air obey Him. Elijah gets the water he needs from a brook and Elijah gets his food delivered to him from ravens which in themselves are unclean to eat. (Leviticus 11:13-15)  
(1 Kings 17:6)  
(1 Kings 17:7-9)

Walter B. Knight: John Ting / "The Little Flock Evangelist."  
(2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

This Thanksgiving season, take time to sit and meditated upon all that the Lord has delivered you out of, seen you through and that He will always be with and in you through the Spirit of Christ. Why not spend the rest of the month just praising Him thoroughly before entering into petitions. Spend more time in praise and less time in petitions through the Thanksgiving season.

**Transitional Sentence:** *We have a God who is worthy of praise for He is our "fortress [and our] refuge in times of trouble." He is also worthy of praise because of the "Supremacy of Christ."*  
(Colossians 1:15-20)

In Colossians the apostle Paul is expounding on the need of showing Christ's significance to the whole of creation.

- 1.) Jesus' Deity
- 2.) His relationship to creation
- 3.) His position to the church body

"Image" (*eikon*) here involves the two ideas of representation and manifestation of God in the flesh. Our Lord is essentially and absolutely the perfect expression and representation of God His Father. (Vines Amplified Expository Dictionary of the New Testament)  
The apostle Paul is affirming the teachings of Jesus  
(John 14:9)

“First born” (*prototokos*) as it is used here is saying that Jesus is placed above His creation. (Zodhiates) Jesus Christ is the Supreme Being of the universe. (Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible)  
 (John 1:3)  
 (Colossians 1:16)

William Barclay wrote, “...it is the Son who, as it were, holds the world together. That is to say, all the laws by which this world is an order and not a chaos are an expression of the mind of the Son. The law of gravity and all the so-called scientific laws are not on scientific laws; they are divine laws. They are the laws which makes sense of the universe. They are the laws which makes this earth a reliable and a dependable world. Every law of science and of nature is, in fact, an expression of the thought of God. It is by these laws, and therefore by the mind of God, that the universe hangs together, and does not disintegrate in chaos.”

“Supremacy” (*proteuo*) meaning “to be first, chief, have the highest dignity.” (Zodhiates)

Let us take time to consider what is involved in this Headship.

- 1.) Jesus is the center (John 14:19-20)
- 2.) He is the mainspring of all holy fruit bearing. Jesus said. (John 5:8) (John 15:5)

Christians who enrich their lives in Christ and set their minds and hearts to bear fruit for the Lord, will glorify God and Christ and will turn men's thoughts to the God who has made them Christ-like.

**In Closing:** The greatest glory of the Christian life and conduct is a life of praise that shows all who see them that Christ is worthy of all we do.

Not to obtain favor with God but because Christians have a Lord who loves to hear from them, who has an ever lasting loving-kindness toward them, who is always present in their trials and service unto Him and because of the Supremacy of Christ.

Bernard of Clairvaux speaks of a “perfume compound of the remembered benefits of God.” Such a fragrance is easily obtained by spending a season in praise for the things God has already done. Not just by saying thank you, but by expressing a life of gratitude. Every born-again Christian should be giving off a pleasing odor. The fragrant of remembering is quit different from a false praise to get from God.

Ten lepers:

Join the grateful; bless the Lord this season with praise. Let us pray!